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Regulation of LED Flashing Lights on Emergency Vehicles

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To: rmazza@leg.state.vt.us

Cc: aperchlik@leg.state.vt.us, jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us, tchittenden@leg.state.vt.us, ringalls@leg.state.vt.us

Dear Dick Mazza, Chair, Transportation Committee, Vermont Legislature,

The Soft Lights Foundation advocates for the protection of individuals who are harmed by the extreme intensity and digital flashing of LED lights. We have petitioned both the Vermont Emergency Medical Services Division and the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles. Both agencies denied our petitions with arbitrary and capricious responses, indicating their lack of interest in protecting the health and safety of first responders and the public.

January 14, 2024 - Submitted a [petition](#) to the Vermont Emergency Medical Services Division to regulate flashing lights and sirens on emergency vehicles.

February 2, 2024 - Received a [rejection letter](#) from Vermont Emergency Medical Services Division, claiming that they don't have authority.

February 2, 2024 - Submitted a [petition](#) to the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles to regulate flashing lights and sirens on emergency vehicles.

March 1, 2024 - Received a [rejection letter](#) from the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles.

We have exhausted all administrative remedies, and thus turn to the Vermont Legislature for assistance. LED flashing lights and sirens are entirely unregulated. The US Food and Drug Administration has set no performance standards to ensure public comfort, health, or safety for LED flashing lights. Complaints about the eye pain, decreased vision, and impaired cognitive functioning caused by LED flashing lights are regularly posted on social media sites. News stories about injuries and deaths involving LED flashing lights are published regularly. We therefore ask for the assistance of the Vermont Legislature.

Our proposed legislation is as follows:

Research shows that the use of flashing lights and sirens on emergency vehicles does not improve patient outcomes and yet the flashing lights and sirens cause public discomfort and puts the health, safety, and civil rights of first responders and the public at risk. Therefore, the Vermont Legislature directs the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles to investigate the impacts of flashing lights and sirens on first responder and public comfort, health, safety, and civil rights, and within 12 months of the passage of this bill, publish restrictions on flashing lights and sirens that restrict the intensity of the lights, sets limits of flash characteristics, and sets limits on siren intensity to ensure the comfort, health, safety, and civil rights of individuals with neurological disabilities and which ensures the protection of first responder vision, cognitive functioning, and physical safety.

The Soft Lights Foundation has expertise on this subject. Please feel free to contact us for assistance with this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Baker
President
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