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Lopez, Donna

From: Mike Phillips [mpp242@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2013 12:51 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Lopez, Donna
Subject: In support of the Teague Lighting Petition

[Madame Clerk, please include this communication in the Council record]

Honorable Members of the City Council,

I can see two different industrial sites from my living room, both with bright lights. I'm happy to say that in both cases the lights do not impact me-- they're either correctly aimed downward or too far away. But I was alarmed to learn that should I have had a problem with these lights and was unable to reason with the owners, there is little to nothing that the City could do to help me. The light-related language in the zoning ordinance is not clear enough for enforcement. It is also antiquated, having been written in 1961.

I attended the Planning Board meeting on this petition and learned about the health impacts that light can have via disruption of sleep. I also heard from residents of our City who suffer from lights shined in their windows, with essentially no recourse.

I know that this is a complex issue, so I really appreciate that this petition does not try to solve all light-related problems. I think the notion of "if you can see the thing that makes light from your property, it needs to be aimed downward or shielded" is very straight-forward, and it can even be verified during the day. No night-time staff required; no special tools needed.

I agree with what the Planning Board members said when they indicated support for taking action now, rather than waiting another year for more study. I'd be quite happy if the City, afterwards, decided to invest more effort and attention in tackling larger light-trespass and light-pollution issues, but in this moment I'd like to see the Council provide this small measure of protection to the citizens of our fair City.

Sincerely,

Mike Phillips
Madison Ave
North Cambridge