



Dear Neighbors of St. Ignatius College Preparatory,

We have appreciated the opportunity to re-engage with many of you over the past few months as we have discussed our project to enhance our students' experience by installing four light standards with LED lighting on SI's lower field. This letter is meant to summarize what we have discussed and how we are able to address concerns that have been expressed. We remain committed to have transparent, open communications with all of you not just about the lights project, but about any concerns you have about our school.

### Why the School Needs the Lights

Some neighbors fundamentally questioned the school's need for the lights. We need them because the students need them. Since the school's current campus opened over 50 years ago, high school sports have expanded greatly. That is particularly true at St. Ignatius. Today, we have 1,500 male and female high school students, 75 middle school students, and 26 sports.

The main field is currently used Monday through Sunday on an annual basis for approximately 100 games/meets (including pre-season), up to 20 playoff games, 750 practices and 50 events for SI-affiliated groups. Night games and practices are not intended to intensify the use of the lower field, but rather to reduce the need to utilize off-campus fields and to make the use more manageable and better for our students.

### Outreach and Dialogue

We have been and intend to be a good neighbor and will do our best to answer as many concerns as possible. Throughout this process, we have followed all guidelines required by the SF Planning Commission for noticing and meetings, and we will continue to have dialogue with neighbors. As many of you know, St. Ignatius has been working toward the installation of lighting for the lower field for over five years. In addition to the school's regular outreach and community engagement, the school first hosted a neighborhood meeting on June 18, 2015 to inform neighbors of the school's plans related to lights on the field and other potential construction projects.

Since then, school representatives Ken Stupi and Tom Murphy have communicated and met with Brendan Kenneally (President) and Deborah Fischer Brown (Secretary) of the "Saint Ignatius Neighborhood Group" (SINA). Brendan and Deborah described the group as an official SF neighborhood group with 50 to 100 members. The discussion encompassed everything from neighborhood quality-of-life issues, to the lights project, to the increased SI Security patrols and the 24/7 "hotline" for neighbors to use.

Also since 2015, the school has had a Good Neighbor Program webpage on our website (<https://www.siprep.org/good-neighbor-program>) where neighbors can find contact information, sports schedules, and regular updates on the school.

### Environmental Review

Many neighbors have stated dissatisfaction with the level of environmental review the project has received. The decision about the required level of environmental review is made by SF Planning, not the school. That being said, we believe SF Planning has done a thorough review of all environmental impacts regarding the project.

For example, some neighbors have been concerned about light "pollution" caused by the proposed towers. The school retained experts very familiar with field lighting and the proposed Light Structure System and LED fixtures. The fixtures are designed to concentrate the light on the field area with minimal light emitted outside the targeted areas. That means that unlike older field lights (or the temporary ones used this past year), the proposed lights will not "bleed" light into the neighborhood in any significant manner. Also, the lights have a dimming mechanism built in to allow them to be dimmed when full lighting is not necessary, such as when staff needs to clean up at the end of games. Additionally, the lighting system will have spill and glare shielding.

The lighting study shows that light measurements at the nearest residences (approximately 100 feet), would drop to less than 1 foot-candle due to the shielding and focusing of the lights. For comparison, typical neighborhood street lighting ranges from 0.3 to 1.6 foot-candles. The light spillover would not be expected to substantially affect even the closest residences. The reports are publicly available on the SF Planning website and have been discussed at community meetings. You can also access the light study as well as the full Conditional Use Permit application on the Good Neighbor Program webpage referenced above.

#### Parking, noise, and game/practice schedule

Some neighbors have expressed a belief that new traffic and parking studies should be performed. We believe this stems from a basic misconception about the project. The addition of lights at the existing facility is not for the purpose of expanding the use of the main field. Instead, the proposed lights would shift the existing uses of the main field to later times in the day and/or days of the week. This will benefit student athletes whose practices will not need to begin at the crack of dawn. And it will benefit the neighborhood by holding football games on Friday nights, thereby minimizing the current parking and traffic disruption on Saturday afternoons.

A traffic and parking mitigation plan to minimize the impact on the neighborhood for high attendance night games will be posted on the Good Neighbor Program webpage, shared with SINA and updated as necessary. In short, we will increase our staff and security personnel on the nights with larger crowds to keep people from double parking, blocking driveways or other issues related to behavior and refuse.

Other neighbors questioned whether soil and geotechnical issues were examined. They were and, again, that report is publicly available and on our Good Neighbor Program page.

Some neighbors want a "noise study" to be performed. Again, the school is not planning to increase the overall use so there will not be an expansion of any noise associated with practices and games. Also, installing these state-of-the-art lights will end the noisy use of generator-powered temporary construction lights at the site. Moreover, the school is installing a new sound system that will direct sound away from houses during games.

Finally, some neighbors believe that SI will have 154 games with lights on until 10 p.m. For approximately 95% of the time the lower field lights will be used for practices with no spectators and for games with fewer than 200 people in attendance. As an example, under normal circumstances, the 2020-2021 school year would have six high attendance night games on the lower field--three football games, two soccer games and a lacrosse game. These games will have larger capacity (est. 1,500-2,000 attendees), similar to the number of people on campus for a typical school day and similar to a high-attendance basketball game in the gym. These high attendance games will be the exception, not the rule.

In conclusion, St. Ignatius has enjoyed a close, positive relationship with its neighbors for half a century. We believe this project will be of great benefit to the school and its students, while minimizing any disruption to the surrounding neighborhood. We look forward to continuing open and positive interactions with our community.