

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF STREET LIGHTS.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County desire to establish a policy to standardize the St. Johns County staff response to requests for the installation, maintenance and operation of street lights, and;

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this policy that existing street lights that are maintained and operated by or at the expense of St. Johns County continue in their existing status without change, and;

WHEREAS, this policy would set out an evaluation process for which all new requests for street lighting would be processed at the staff level on the basis of safety for vehicles, pedestrians, and the general public, and;

WHEREAS, the County Administrator or his/her designee will have the authority to approve or deny the requested lights based on the qualifying criteria set forth in the policy, and;

WHEREAS, exceptions to this policy will go to the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners for resolution on a case-by-case basis based on criteria set forth in the policy, and;

WHEREAS, this policy represents a planning level function of the County to best manage limited assets pertaining to street lighting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, that a policy for the Installation of Street lights be adopted as stated in Attachment "A" and made a part of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this 17th day of Oct, 2006.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**
By: James E. Bryant
James E. Bryant, Chairman

ATTESTED: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Patricia Alvarado Deputy Clerk

RENDITION DATE 10/18/06

ST. JOHNS COUNTY STREET LIGHT POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to standardize the St. Johns County (County) staff response to requests for the installation, maintenance and operation of street lights. Exceptions to this policy will go to the Board of County Commissioners for approval on a case-by-case basis.

Existing County Funded Street Lights

It is the intent of this Policy that existing street lights that are maintained and operated by or at the expense of St. Johns County continue in their existing status without change. The policies set forth below will apply only to requests for new street light installations where the County is requested to install, maintain and operate a street light at County expense.

Policy

This policy sets out the criteria by which all requests for street lighting will be addressed. The intent of this policy is to evaluate all street light requests within the County at the staff level on the basis of safety as it relates to vehicles, pedestrians, and public safety. This policy expressly represents a planning level function of the County as how to best manage limited assets.

Procedure

All requests for street lights will be submitted to the Public Works Department, Road & Bridge Division. Each request will be logged with the appropriate information and will be evaluated based on office and field research. The County Administrator or his/her designee will have the authority to approve or deny the requested lights as presented in a staff report applying the qualifying criteria presented below.

Public Safety and Crime Prevention

The County will authorize and pay for individual street lights at critical locations where the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office makes a written recommendation for such installation on the basis of public safety and crime prevention, based upon the professional judgment of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office may rely upon area crime statistics or any other reasonable means to make its determination. In some circumstances lighting improvements may compliment

neighborhood crime prevention efforts. Street lighting alone will not solve neighborhood crime problems, and this program is intended to provide lighting at locations such as intersections, not entire streets or neighborhoods.

When a request for street lighting based on public safety and crime prevention is received by the Road and Bridge Division, it will be referred to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office for evaluation. Road and Bridge will coordinate the installation, maintenance and operation of lights upon receipt of a written recommendation subsequently received from the Sheriff's Office.

Street lights requested solely or primarily for the protection of private property should be made directly to the appropriate electric utility and the homeowner shall assume all costs associated.

An ongoing record of the approval of public safety and crime prevention street lights will be maintained to assess the cost and effectiveness of this policy.

Landmark Intersections

Requests for street lights at isolated Intersections where the presence of a visual landmark may contribute to improved safe vehicle operation will be evaluated by the Traffic and Transportation Division, which will prepare a brief staff report and recommendation. If approved, these lights will be installed, maintained and operated at County expense.

An ongoing record of the approval of public safety and crime prevention street lights will be maintained to assess the cost and effectiveness of this policy.

Subdivisions, Streets and Neighborhoods

New Developments shall address any desired street lighting through their Homeowners Association or Community Development Districts. Such lighting will be installed, maintained and operated at the expense of the Homeowners Association, Community Development District or other legally viable organization.

Representatives from existing subdivisions, neighborhoods, or streets not having street lighting may, at their own expense, petition to establish a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) or Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) for a Street Lighting District. The costs will be assessed by each residential unit within the defined boundary. The County will assist in the process of preparing the proposed taxing unit for consideration by the Board of County Commissioners.

Representatives from existing subdivisions, neighborhoods or streets may also elect to work directly with the appropriate electric utility provider for the installation of street lights in their neighborhood and pay for the installation and

service directly. If this option is elected, it will be necessary for a representative to coordinate with the St. Johns County Right-of-Way Permitting Section and obtain a right-of-way permit if the requested lights are to be placed within the County right-of-way.

Installation

Upon approval, the request will be sent to the appropriate electric utility provider for installation.

The process for evaluating the numerous requests and installing approved lights will normally take several months.