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701 Ninth Street NW
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October 8, 2018

Honorable Kate Stewart
Mayor
City of Takoma Park
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland 20910

Re: LED Conversions

Dear Mayor Stewart:

In advance of tonight's site visit, I thought it would be helpful to review and supplement the information that was provided at the September 5, 2018 Takoma Park City Council meeting.

As noted at the September meeting, Pepco and the City have worked diligently to implement the terms of Resolution No. 2016-41, Providing Direction on Conversion to LED Street Lighting, which was adopted in October 2016. Pepco conducted a complete inventory of existing street lights to identify the light levels, type, and location of the street lights and, consistent with the direction set forth in the Resolution, the Company has arranged for the procurement of LED fixtures that are night sky compliant with a Kelvin Color Temperature of 3000. These luminaires have been certified by the International Dark-Sky Association.

The cost of the fixtures and installation is approximately \$372,000. Through the Empower Maryland program, the City is eligible for approximately \$260,000 in incentives. The conversion of existing street light fixtures to LED is expected to result in an annual reduction of electricity consumption from 850,000 kWh to 340,000 kWh and cost savings of approximately \$100,000 per year. The City could therefore pay nearly its share of the project in a little over one year from the cost savings alone.

Pepco does not stock LED street lights at levels sufficient to convert the City's complete inventory of approximately 1,530 street lights, but we have identified sources to provide the fixtures as directed by the Resolution. We have the necessary funding and are prepared to start the project immediately.

At the September meeting, the City inquired about potential impacts on the LED conversion project if the City were to request that Pepco change the color temperature of the lights from 3000K to 2700K. The impacts of that change would be significant.

First, we would need to seek a waiver from Pepco LED Street Light Standards which are adopted in collaboration with the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), an internationally acclaimed non-profit learned society that is the recognized authority on the science and application of lighting. The standard calls for a color temperature of 4000K and we obtained a waiver to get to 3000K, but I do not know if a second waiver request would be granted.

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Second, a change to 2700K would require that we initiate a new procurement beginning with determining whether sufficient dark sky certified 2700K fixtures are available, at what costs, and on what delivery timeline. It is highly unlikely that we could obtain the fixtures at numbers and on a delivery schedule that would allow the work to commence this year. At a minimum, the procurement issues would delay the project to mid- to late-2019.

Third, funding for this project is in our 2018 budget but not in future years. Therefore, assuming a Standards waiver and availability of fixtures, we would need to seek the funding for the project. I cannot say with certainty when or if that funding would be made available, potentially jeopardizing the incentive which is contingent on the completion of the project by 2021.

We are excited about the opportunities that all our municipal partners have, through Empower Maryland programs, to achieve energy and cost savings, including LED street light upgrades. We are currently working on LED conversions with other municipalities but Takoma Park has been a leader in this effort. We look forward to making the City of Takoma Park the first municipality in our service territory to convert all its street lights to LED.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jerry Pasternak

cc: Councilmember Cindy Dyballa
Councilmember Kacy Kostiuik
Councilmember Peter Kovar
Councilmember Terry Seamens
Councilmember Talisha Searcy
Councilmember Jarrett Smith
Suzanne R. Ludlow, AICP CPM, City Manager
Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works Director