

CITY OF OAK HILL

STREETLIGHT POLICY

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for the installation of adequate illumination along the streets and highways of the City of Oak Hill in order to aid in the safe and orderly movement of traffic and pedestrians. The intent of this policy is to provide for streetlights to be installed in accordance with the wishes of those residing on particular streets within the city. However, public safety must be given the highest priority when determining whether a streetlight is appropriate or not for a particular location. Streetlights are installed primarily to light the streets and highways with any secondary benefits being solely coincidental.

SCOPE

This policy covers all street lighting installed on public streets and rights-of-way in the City of Oak Hill.

TYPE OF LIGHTING

All lighting and light fixtures shall be in compliance with the City of Oak Hill zoning ordinance and other regulations, unless the city determines that public safety cannot be served by strict compliance with these regulations. At present, this requires that all light fixtures be dark sky compliant.

DEVELOPER PROJECTS

Developers are required, at their cost, to install street lighting with all new construction. Where new subdivision streets intersect adjacent existing roadways, adequate street lighting shall be provided to properly illuminate the intersection. In the case of an intersection with a major roadway, the lighting shall be sufficient to illuminate the approaches and associated transitions.

FUNDING (EXISTING DEVELOPMENT)

- A. The city will pay for the installation of an approved streetlight meeting streetlight criteria for public safety purposes provided installation money is available. The city will also pay for the monthly electric charges. However, a streetlight will only be installed for public safety purposes if it is determined that reflecting roadway markers, lines, warnings, informational signs, or other passive means cannot achieve the desired safety outcome.
- B. If the light meets streetlight criteria, but there is no public safety need, then the applicant may pay the installation charges associated with the light and the city will take over the monthly electric charge. This money must be paid prior to authorization of the light installation and is non-refundable, unless NES determines that light cannot be installed at desired location.

CITIZEN REQUEST

- A. Citizens' requests will be evaluated upon completion and submission of a completed streetlight request. All lighting requests are studied to determine if a public safety need exists. The proposed lighting must meet the test of public safety need, rather than private need. Public safety need is not met simply by the light not violating streetlight standards, rather it must materially increase the public safety of motorists, pedestrians, and/or cyclists.
- B. If the street lighting request is determined necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the general public traveling on public streets, the approved lights and/or other traffic hazard mitigation efforts or measures will be installed.
- C. Should funding be at issue, priorities will be given to (1) locations proven to be a traffic hazard, (2) intersections, (3) severe changes of roadway grade. Traffic hazards shall be characterized by accident history in area, high traffic volume, high pedestrian volume, sight distance, or other traffic hazards that street lighting will remedy.

LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

The number, type, and location of streetlights to be installed shall be determined by the City of Oak Hill.

GENERAL PROCEDURES

Request for streetlight installations must include a completed streetlight request form. Upon receipt of said form, the city manager will review the location for compliance with the criteria for installation and to determine if sufficient infrastructure (pole, transformer, wiring, etc.) currently exists to install a streetlight. This may also include the city engineer and/or an NES representative in assessing the criteria.

Recommendations of approval or denial will be made by the engineering division, and final approval will be made by the City Manager.

In the event that a request is denied due to the fact that a public hazard does not exist but that the light does not violate street lighting standards, a resident may initiate the applicant pay procedure.

APPLICANT PAY PROCEDURE

Applicant must first obtain a streetlight petition with names, signatures, and addresses of all property owners whose property adjoins the visible area of the proposed light fixture or is located directly across the street from the visible light area. The visible light area will be defined by the standard light disbursement pattern for the light fixture requested. A copy of the standard light disbursement pattern for the light fixtures available at this time is attached. It should be noted that the actual location may vary slightly from the standard pattern. Should an applicant feel that the standard is not applicable to a particular location, they may hire a firm to prepare a custom light disbursement pattern for the actual location of the request and the City will accept that pattern for purposes of owner approval.

Once the petition is received, the city will request a cost estimate from NES for light installation. This is an estimate only and actual cost may vary based upon the time and equipment needed for installation. This estimate will be provided to the applicant. If the applicant wishes to proceed, they may provide the city with funds equal to 90% of the estimate, along with an agreement to pay the balance of the actual cost upon installation. Once the installation is complete the city will send a statement to the applicant for payment of the remaining funds. Payment should be remitted within 30 days of receipt. The city will immediately take over payment of the energy costs for the streetlight. At present, the installation costs are approximately \$1,500 for a 150 watt light and \$2,500 for a 450 watt light.

DECORATIVE LIGHT FIXTURES AND POLES

Decorative lighting will not be approved for single locations within the City of Oak Hill. However, developers, homeowner's association, or neighborhood groups may submit a request for decorative lighting in their neighborhood. The applicant group will be responsible for the installation and materials cost associated with the lighting. The city will be responsible for energy costs associated with the converted and/or new lighting fixtures.

Light fixtures and poles must be chosen from the approved list maintained by NES, and that comply with Oak Hill lighting regulations.

STREETLIGHT REQUEST FORM

Date: _____

Name of Requestor: _____

Address of Requestor: _____

Telephone Number of Requestor: _____

Email Address of Requestor: _____

What is the approximate street address or intersection where pole is requested? _____

Is there a pole at the requested location? Yes No

If yes, what is the pole number (located on pole)? _____

What is the reason you feel the street light is necessary? _____
