



CITY OF DURHAM

BRIGHTEN OUR STREETS PROGRAM

May 8, 2009

General Purpose:

The City of Durham Street Light Program consists of four components: new development/annexation lighting, thoroughfare lighting, petition lighting and Brighten Our Streets lighting. The purpose of Brighten Our Streets Lighting is to enhance public safety and crime reduction strategies by: assisting neighborhood surveillance and watch programs; aiding night-time calls for service by police, fire and emergency services; and improving pedestrian, bicycle and motorist visibility and safety.

Initial Point of Contact: Public Works/ Transportation/ Street Lights

The Transportation Division will receive all requests for street lighting and determine if additional lighting is permissible (i.e., are lighting standards already met, or could additional lights be provided or wattage increased). If additional street lighting is not possible, the Transportation Division will notify the person initiating the request. If additional lighting is possible, requests that fall under the Brighten Our Streets component will be routed to the Police Department for an assessment by the Crime Prevention Division. Requests for reduction or removal of street lighting will be assessed by the Transportation Division in consultation with the Police Department (see section below).

Assessment of Street Light Request: Police Department/Crime Prevention

A Crime Prevention officer will perform an assessment to determine whether the street lighting service request will benefit the area. In performing this assessment, the Crime Prevention Officer will consider criteria such as nighttime calls for service, crime activity, street activity, foliage, night-time visibility of features such as streets, sidewalks, driveways, house addresses, etc.

Notification of Proposed Street Light Changes: Neighborhood Improvement Services

The Police Department's assessment and proposed changes to street light services will be forwarded to Neighborhood Improvement Services. Neighborhood Improvement Services will notify affected property owners (i.e., owners of property that fronts on any section of the street on which street light changes are proposed) by postcard or other means of the street light changes

that have been proposed for their street. The notice will indicate that any questions from citizens regarding the proposed street light changes will be addressed by the Transportation Division.

Resolution of Objections and Unresolved Concerns with Proposed Street Light Changes: Police Department, Neighborhood Improvement Services, Public Works/Transportation

The Commander or his/her designee will work with Neighborhood Improvement Services and the Public Works Department/Transportation Division to address unresolved objections and concerns with proposed street light changes. The resolution may range from personal contact to community meetings, depending on the number and nature of concerns and objections. The Transportation Division, in consultation with the Police Department and Neighborhood Improvement Services, and based upon crime and safety criteria, visibility, overall lighting levels, community input, and any other factors deemed relevant will make the final determination on whether the street lighting service request will be beneficial to the neighborhood. Neighborhood Improvement Services will provide notification of such determination to the neighborhood.

Appeals: City Manager

Appeals of the final staff determination of the street lighting request may be made to the City Manager. Any appeals of the staff's decision must be made to the City Manager in written form within (21) twenty-one days of Neighborhood Improvement Service's notification. Transportation will provide in writing to the City Manager the basis of any decision/recommendation that is appealed. Further reevaluation and appeals shall not occur in less than three years.

Implementation: Duke Energy Company/Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

The Public Works Department/Transportation Division will work with the appropriate utility company to implement the service request after objections and concerns have been addressed or all appeals have been exhausted.

Request For Removal of Street Lighting

A request to remove, relocate, or change the wattage of existing street lights will be submitted to and evaluated by the Transportation Division in consultation with the Police Department. The requester will be notified of the review findings. If a proposed change is mutually agreeable with the requestor, written notification will be made to the affected property owners (i.e., owners of property that fronts on any section of the street on which street light changes are proposed) providing (21) twenty-one days for questions, comments or objections. In the absence of unresolved objections, the Transportation Division will implement the proposed changes.

However, if affected property owners object to a proposed lighting change, the request will be reconsidered or denied. This decision may then be appealed to the City Manager following a (21) twenty-one day notice of the appeal request to affected property owners. Such notice will provide information concerning the request and the basis for the administrative recommendation. Dissenting or concurring opinions will be collected and provided to the City Manager prior to an appeal ruling. For lighting projects which provided advance notice to property owners, further reevaluation and appeals shall not occur in less than three years.

Public Education

- Brighten Our Streets Program information and updates will be included in the Partners Against Crime (PAC) monthly newsletters and PAC's listserv.
- NIS staff will include contact and other information about the Brighten Our Streets Program in a letter to all neighborhood associations on the Neighborhood Associations list maintained by the City/County Planning Department.
- NIS staff will submit program information to neighborhood listserves.
- NIS staff will provide notification to the Inner-Neighborhood Council (INC) about the Brighten Our Streets Program. Program information will be sent to the INC listserv. *INC is a group of citizens that meet monthly representing neighborhood associations throughout the City of Durham.*
- NIS webpage will include links to the Police Department and Transportation Division for citizens to obtain requested information for the Brighten Our Streets Program.
- NIS webpage will include a Brighten Our Streets Program status report.