



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

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COMMISSIONERS

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Chair 3/4G-02 - Bruce Sherman, Vice Chair 3/4G-03 - Carol Grunewald
3/4G-04 - Laura Phinizy 3/4G-05 - Karrenthya Simmons, Treasurer
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin 3/4G-07 - Elizabeth Nagy, Secretary

Whereas the Office of Planning (OP) has proposed a zoning-text change to explicitly allow light poles of up to 90 feet, without the existing 1-to-1 setback from the property line, as a matter of right on District recreation and school fields in the R, RF and RA zones;

Whereas loss of public review process is a central concern;

Whereas new light poles could create night noise, glare and perceptible intrusion into long-established residential areas;

Whereas the American Medical Association issued a warning against the widespread use of blue-white rich, light-emitting diode (LED) technology due to harmful effects to humans and wildlife as a result of exposure to high-intensity, cool light;

Whereas glare from bright, blue-white rich lights such as sports lighting suppresses melatonin, which hinders humans' ability to sleep, which in turn is linked to a range of health issues, including prostate/breast cancer and obesity;

Whereas bright blue-white, outdoor lights are detrimental to a variety of animals that depend on naturally dark environments;

Whereas this text change would be incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan, Policy PROS-2.2.2-... **Park lighting should be compatible with adjacent residential neighborhoods** and with Policy LU-2.1.5: Support and maintain the District's established low-density neighborhoods and related low-density zoning. **Carefully manage...alterations to existing structures to be compatible with the general design character and scale of the existing neighborhood...** Our homes are generally 30-38 feet high. During the Lafayette Elementary renovation, the Historical

Preservation would not allow a 3rd story on Lafayette Elementary. Poles 2.5 and 3 times the height of prevailing homes would be incompatible with the adjacent neighborhood.

Whereas this text change would be incompatible with the Comprehensive Plan, Policy PROS 2.2.G: **Design parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities to reflect the preferences and culture of the local population.** Until 2015, during school construction, the Lafayette baseball field was signed, permitted, mapped, and generally believed to be part of Lafayette-Pointer Park (then called Lafayette Park), which has historically been closed at dusk in respect of the residential nature of the community. In repeated projects over the last decade, the city (DGS and DPR) have recognized and respected the community's preference for no sports lighting. (City presentations on Recreation Center modernization: July 10, 2019 - slide 3, November 29, 2018 - slide 3, and September 12, 2018 - slide 2; Presentation to School Improvement Team on Lafayette Elementary: July 27, 2016, slides 11 and 12; City presentations for PlayDC: September 15, 2014 - page 2, and Community Meeting notes: April 30, 2014 - page 1.)

Whereas Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) standards for lighting are not public, nor necessarily in compliance with Dark-Sky principles for fixture design (uplight, glare, trespass, color, and illuminance levels);

Whereas DC Municipal Regulations do not provide maximums for light spill/trespass, glare, or operating hours of sports lighting that would be enforceable by law;

Whereas OP has not clarified how DPR standards could be enforced administratively or through interagency agreements;

Whereas repeated commitments from the city to our community have been broken, including promises on park lighting (Park - during school renovation, that we would have downlit fixtures on the upper field of Lafayette-Pointer Park, compatible with the fixtures installed on the school campus);

Whereas the city reneged on its pledge in the LED streetlight rollout to provide residents finding the new LED lights intrusive shielding and/or dimming, but instead closed out constituent 311 requests without resolution; and

Whereas the Board of Zoning Adjustment honored the community's preference to prohibit sports lighting in our ANC at the newly installed Barrett Field owned by the Maret School;


Be it resolved therefore:

That the ANC recommends the Zoning Commission remove matter-of-right sports light poles without setbacks from the proposed text amendments.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

ANC 3/4G authorizes Commissioners Gore and Phinizy to represent the commission on all future matters related to this resolution.

This resolution was adopted at a duly noticed public meeting on November 10, 2025, with a quorum 4 of 7 Commissioners present, voting: 7 Yes, 0 No, and 0 abstain.


box SIGN 187YZ365-19J6QX96
Lisa R. Gore, Chair

Nov 12, 2025
Date


box SIGN 4ZRVL67X-19J6QX96
Elizabeth A. Nagy, Secretary

Nov 12, 2025
Date