


<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Alfred H. Foxx, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 E. Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 08-0092R		

DATE: December 16, 2008

**TO**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Karen Randle  
Room 400 City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill No. 08-0092R.

**Informational Hearing – Lighting Quality and Wattage**

**For the purpose of requesting the Director and the Chief of the Maintenance Division of the Department of Transportation to report to the City Council on the number, quality, and wattage of street lighting in Baltimore City; the adequacy of current lighting placement to ensure the safety of City residents, visitors and workforce; and plans for revamping the City’s infrastructure to meet future needs for economic, adequate, and efficient lighting.**

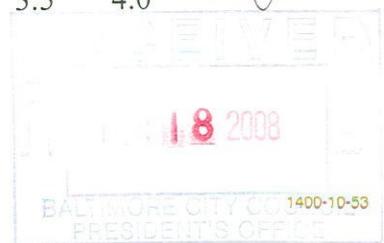
The Department of Transportation will be glad to report to the City Council on the state of street lighting in Baltimore City. What follows is an outline on lighting quality and wattage standards and our inspection process:

The City of Baltimore is home to approximately 90, 000 street lights, which include pedestrian and roadway-style lighting. The Department of Transportation, Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining lighting levels that comply with our established set of standards. There are different lighting level standards for all types of roadways, which include residential, secondary, and primary streets, as well as alleys and intersections.

The Department of Transportation, Maintenance Division established average foot-candle measurements as guidance for our standard minimum lighting levels. The foot-candle measurement is basically the amount of lumens emitted by a candle elevated one foot, in a one foot square space. These minimum lighting levels were created by utilizing various methods, including the Baltimore City Code, ANSI regulations, sound engineering judgment, and experience. The minimum lighting levels used in the City of Baltimore are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Max.</u>
Alleys	0.8	1.0	Primary Street Intersection (Ped. Crosswalk)	2.5	2.7
Residential Street	1.2	1.6	Bus Stop	3.5	4.0
Secondary Street	1.8	2.0		3.5	4.0

*Comments*



Street lighting enables quick, accurate, and comfortable vision at night that will safeguard and encourage pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Additionally, street lighting also helps reduce crime and accidents, assist police and fire personnel, and facilitate businesses operating at night.

In order to ensure our street lights are achieving the established minimum lighting levels, the Department of Transportation, Maintenance Division has inspectors that assess all complaints. These average lighting levels are determined by taking an average foot-candle reading in the vicinity of each street light. The measurement is displayed on a handheld device that is used by the inspector. The readings start at the base of the pole and are measured, in increments, out to the midpoint of two poles. Once all the readings are captured, an average foot-candle measurement is noted for the area.

The inspection group investigates all inadequate/too bright street lighting complaints that are entered in the 311 system. Also, complaints are generated through various other government agencies and the Mayor's Office. The service request is given to one of the inspectors. The inspector will develop a sketch of the area, determine the condition of all fixtures, and take note of any outside influences, such as trees and foliage. Once this is complete, the night inspector will identify any outages or dim burning lamps and take the foot-candle measurement. Once the average measurement is taken, the inspector will determine if the average foot-candle reading meets or exceeds the established standard. If the standard is not met, then a plan is developed to upgrade the existing street lights or, if feasible, install additional lighting.

We look forward to meeting with the Council on December 20, 2008 to discuss these issues further.

Respectfully,



ALFRED H. FOXX  
DIRECTOR

AHF/WD:zs

cc: Ms. Angela C. Gibson  
Mr. Bill Driscoll  
Mr. Jamie Kendrick  
Mr. Frank Murphy

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