

## Pien, Janet

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**From:** John Jacobs [jjacobs\_msn@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 28, 2012 6:04 PM  
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**Subject:** SouthWest Path lights - black bag experiment + time clock times

Dear Board of Public Works and Ped-Bike MV Commission,

I am opposed to lighting the Southwest Bike path. I don't live on the path but I frequently bike it for getting around and for recreation including at night.

A low power LED headlamp lights up everything I need to see on the path (uniformity of beam is more important than brightness for seeing objects on the path). In fact, I prefer using my lowest power headlamp on the unlit path so I can see my surroundings on the many nights when the sky is lit up from city lights.

### **Low light levels work fine. The Garbage Bag Experiment**

Some months ago, an unknown prankster neatly taped a thin black garbage bag over the test fixture behind Ken Golden's house. When I saw it one night, I wondered if it was an experiment by city staff to test the efficacy of fixtures with much lower light levels. The amount of light getting through the bag was very low, perhaps 5-10% of the un-bagged fixture. Nevertheless, the dim light still lit up the path sufficiently for me to see other people on the path within about the same photometric spread as the un-bagged fixture. Glare was dramatically reduced - not only because of the lower light level - but also because the bag diffused the light from point source LEDs into a larger apparent source.

I don't advocate putting black bags over new fixtures. I do believe that the 55 watt test fixture is needlessly bright and gives off way too much glare (because of the point sources of light). Much lower light levels will do the trick and may reduce some of the opposition to the lights.

### **Time Clock times**

If fixtures are installed on the Southwest Path I'd like to see the lights be turned off earlier than the proposed 11 pm. Bike commuters will be home many hours earlier than 11 pm. I'm an old guy and would like to be able to bike the unlit path before my bedtime.

Thanks.

John Jacobs  
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