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CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION AND LABOR
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WASHINGTON, DC 20004

February 23, 2024

Nyasha Smith, Secretary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Secretary Smith,

Today, I am introducing the “**Lighting Intentionally Guides and Halts Transgressions in DC (LIGHT DC) Amendment Act of 2024**”, along with Councilmembers Brooke Pinto and Janeese Lewis George. Please find enclosed a signed copy of the legislation amending Title 50 of the District of Columbia Official Code to require the Mayor to install and maintain lighting on all designated pedestrian crosswalks and bicycle trails in parks and forested areas.

This legislation addresses two needs for the District: 1) brighten our pedestrian crosswalks and bicycle trails in parks and forested areas; and 2) improve public safety by illuminating dark areas. According to VisionZero DC, between 2017 and 2021, 58 pedestrians have died on District roadways, which represents 36% of all traffic fatalities. During that same period, 2,159 pedestrians were injured, which represents 16.9% of all injuries. On average, 46% of all pedestrian crashes result in an injury each year.²

Although the District already provides various safety protections, such as crosswalks, appropriate speed limits for drivers, signage, crosswalk signs, and encouraging individuals to wear reflective clothing, it does not currently have the necessary tool of illuminating our many residents who walk around the city to get to and from work, and other social activities. To ensure that our communities are safe from preventable injuries and harm, pedestrians and bicyclists traveling in those designated areas shall be illuminated and visible.

For example, by adding more lighting around our city and in forested areas, we are not only improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety, but also improving overall public safety by making our communities brighter. In a recent study, New York added more lighting in nearly 80 public housing developments and the results showed a significant correlation between crime at night and outdoor lighting, in which the lighting reduced 39% of so-called “index crimes”—a subset of

crimes such as murder, robbery, and aggravated assault.¹

Additionally, in the past, D.C. has installed high intensity street lighting that resulted in 54% reduction of night crimes over two years.² Because we have seen this improvement in years past, we should take immediate action to replicate what has been successful in the past and improve the safety of District residents and visitors.

As many of us recognize that public safety, including traffic and pedestrian safety, are crucial to the well-being and security of our society. As such, this legislation will provide a more collective approach to address a basic need to illuminate our designated areas and the bigger need for improved public safety.

Should you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Aimellia Siemson, Senior Advisor and Counsel at asiemson@dccouncil.gov or (202) 724-8171.

Thank you,



Anita Bonds

¹ LEDs Magazine: Major Study Finds Outdoor Lighting Cut Crime by 39%: [Major study finds outdoor lighting cut crime by 39% | LEDs Magazine](#)

² U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs: [LIGHTING REINFORCES D.C. \(DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA\) CRIME FIGHT | Office of Justice Programs \(ojp.gov\)](#)

³ Vision Zero DC: Highway Safety Office [Pedestrian Safety | Vision Zero DC](#)

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4 Councilmember Brooke Pinto



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7 Councilmember Anita Bonds

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9 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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19 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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24 To amend Title 50 of the District of Columbia Official Code to require the Mayor to install
25 and maintain lighting on all designated pedestrian crosswalk and bicycle trails in parks and
26 forested areas.
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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
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30 act may be cited as the “Lighting Intentionally Guides and Halts Transgressions in DC (LIGHT
31
32 DC) Amendment Act of 2024”.

33 Sec. 2. The Department of Transportation Establishment Act of 2002, effective May 21,
34 2002 (D.C. Law 14-137; D.C. Official Code § 50-921.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

35 (a) Section 5(a)(2) (D.C. Official Code § 50-921.04) is amended by adding a new
36 subparagraph (M-i) to read as follows:

37 “(M-i) Install and maintain high quality lighting in all designated pedestrian
38 crosswalks and bicycle trails in parks and forested areas, which shall be illuminated from dusk to

39 dawn;”

40 (b) Section 9(c) (D.C. Official Code § 50-921.20(c)), is amended by striking the phrase
41 “transportation, including education” and inserting the phrase “transportation, including adding
42 lighting to all pedestrian crosswalks and bicycle trails in parks and forested areas, education” in
43 its place.

44 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

45 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
46 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,
47 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

48 Sec. 4. Effective date.

49 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
50 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as
51 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
52 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
53 Columbia Register.