



City Council

October 2, 2023
Packet Addendum #1

Meredyth Muth

Subject: FW: Dark Sky initiative

From: brent miley

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 10:06 AM

To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad <abrackett@louisvilleco.gov>; uncil@louisvilleco.gov

Subject: Dark Sky initiative

Hi,

I thought I would offer a few comments on the Dark Sky Lighting Initiative.

First, this seems like a legislative solution to what is a non problem. I have lived in Louisville for 14 years and have never noticed the lighting, nor have I ever heard any of my friends mention the lighting as an eyesore or any form of pollution or irritant. Ever. I suspect a few loud voices are driving this effort. I would encourage you to not only look at your survey results but to also consider the number of households that did **not** participate. If the latter number is high, it is likely because the issue is simply not very important to most residents, not that we want to cede power to the few who have time to monitor council agendas.

Second, if the city does want to encourage such standards, how about working with Xcel and the utilities to fund or incentivize this transition instead of mandating it via code/law? Giving away free low lumen lightbulbs to residents or offering some 1 time tax incentive to new commercial tenants who upgrade their lighting fixtures would be some possibilities. I am all for energy savings but it seems to me that this proposal is way more stick than carrot.

Third, people talk about these efforts being less intrusive to wildlife--is that a good thing? I love animals but won't lower lighting standards encourage more racoons and coyotes into residential areas?

Finally, Louisville is in a metro corridor now, like it or not. Ambient light from Denver, Boulder and all the surrounding cities impacts our views on the night sky and will continue to do so. Will forcing a few commercial and municipal properties really help me see the milky way again? The obvious answer seems like no.

I would prefer to see my tax dollars being spent doing a great job on supporting existing city efforts like plowing the roads, fixing the potholes, funding fire and police and expanding the tax base by working with businesses to develop the Phillips 66 property and reinvigorating McCaslin, Not by telling me what light fixtures I can buy. I would respectfully ask for another path on this issue.

Brent Miley
Louisville

==CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL==

This email originated from outside the City of Louisville's email environment. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact IT if you believe this email is suspicious.

From: [Mike Deborski](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Cc: [Amelia Brackett Hogstad](#)
Subject: FW: Dark Sky
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023 3:01:11 PM
Attachments: [Dark Sky Council and Commission 080823.docx](#)

Attached is the letter I sent prior to planning commissions approval of the Darkest Sky ordinance. I stand today on the position it states. Although I do greatly appreciate Planning Commissioner Basket's re-consideration on behalf of business, I was disappointed the balance of the commission pushed for approval. I do understand it was late in the evening and perhaps commission was just worked on the issue. None the less, I stand opposed to the ordinance as approved.

I am not opposed to the residential portion if the threshold trigger is at 25%. However stand opposed to any mandated retro fit or forced compliance upon our businesses. Especially our small businesses.

We all know and should be able to agree that Louisville will never meet a true dark sky status. Nor will it increase tourism for that reason. Quite the contrary, it would only be false advertisement due to the metropolitan setting we reside within. Thus, why not continue the efforts that our planning director has had in place and progressively raise the bar on new residential and commercial builds only? We certainly do not need a light cop or to spend \$100,000 per year on enforcement.

I respectfully request that the city continue its ongoing efforts with lighting codes and forego the subjective ineffective and difficult to enforce ordinance.

Mike Deborski

From: Mike Deborski
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 11:37 AM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad <abrackett@louisvilleco.gov>
Cc: City Council <Council@louisvilleco.gov>; Jeff Durbin <jdurbin@louisvilleco.gov>; Rob Zuccaro <rzuccaro@louisvilleco.gov>
Subject: Dark Sky

Hello Amelia,

Please forward this attachment to our planning commission. I appreciate all your hard work and time invested in trying to craft and ordinance for something so difficult to administer and enforce. I believe our current codes can continue to evolve to reach a level of darker sky objectives on our own, without the need to be subject to third party compliance and or wasting \$100,000 per year of valuable city resources on a light cop and administration cost.

Mike Deborski
Office # 303-666-8240

==CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL==

This email originated from outside the City of Louisville's email environment. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact IT if you believe this email is suspicious.

I appreciate what I'm sure was hundreds of hours of staff time to bring the proposed Dark Sky Ordinance forward. Amelia has done a fine job of drafting it for planning commission's review. It's my understanding that Director Zuccaro has stated to council that Louisville will not be able to achieve the dark sky standards that the IDS mandates. If so, have we not spent enough valuable staff time and taxpayer cost against chasing this ambiguous and mystic value?

One can understand why a tourist and or retirement-based community like Flagstaff AZ can reap some tangible and marketable benefit. However, Louisville is part of a major metropolitan area that has a fair amount of industrial base who simply needs lighting to conduct safe operations and security. The IDS claims it's mandates will increase security. I say bull, this is evidenced in the comparative photos in the presentation.

Along my one-mile stretch of Highway 42, there lies Union Jack liquors, Louisville Tire, Quality Metal Fabricators, Old Style Sausage, Louisville Store & Lock, Coal Creek Collision, and Tebo Plaza. Within the last three years every one of these properties has had theft and vandalism issues. Every one!! Do we find this acceptable? We need ample lighting to insure our business and property security.

Just this week it happened again; Louisville Tire was broken in to. They stole a BMW auto and several of the mechanics personal tools. The damage and loss will not only set them back financially but push back their ability to service our residents' cars. Not to mention the two break ins at Louisville Cyclery where tens of thousands of dollars-worth of bikes were stolen.

As I recall, there was great deliberation and study on the connection between lighting and safety on both our McCaslin and Hwy 42 underpasses. Has this criminal element and concern simply gone away? Why does the CAC and planning commission now dismiss this concern?

Sure, this Dark Sky issue has been talked about by council since 2021, it was promoted by our previous mayor. We all know she has been one of the major proponents of the CAC. However, there seems to have been no real deliberation or consideration of any measurable and real or tangible benefits vs cost and sacrifice of our safety and security. Is there a reason this ordinance should be railroaded through and circumvent this process? The cost of conversion is so vast that the city alone cannot get a handle on the real cost of converting our own public properties.

When I sat on planning commission nearly twenty years ago the simple measurement by council and commissions were; What problem does it solve? At what cost? What will be the unintended consequences? Call me old fashioned, but should that still not apply today?

As I watched the July 13th planning commission meeting one has to ask why. Why was the financial and security impact to our businesses not discussed? Why did three of the commissioners present seem oblivious to our business community and not even consider or discuss the issue of safety and security of our community? Why was our chief of police and or safety director not included?

Why does this esoteric dark sky ordinance seem to be a foregone conclusion? Why do we need to pander to the CAC and this dark sky agency? Has there been analysis of any real or measurable benefits? Isn't it councils and commissions job and duty to deliberate the real and tangible benefits and costs of all quasi-judicial actions?

I had not planned on speaking on the dark sky ordinance but felt compelled once the atonement of the meeting appeared to have little if not any real consideration for our struggling small business community.

Chairman Brauneis did a great job of iterating some of the concerns of our business community and was somewhat supported by commissioner Howe. However, I was very disappointed that the other three commissioners present seemed very dismissive of the financial impacts this ordinance would have on our business community.

With that, our planning commission made it abundantly clear that they could care less about our struggling business community. Amelia and April did reach out and our businesses community thought we were heard clearly by our economic vitality director and planning staff. However, on July 13, our planning commissions actions totally negated and dismissed them.

Who is this fear-based political organization who identifies as the CAC? Sure, they choose the trendy, feel good causes like eliminating gas stations and gas-powered mowers to further their political ambitions. However, their self-contrived issues come at the expense of our residents and especially our small businesses.

Sherry Sommers, the lead spokesperson for the CAC speaks to this ordinance as if she holds the final say. She asked that option 3, the one preferred buy our Louisville business be removed. Why did planning commission pander to her demand?

The CAC's totalitarian approach to this ordinance is laden with terms like aggregates offenders, violators, perpetrators and trespassers. They would like to pen neighbor against neighbor and dedicate a light cop on our already staff stressed police force. Should our council allow this less than one tenth of one percent of Louisville's population dictate our city council agenda and the policy's that directly affect the other 99.9% of our residents and businesses?

I've lived in Louisville all my life and for over 50 years have been an avid outdoorsman and custodian of nature. I've never seen as much wildlife in town as we enjoy now. We've never had a time that the population of rabbits and squirrels were this great. On any given day one can see up to 10 species of birds, half of them migratory. Robins, doves, finch, sparrows, starlings, ducks, geese, magpies and crows. A variety of hawks are spotted around town daily. Jean Morgan showed me a live nest this year adjacent to the railroad tracks.

A bobcat's family was just relocated from town by the Division of wildlife. Perhaps if we had greater street lighting the momma bobcat would have not been ran over. Our city has become home to fox, coyote, deer and even bears have frequented town occasionally. Our current lighting standards seem not to bother them. I strongly disagree with the CACs unfounded assertions otherwise.

The members of the CAC suggest that songbirds' haves disappeared, why then has this wonderful yellow finch and his mate returned every summer to eat my sunflowers and sing in my neighborhood? They claim migratory birds are on a decline, why then is the Canadian Goose populations of record numbers along the Front Range. Why then do I hear them fly from Louisville res and harper lake at night to feed at Mayhoffer farms? They seem not to be bothered by the lights and in fact, I believe they utilize the lights to locate destinations in bad weather.

As far as nocturnal animals go, the skunk who navigated my yard last week seemed not bothered at all by my outdoor light and shares the neighborhood with over a dozen brazen raccoons. Whoo, whoo has not seen Marty O'Connor's on-line camera of his annual brood of owlets? Finally, its abundantly clear, chicken little is alive and well and resides within the membership of the Louisville Citizens Action Council.

Several members of our business community have been hopeful that with our change of leadership on our city council Dias that the CAC would no longer be allowed to make such negatively impacting decisions upon our small businesses. The July 13 planning commission meeting causes me great concern and disappointment for that hope.

Why does it seem that this ordinance is a foregone conclusion? Why has there not been real consideration of its impact on our business community? What is the measurable benefit? What is the real cost impact to our business community? Should we be forced to give up our safety and security to appease the less than 1/10th of 1% of Louisville's residents that support it?

I applaud the multiple efforts by Chairman Braunise to initiate these business impacting conversations in that meeting. However, Commissioners Choi and Baskett we're quick to dismiss it. Do they not realize the value of our local businesses? It will not be the Boulder based billionaire commercial real estate tycoons who shoulder this dark sky expense. Instead, it will be the small businesses who occupy their space and it will be passes on as an assessment or via their triple leases.

The relics of the Empire Restaurant and all our other shuttered business locations should stand to our council and commission as a constant reminder of how fragile and challenging our Louisville small business economy is. We have near Boulder rental rates with only a fraction of the auto and pedestrian traffic. Our labor pool is even more shallow than Boulder's due to the lack of student population and nearly as expensive housing.

Our city and county reap the benefit and windfall of the state and county's 50% increase on commercial property tax. This huge cost increase will be passed on in full to the business operators via triple net, who occupy our retail and commercial spaces. Then, pile on the new energy code, building code and sustainability initiative creates a cost burden our small businesses simply cannot shoulder. And now, the county's mandate to move minimum wage to \$25/hour?

We need to understand that every one of these feel-good CAC, county and or state contrived ordinances puts an additional cost burden on our small businesses they simply cannot bear. Each one is a nail in the coffin of our small businesses. We need to walk the talk when it comes to truly supporting our businesses.

If commissioner Choi and Baskets get their way by eliminating option three and include all existing business, the estimated cost burden on my business alone would exceed \$15k. That is funding that would take away from my ability to give raises to my employees to help them keep pace with inflation. This cost has to come from somewhere folks, and Atlas shrugs!

Planning commission and council also need to understand and accept that the post Covid crime and theft In Louisville is still rampant and has not stopped. It's especially prevalent in our fire rebuild neighborhoods where the street lights have yet to be replaced. The thefts that have occurred in their neighborhoods include lumber packages, siding, electrical components as well as home appliances and

contractors' generators and tools. Most of these occur in the dark of night. All these thefts set back the completion dates on the builds and delay the return of these families to their homes. Have they not been through enough?

9 news reported this week throughout Colorado there is a shortage of police officers. It's very difficult for Louisville to recruit and retain officers. Our police force should not be burdened with this petty task of light trespass. Please let them do their job of preventing and pursuing the rampant real crime and keep this petty nuisance off their plate. The \$100,000 annual cost of enforcement could be much better spent. \$1 million would go a long way to help fund our police force over the next decade.

I'm told boulder has been working on their dark sky initiative for seventeen years and has yet to achieve their goal. Louisville has been focused on our light emission for over a decade and has made great strides without having to comply to the czar of dark sky or having to hire a light cop. Why not simply carry that effort forward and used some of the IDS criteria to set the standard on new builds only moving forward?

As a residential owner I'm comfortable with option 2 and agree the residential trigger for compliance could be lowered to 25%. However, as a business owner, unless the city is willing to front the cost to small businesses in full, the commercial and industrial zoned areas should be limited to new builds only. Not unlike our energy codes. I'm adamantly opposed to any forced compliance on commercial or industrial properties for this Dark Sky ordinance.

I appreciate your consideration.

Mike Deborski
601 Pine Street

Meredyth Muth

From: Mark Cathcart
Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2023 2:55 PM
To: City Council; Meredyth Muth
Subject: ORDINANCE NO. 1858, SERIES 2023 - Dark skies
Attachments: Dark Skies Ordinance No. 1858 2023 Cathcart.pdf

If the attached packet does not make it via email, please let me know and I will deliver paper copies.

Thank you for your service.

--

++Mark.

<https://ctproduced.com>
<https://markcathcart.com/about/>

==CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL==

This email originated from outside the City of Louisville's email environment. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact IT if you believe this email is suspicious.

1763 Sweet Clover Lane,
Louisville CO 80027

September 29th, 2023.

ORDINANCE NO. 1858, SERIES 2023

Mayor, City Council,

Sometimes the council makes meaningful progress by changing regulations and city code. Often though, the opportunity to make a meaningful difference is lost because the council lacks the will to face opposition from those that will be impacted by it. Tonight is one of those opportunities.

Light pollution, the excessive and harmful use of artificial light at night, causes various problems which include health effects, such as increased risk for sleep disorders, depression, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, etc. I would also submit that the majority of Louisville's outdoor lighting is old and inefficient.

If the council agrees, then you should adopt an option that **REQUIRES ALL LIGHTING** to come into compliance with the specifications in this ordinance 1858, series 2023.

If you adopt an option that does not, including option-2, you are simply guilty of political gesturing. Given the current standard of lighting and light emitted unnecessarily in Louisville, the proposed changes will **NOT** make any real difference in how dark the skies are in most of our lifetimes. I'd like to give you an example of how you have already failed my home and my neighbors.

Some 3-years ago, on September 22nd, 2020, myself and my neighbors asked you to move the location of the proposed building for 1413 Hecla Way. Our justification for that was light and noise disturbance which would come from the building's minimum required parking spaces as proposed, would be within 100 ft of our homes. **You heard us, but declined to act.**

In my case, the parking lot is just 80ft from my primary bedroom. Resolving the new light pollution from this property has already meant an outlay of some \$4,000 dollars to shield my master bedroom from "dark sky" compatible lights that are on all night. To completely mitigate the light created by this city council approved parking lot, I face another \$7,000 to replace the remaining blinds in my primary bedroom with blackout compliant blinds that were not available and **NOT** needed when we moved into our home in 2015.

I have included a series of pictures so you can see the scale of the problem. I have no idea if the proposed regulations will require the owner of 1413 Hecla Way to update their lighting.

What I do know is, if you do not pass legislation that at least requires them to come into compliance in 3/5/10 years, this and dozens of other sites in Louisville will never be required to update their lighting and your action tonight will be little more than a gesture.

Political gestures lead to skepticism and disillusionment among the public. This is especially true if they are perceived as mere window dressing rather than genuine attempts to improve the lived environment.

This is a political decision, and it's on you, the current city council. If you do not have the political will to make meaningful change by requiring all lighting to be compliant within the next 3/5/10-years, then do NOT take any action tonight and let the ordinance pass to the new council.

THANK YOU.

MARK CATHCART

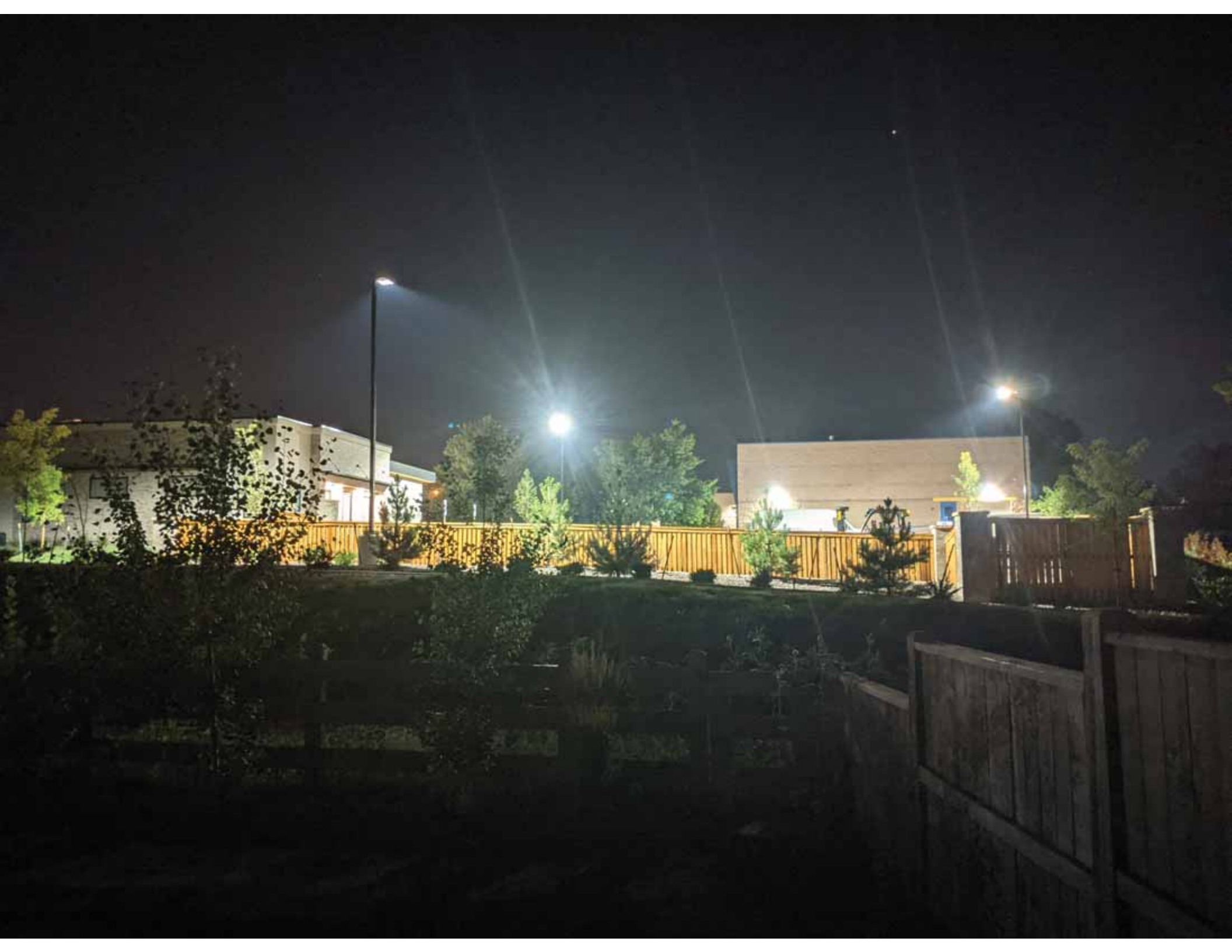
KATE RIPLEY

ATTACHMENTS

1. slide1.jpg - residents suggested layout which placed the building at the north end of the site where the parking lot is. City Council denied this request on September 22nd, 2020.
2. PXL_20230517_132257636.jpg - picture shows the existing code allowed these light poles to be far too high given the location geography.
3. PXL_20230513_211502371.jpg - Picture shows the homes directly impacted. Note light poles are at the height of the 3rd floor bedrooms in the townhomes.
4. PXL_20210729_054617107.NIGHT.jpg - What this looks like at night. Picture taken 7/28/2021 23:46 aperture F1.80.
5. PXL_20230415_043214912.jpg - What this looks like inside our primary bedroom. We have now spent an additional \$4,00 adding blackout blinds(invoice on request).
6. email chain with Director of Community Development Zuccaro from July 29th, 2021 - This did not receive a follow-up or reply. cc: Councillors Leh, Dickenson.



These light poles are too high for normal use. Given the geography, they are more than double the height they need to be. The City of Louisville declined Residents request to move the parking during the planning process.





Primary Bedroom
Picture taken Jan 2023 11pm

Primary Bedroom



Mark Cathcart

From: Mark Cathcart <m_cathcart@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 1:41 PM
To: 'Rob Zuccaro'
Cc: 'Christopher Leh'; 'Caleb Dickinson'; [REDACTED].com'; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 1413 Hecla Way Lighting
Attachments: PXL_20210729_054617107.NIGHT.jpg

Rob, did the inspection ever get done? Any findings or actions?

The attached photograph was taken just before midnight last night. The lighting is absurdly bright, still. While the lamp closest to our bedroom doesn't seem as bright, it's more than made up for by the light opposite it. It's simply totally unnecessary to have so much light on after midnight, especially at this time since the store isn't even open.

As I understand it, Mr Banks and 5-eyed jacks have sold the store on, so I have no way of even contacting the new owners and am more dependent on the city to do the right thing. I look forward to your response.

++Mark.

<https://ctproduced.com>
<https://markcathcart.com/about/>

From: Rob Zuccaro <rzuccaro@louisvilleco.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:57 AM
To: Mark Cathcart <m_cathcart@yahoo.co.uk>
Cc: Christopher Leh <leh@louisvilleco.gov>; Caleb Dickinson <cdickinson@louisvilleco.gov>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 1413 Hecla Way Lighting

Hello Mark,

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns. Our staff will inspect the site next week to make sure the lights are in compliance with the approval. The lights are approved at 24' in height, which is the allowed height in our commercial design standards and the height shown on the approved plans. The two lights nearest the neighborhood are required to have back shielding. The lights that were approved have internal louvers in the light casing to achieve this. The approved lighting plan also only allows up to three foot candles of lighting in the parking area in the brightest areas. We will measure the actual light level with a light meter to make sure it is in compliance. For comparison, the plans for the Auto Parts store allow lighting up to 7.8 foot candles, so we should expect this lighting to be at a lower level. If they are not in compliance with any of these provisions we will have them adjust the lights.

Hopefully they will install the fence and landscaping soon to help buffer the reflective glow from the parking lot as well.

I'll let you know the results of the inspection.

Thanks,
Rob

Rob Zuccaro, AICP
Planning and Building Safety Director
City of Louisville
303-335-4590 (direct)

303-335-4592 (office)



COLORADO • SINCE 1878

From: Mark Cathcart <m_cathcart@yahoo.co.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:23 PM

To: Rob Zuccaro <rzuccaro@louisvilleco.gov>

Cc: Christopher Leh <leh@louisvilleco.gov>; Caleb Dickinson <cdickinson@louisvilleco.gov>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: 1413 Hecla Way Lighting

Importance: High

Rob, copied below the signature line is the text of a letter. The same letter can be retrieved from dropbox, and includes improved formatting and pictures, which make it too large for email.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hf6lhdod1fjfuzh/1413%20Hecla%20Way%20Lighting.pdf?dl=1>

I look forward to your response.

++Mark.

<https://ctproduced.com>

<https://markcathcart.com/about/>

1763 Sweet Clover Lane, Louisville, CO 80027

(303) 900-3318

m_cathcart@yahoo.co.uk

May 26th, 2021

Dear Director Zuccaro,

I am writing to ask if you would be kind enough to either spend time, or have you staff spend time looking at the lighting plan for 1413 Hecla Way, the dispensary being built directly east of Napa Auto parts on Hecla Way, Louisville.

When my neighbors and I mounted planning and city council objections to the plans for this development, much of our concern was about lighting. At the time, we assumed that the lighting would be from a constant stream of vehicles in the parking lot, closest to our homes. At the time we asked for the layout to be changed, but were unsuccessful.

Development continues on the building and lot. Yesterday for the first time the parking lot lights were switched on, and left on all night. They create a much worse problem than we imagined the cars would. The lighting is more appropriate to a car dealership or railway yard. Because of the raised geography of the lot, the lighting and reflected lighting is totally unacceptable. I'm hoping by doing a review, you can tell us somehow this could be mitigated. Either by the use of baffles, reducing the height of the poles, by limiting the hours the lights can be switched on. I can't believe the amount of lighting is a function of the business type, the other dispensaries in Louisville have nothing like this, I've been out to look this morning.

The attached pictures show three things.

1. The light in our ground floor bedroom. While it is not like day light, it's more like an early winter evening. This picture was taken at 1:32am with no flash, and no nighttime setting. Note the light is creating a shadow on the window from a tree 10ft away(see picture 3.)
2. This picture was taken at 10:45pm. Through the left hand side of the main window in picture-1. The geography and the height of the poles make this much worse.
3. This picture shows the development in daylight this morning. Ironically, the contractors trucks are parked exactly where they shouldn't be, and that was the only accommodation the council and applicant were prepared to make. I'm sure that will be changed once a certificate of occupancy is issued?

I'm not trying to assign blame, just to find a compromise as this really won't work for us.

Yours Sincerely

Mark Cathcart, pp Kate Ripley

cc: Councilor Leh, Dickenson,

Neighbors: Gregory Jones, Laura Chernikoff, Trudy Turvey, Anthony Sciolino, Lazar Gintchin, Peter Go, Craig Vandebilt, Alessandra and Thierry Schellebach

From: [H.M](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Support of Dark Sky Ordinance
Date: Sunday, October 1, 2023 8:10:21 PM

Dear City Council Members,

Good evening. I am a resident of Louisville and a volunteer in the Open Space programs and Bee City efforts. I am fully in support of the ordinance and urge you to approve it, please include residence to residence light trespass restrictions analogous to our noise ordinance. We need to reduce light pollution, protect our pollinators and wildlife and support natural healthy circadian rhythms for humans, the whole planet would benefit from less outside light at night. Let's commit to educating people, businesses and developers about this ordinance and when necessary, enforce it so that we reach our community goals. Thank you for supporting this important ordinance and the health and environment of Louisville.

Sincerely,
Helen Moshak
Louisville Resident

==CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL==

This email originated from outside the City of Louisville's email environment. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact IT if you believe this email is suspicious.

From: [ma_heaney](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Outdoor Lighting Municipal Ordinance
Date: Sunday, October 1, 2023 5:31:40 PM

Council,

Please reconsider full amortization (Option 1) of the draft “Dark Skies Ordinance” - now reduced to merely an “outdoor lighting municipal ordinance”. The current draft no longer meets the criteria of either the International Dark-Sky Association nor any of the purposes identified of the ordinance. And the benefits of what is proposed will not be substantial or even moderately realized for decades or longer.

As evident when reviewing the packet for this discussion, citizens have continuously and overwhelming supported a true Dark Skies Ordinance that limits light pollution:

• In response to the initial online survey, over 200 citizens not only supported the first draft, most suggested measures that are more stringent.

• Emails submitted by citizens weighted heavily towards a true Dark Sky ordinance requiring mandatory adherence to lumens, shielding, color, timing, etc. (approximately 35 in favor/8 opposed).

• During the City’s Open House in April, the majority of citizens present (~50) supported mandatory compliance with requirements as well as suggesting multiple measures that are more rigorous.

• During the July Planning Commission meeting, all speakers, except one, preferred the amortized timeline of Option 1, or a strengthened Option 2.

As individuals, as a community, and as a city, we must take responsibility for the excessive energy usage and light pollution we generate and begin to reduce the ongoing detrimental impacts on our health, our environment, wildlife. This is an opportunity to accomplish all that - with reasonable cost and effort.

Please consider a more stringent ordinance.

Mary Ann Heaney

1117 LaFarge Ave

==CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL==

This email originated from outside the City of Louisville's email environment. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact IT if you believe this email is suspicious.

From: [17beevo](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Dark Sky Ordinance
Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023 7:51:21 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from garretson17@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Council...

I strongly urge you to pass this ordinance to begin the process of improving night sky access in Louisville. I have lived here since 1985 and noticed a steady degradation of our sky; this will hopefully slow that down. Dark sky is good for all creatures, humans included.

...Stephen Garretson [West Street]

==CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL==

This email originated from outside the City of Louisville's email environment. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact IT if you believe this email is suspicious.

From: [cindy Bedell](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Oct 2 City Council Meeting Dark Sky Lighting
Date: Saturday, September 30, 2023 7:16:27 PM

Dear City Councilmembers,

I am writing to comment on: ORDINANCE NO. 1858, SERIES 2023 – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE LOUISVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 17.26 TITLED OUTDOOR LIGHTING.

Thank you for considering this very important ordinance to help reduce light pollution in our city. Here is the link to great information on the topic, and some simple measures to reduce light pollution - from our very own planning department:

[Dark Sky Lighting | City of Louisville, CO](#)

Dark Sky Lighting | City of Louisville, CO

This proposed ordinance is a good step, but it does not go far enough. The ordinance also needs to include residence to residence light trespass restrictions. Some of the most egregious light trespass occurs from residential flood lights pointed off the property onto neighboring properties, and some of the recent modern home builds with Las Vegas style lights that light up half an entire block.

Here is an example of poor glare lighting with extreme light trespass from a new home built south of Washington Street in the fire re-build area near Harper Lake.



Here is an example of a scrape-off and new rebuild with modern glare lights in Hillsborough West, that light up the neighbor's property and half the block:



Compare those examples with this good dark sky residential example below, where the lighting is pointed downward.



Here is another example of good dark sky lighting which directs the light downward, providing complete security lighting for the entire garage door area without trespassing onto the neighbor's property.



Here is the section from the agenda about light trespass. Please add residential to residential trespass restrictions!

Sec. 17.26.070. Light Trespass

Regulations in this section apply to outdoor lighting in all use zones. Light emitted from outdoor lighting on any property shall not cause the light level along any property line, as measured at grade, to exceed the following limits:

Emitting Use	Impacted Use	Max. Light Level
Residential	Open Space (OS) and Agricultural (A) zone districts, and public parks, plazas, or other outdoor public spaces of .5 acres or larger	0.1 footcandles measured at the property line.
Nonresidential (except Downtown)	Residential uses, Open Space (OS), and Agricultural (A) zone districts	
Downtown nonresidential	Residential	Not subject to trespass restrictions.
Residential	Residential	
Commercial	Commercial	

Thank you very much for considering these suggestions.

Cindy Bedell
Louisville, CO

==CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL==

This email originated from outside the City of Louisville's email environment. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact IT if you believe this email is suspicious.

From: [Cathern H Smith](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Please Darken Residential Skies
Date: Monday, October 2, 2023 10:06:26 AM

Dear Mayor Maloney and Members of City Council,

Let's do more to regulate light in residential settings. There is significant residential light trespass now and it is likely to become more common unless action is taken.

Dark sky lighting is not a fringe idea. Both Home Depot and Lowes provide dark sky lighting as a drop-down search term. And compliant fixtures are not expensive. There are many options between \$30 and \$100.

The argument that we cannot afford enforcement staff to go door to door is premised on the unusual idea that 100% compliance must be achieved --or else. We put up stop signs even though we know that we cannot afford to station a cop at every stop sign and some people will roll through or not stop. With education and a gentle sense of humor much can be done. For noise, City Code provides for reporting. So there are lots of options.

Why regulate light?

The rhythms of life are set to the rising and setting of the sun. And, some creatures use light or the absence of light to guide them. Well known examples are baby sea turtles and birds. To see the Milky Way and many wonders of space, dark skies are required. Finally, dark skies are more aesthetically pleasant.

Another option, I haven't seen considered is to darken skies at times when the most birds are migrating. With modern technology, this data is readily available, <https://aeroecolab.com/uslights>

Finally, I recognize that street lights are controlled by the utilities. I'd like to see City Council take a formal stance to the PUC, the legislators, and the utilities themselves.

Best,

Cathern Smith
Ward III

==CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL==

This email originated from outside the City of Louisville's email environment. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. Please contact IT if you believe this email is suspicious.