

From: **Yvonne Callahan**

Date: Wed, Feb 28, 2024 at 4:48 PM

Subject: parking lot lights OPMH

To: William Conkey <[william.conkey@alexandriava.gov](mailto:william.conkey@alexandriava.gov)>, Susan H. Hellman <[susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov](mailto:susan.hellman@alexandriava.gov)>, Brendan Harris <[brendan.harris@alexandriava.gov](mailto:brendan.harris@alexandriava.gov)>, Preservation <[Preservation@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Preservation@alexandriava.gov)>

Good afternoon, all,

I have been reviewing the application materials concerning the solar lights at the parking lot on the 400 block of South Royal, which you are no doubt very familiar with by now.

In looking at this (third?) application, I note that the word "approximately" is used to describe the location of these solar lamps at least twelve times in its application and supporting material.

Given the history of these lights and their placement in the parking lot, I would strongly urge you to require the applicant to delete the word "approximately" and be straightforward about the exact location of the lights, of the solar panels, and of the bollards. This is also given the fact that even a movement of the lights "approximately" two to five feet one direction can be extremely important in considering whether or not the solar lights will be intrusive on nearby homes. Perplexingly, again, the drawings provided to you do not seem to match the narrative elsewhere in the application concerning the location of the lights.

Without precise directions, I fear that another controversy could arise over whether something is "approximate" or not.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yvonne

**From:** Liz Walker  
**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2024 7:21 PM  
**To:** Preservation <[Preservation@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Preservation@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Lights at st marys

These solar light went up at st mays this week..very bright and below fence line please circulate to BAR before hearing on March 6 on proposed lighting

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Liz Walker  
**Date:** Fri, Mar 1, 2024, 7:16 PM  
**Subject:** Lights at st marys  
**To:** Sean Robert Murphy, Kevin, Yvonne Callahan

This just went up this week..very bright and under fence line



**From:** Robert Wiles <[wilescompany@gmail.com](mailto:wilescompany@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3:08 PM  
**To:** Preservation <[Preservation@alexandriava.gov](mailto:Preservation@alexandriava.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Fwd: ALEXANDRIA BAR MEETING-- COMMENTS

You don't often get email from [wilescompany@gmail.com](mailto:wilescompany@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

I intend to speak tomorrow evening at the scheduled BAR hearing.

In advance of my testimony, I thought I should forward my comments to you for your prior review and consideration.

Thank you. Best regards. Bob Wiles.

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I am Bob Wiles. My wife and I have lived in Alexandria since 1978; we have been a members of this church since 1978; I have owned a commercial real estate brokerage company here in Alexandria since 1985.

I believe I am correct to say the NEED for this particular application tonight is quite evident: The need to light the OPMH church parking lot at night for our members safety.

Having been in the real estate brokerage business for 45 years now, I do wish to point out to the board that the overhead lighting fixture in question was IN PLACE WHEN the current owners of 417 South Royal Street purchased their property next door to this parking lot.

If the owner thought the fixture was going to be moved, the real estate agents the buyer was dealing with at that time, AND the buyer should have verified it.

A phone call to the city attorney AT THAT TIME would have revealed to the buyer the final location of the overhead lighting fixture was UNRESOLVED by the city.

Lighting fixtures are commonly adjacent to homes in Old Town. Many of these are 360 degree unshielded lighting---not even downlighted fixtures the proposed here.

The 417 residence is adjacent to a parking lot, and to have a fixture within their view of that lot from their second floor bedrooms should not be a surprise.

In addition, the property at 417 South Royal Street has unabated SOUTHERN LIGHT exposure.

Such unshaded exposure would normally be managed with interior window shades, particularly in the summer months.

It is important to note that the **downlighting** lighting fixtures proposed by the church would NEVER equal the direct, NATURAL, summer time southern light exposure currently present at 417 South Royal Street.

The church feels we have come to a sensible and reasonable solution to the issue of the proper location and type of lighting fixtures in this case.

Finally, this proposal provides the NEEDED PARKING LOT SAFETY any parking lot owner would seek in this day and age.....simply, un-lighted parking lots are NOT safe.

Thank you for your time.