

Legislative Testimony for July 6 2021 (Public)

Full Name	Home Address	City	Zip Code	Are you representing yourself	What organization or whom do you represent?	Legislation*	Position	Remarks
John Jasen		Pasadena	21122	Yes		Bill 59-21	Support	<p>I think my own council representative could count the number of times I've contacted him over transportation in Pasadena. I suspect that counting would take a while.</p> <p>I've also on a few occasions written to the council in general over sidewalks, particularly around schools.</p> <p>I am also an avid amateur cyclist, having taken many trips around Pasadena, to and on the B&A Trail, and so on. I can tell you, I've had several adventures biking in Pasadena while trying to remain a good citizen, obey the laws, and share the roads. I can also tell you, on sections such as Catherine and Outing Avenues -- I've given up on the ordinances and use the sidewalks while riding, because I think I would not make a good hood ornament.</p> <p>I do have some pictures from one of my adventures, if you want details on why I think cyclists should be allowed to share the sidewalk.</p>
John Jasen		Pasadena	21122	Yes		Bill 61-21	Support	<p>Tonight, returning from evening errands, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the streetlamps on Stoney Creek were replaced with blue-spectrum LEDs.</p> <p>I've expressed several concerns to the sponsors over this proposed ordinance, specifically over how limited it is, in (pardon the phrase) light of current best practices.</p> <p>Councilmember Volke assured me this was what they were able to work out, after protracted negotiations with Law and Office of Planning and Zoning.</p> <p>Thus, despite it being limited -- it's a start.</p> <p>For future reference and initiatives, this is a light pollution map of Pasadena. Members of the council can search their own districts: https://www.lightpollutionmap.info/#zoom=12.00&lat=39.1073&lon=-76.5711&layers=B0FFFFFTFFFFFFFFFF</p> <p>And, I found https://darksky.org/instructive, particularly: https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/public-policy/ https://www.darksky.org/our-work/lighting/public-policy/policy-makers/</p>
Jacob M Frohnapple	1205 Sedge Ct	PASADENA	21122	Yes		Bill 61-21	Support	<p>I am asking the members of the county council to support this measure because it is important to me personally. The back of my property abuts a lot that has a garage with an extremely bright light that is on a light sensor (i.e., it comes on every evening at dusk and does not turn off until dawn). I have attached a photo as evidence. I was unaware of the intensity of the light when I purchased my home in October 2020. The height and position of the light is level with my kitchen window, but the strength of the light is such that it lights up the yards of both houses adjacent to mine, as well as the lot corresponding to the garage where it is installed (which is the only property it should illuminate). I spoke with the owner of the garage in November. She agreed that the light was too bright on my property and said she would ask her son if something could be done to mitigate the amount of light spilling onto my property. No changes have occurred with regards to the illumination since that time. When it became obvious that no changes were forthcoming, I sought to make a complaint via SeeClickFix, hoping that Anne Arundel County would have a light trespass ordinance similar to the one in Howard County. Unfortunately, there is no such ordinance in AAC, which would require me to procure legal representation and take my neighbor to court. I did not want to take her to court, so I contacted District 3 County Council representative Nathan Volke to ask that an ordinance on light trespass in residential areas could be drafted for AAC. Mr. Volke requested photographic evidence and asked if I could get a light meter reading on the light source in question, both of which I provided. Due to the presence of a fence and a utilities easement, I was unable to measure the light at the property line, but at 15 feet from the property line (the closest I can physically come to the edge of my property), the light meter read 1.1 foot candles. For comparison, the light ordinance in Howard County limits light trespass to a maximum of 0.5 foot candles, measured at the property line. Were I able to measure the light trespass at the property line, it would undoubtedly be much greater than the 1.1 foot candles I measured at 15 feet away. A favorable vote for this resolution would greatly benefit me and other AAC residents in similar situations. In the absence of an ordinance regulating light trespass, the only means by which a property owner can seek redress of this type of case is through the civil court system, which ties up the courts with simple matters that could easily be resolved via ordinance. Moreover, the current lack of light trespass regulation also requires property owners to retain legal representation, a cost that some property owners are unable to afford. I personally have lost countless hours of sleep due to the light trespass from my neighbor's garage light. This, despite the fact that I have blinds covered by blackout curtains in my bedroom window, which faces the back of my lot and the source of the trespassing light. In order to sleep, I have to roll onto my left side to face away from the window, which has resulted in me being diagnosed with a pinched nerve on the left side of my neck. As an Active Duty service member in the United States military, I cannot afford to be afflicted by insomnia and pinched nerves- however, no one, civilian or military, should have to endure sleepless nights and physical ailments due to poorly installed lighting. Additionally, all property owners have the right to enjoy the use of their property. The constant glaring nighttime presence of this garage light precludes me from enjoying the use of my property. Again, I ask the support of each member of the Anne Arundel County Council on this measure, on my own behalf as well as on behalf of all AAC residents who are in similar situations. Inefficient, high intensity, 360-degree light sources such as the one on my neighbor's garage are reflective of AAC's rural past. Most of AAC can no longer be considered a rural area, and it is time to enact this measure in the interest of our county's present and future needs.</p>