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2 **[DRAFT] McLean Citizens Association Resolution**

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4 **Streetlight Conversions in McLean**

5
6 **December 5, 2018**

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8 **Whereas**, updates to the 2003 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance of Fairfax County were
9 recently discussed with County Staff and stakeholders in a May 1, 2018 work group; and

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11 **Whereas**, in August 2018, Fairfax County entered a regional agreement with Dominion
12 Energy for conversion of existing streetlights to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) to reduce
13 energy usage and costs (affecting approximately 58,000 streetlights in Fairfax County);
14 and

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16 **Whereas**, the current, as well as proposed amendments to the Public Facilities Manual of
17 Fairfax County do not currently provide lighting level standards for LED conversions
18 (including spacing, height, lumens, and blue light emissions); and

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20 **Whereas**, in 2016, the American Medical Association (AMA) adopted recommendations
21 for LED color temperatures of 3,000 Kelvin or lower, based on studies indicating that
22 blue light emissions from LEDs at higher color temperatures can create glare, impact
23 human sleep patterns, and disorient animal species; and

24
25 **Whereas**, in addition to the AMA, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the
26 International Dark Sky Association (IDS), and the National Optic Astronomy
27 Observatory (NOAO) have adopted guidance encouraging communities to minimize blue
28 emissions from LEDs; and

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30 **Whereas**, LED streetlight color temperature ratings above 3,000 Kelvin produce
31 significantly more blue light than traditional Mercury Vapor and High Pressure Sodium
32 streetlights; and

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34 **Whereas**, a number of communities (e.g., Phoenix, AZ; Davis, CA; and Los Angeles,
35 CA) are either converting public street lighting or considering conversion to LEDs
36 (Takoma Park, MD) at the warmer color temperature of 2,700 Kelvin for reduction in the
37 amount of intense blue light and increase in the amount of light towards the red portion of
38 the visible spectrum, typically associated with natural nighttime colors.
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40 **Now, therefore be it resolved that** the MCA supports Fairfax County streetlight
41 conversions to LEDs with lower blue light emissions, at approximately 2,700 Kelvins;
42 and

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44 **Be it further resolved that** the MCA requests, that in the updating of the Public
45 Facilities Manual and the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, lighting industry best practices
46 are encouraged, including: warmer color temperatures; shielded fixtures to prevent
47 upward light; adaptive controls such as dimmers, timers, and motion sensors where
48 applicable, and installations that ensure that lighting is minimized to specific needs and
49 applications; and

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51 **Be it further resolved that** MCA requests that Fairfax County continue to monitor
52 research on artificial blue light emissions from LEDs, and the possible impacts upon
53 ocular health, circadian systems, and animal species for consideration of installation
54 requirements in both outdoor and indoor environments.

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56 *Pending Approval by MCA Board*

57 *Date:*

58

59 McLean Citizens Association, PO Box 273, McLean, Virginia 22101

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61 cc: Fill in Distribution List

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DRY