



January 27, 2022

BY EMAIL

Matt Gigliotti, City Attorney
Kansas City, Missouri
law@kcmo.org

Re: The LED Fraud

Dear Matt Gigliotti,

Utility companies have made the fraudulent claim that LEDs are energy efficient. By committing this fraud, the utility companies have convinced cities across America to switch to LED streetlights with the promise of saving energy. LEDs do not save energy; instead, they emit a toxic, hazardous, discriminatory substance that is making Americans agitated and angry, increasing violence, causing epileptic seizures, migraines, panic attacks and eye damage.

- 1) The standard for streetlights is IES RP-8-18 and applies to devices that emit light uniformly, such as High-Pressure Sodium. IES RP-8-18 is not applicable to LEDs and lasers because these devices emit an intense beam of light in one direction. An energy efficiency comparison between an HPS and an LED cannot be made because HPS emits uniform light, while LEDs emit intense light beams. The two substances are different, and therefore the claim that LEDs are energy efficient cannot be made.
- 2) The city of Kansas City claims that LEDs are “energy-efficient”¹ as shown in Figure 1. This statement is fraudulent. Kansas City also claims that LEDs use “up to 50% less energy than standard bulbs”. First, a claim using “up to” is meaningless, and therefore deceptive. Second, the claim of “less energy” is fraudulent because an LED produces a different substance than HPS, so such a claim cannot be made. The Federal Trade Commission prohibits such fraudulent and deceptive claims.²

¹ <https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/public-works/streetlights>

² <https://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/what-we-do>

KCMO is looking to convert close to 90,000 streetlights to energy-efficient LEDs. There is currently a project out for bid and we anticipate work beginning later this year and wrapping up in 36 months.

Benefits of LED Streetlights:

- Longer lifespan: Standard streetlight bulbs need replacement about every four years, while LED bulbs last 10 years or more
- Lower maintenance costs
- Less energy use: LEDs use up to 50% less energy than standard bulbs
- Safer streets with better lighting

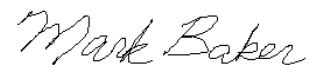
Figure 1 - Fraudulent Claim

- 3) Kansas City claims that LED lights provide “safer streets with better lighting.” These are false statements. Numerous research studies show that LED streetlights do not improve safety and since LED light beams cause epileptic seizures, migraines, panic attacks, eye damage, agitation, and anger, LEDs do not qualify as “better”.

If Kansas City is making these claims on their own, then Kansas City is liable for the economic, environmental, and human damage caused by LEDs. However, if these claims are based on the information provided by the utility company, then Kansas City can hold the utility company liable.

We are including our report titled, [The LED Fraud](#) which contains more details and references to source material. Additionally, we are providing reports of how LED light beams are causing injury to people. To protect itself from liability claims and from FTC prosecution, Kansas City must clearly notify the public that LEDs are toxic, hazardous, and discriminatory, and do not save energy.

Sincerely,



Mark Baker
President

Soft Lights Foundation
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