

MOTION

NO. M-24-X

CITY HALL: March 21, 2024

BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORENO

WHEREAS, street lighting is a critical component to providing public safety, bolstering safe and efficient transportation for both vehicles and pedestrians, enhancing community identity, and adding aesthetic value to a City's historic fabric; and

WHEREAS, consistent street lighting as part of roadway maintenance provides economic and social benefits to the public as well, including: reduction in accidents, safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, prevention of crime and aiding law enforcement protection, facilitation of traffic flow, promotion of business and industry, enhancing visibility, creating security in our neighborhoods, and the encouragement of community spirit and growth; and

WHEREAS, there is a long-standing correlation between lighting and incidents of crime - street lighting is a proven component to reducing theft, property defacement, property damage, and reducing risks to avoid fostering criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the City of New Orleans ensure that neighborhoods, streets, highways, and interstates within Orleans Parish boundaries are appropriately and consistently lit and leverage best practices and innovative models to ensure consistent lighting, cost savings measures are leveraged, and appropriate and reliable maintenance is scheduled; and

WHEREAS, another major issue involves copper wire theft from utility poles on surface streets and interstate corridors leading to devastating effects on public safety, leading to blocks without overhead lighting until repairs are made; and

WHEREAS, per the Department of Public Work's (DPW) Interstate Lighting Asset Vandalism and Theft Status 2024 report, the following updates were provided therein:

- **I-10, btw Elysian Fields and St Bernard EB/WB On/Off-Ramp:** 60% of the lights are functional due to damaged feed points and stolen wire. Lane closure required.
- **I-10, btw St Bernard EB/WB On/Off-Ramp and Orleans Ave EB/WB On and Off-Ramps:** 20-30 outages (45% Functional): Issues included fuses blowing, breaker tripping, and stolen wire as well as required maintenance. Lane closure required.
- **I-10 btw Orleans EB/WB On/Off-Ramp and Superdome Exit 235B:** 25-35 outages (45% Functional); power is restored but lane closure is needed to perform maintenance on the lights. Issues included fuses blowing, breaker tripping, and stolen wire.
- **I-610 EB & I-10 WB on ramps & Cloverleaf:** Area is 25% functional and still under investigation; issues include missing poles due to theft, deteriorated conduit,

and deteriorated wiring. To continue the investigation for safety purposes, DPW will have to schedule a lane closure.

- **I-610 (St Roch & I-10 Interchange on ramps & off Ramps to Louisa:** Train Trestle to 17th Street Canal: (40) Missing poles and fixtures have been ordered.
- **Michoud Exchange / to I-510:** All lights are off. All poles on the overpass and on and off ramps have been cut and sold. There is also stolen wire in this area.
- **Dwyer Overpass to Chef Overpass:** This area is 35% functional. DPW is investigating the feed point and has reinstalled a few missing poles with additional installations planned.
- **Highrise:** There are 48-52 outages. Issues include stolen wire and damaged feed points.
- **I-610 to Louisa (base of high-rise west side):** There are 25-35 outages. Issues include fuses blowing, breakers tripping, missing poles, stolen wire, and bad foundations. DPW has ran new wire where necessary, installed e-boxes in locations where knockdowns occurred to continue the circuit, and blew trash out of existing conduit. There are approximately 1-3 knockdowns between the I-610 flyover to the base of the High Rise.

WHEREAS, the New Orleans City Council believes it is incumbent on the Department of Public Works to create a master plan for city lighting that includes exploring innovative solutions being adopted throughout municipalities worldwide to better promote public safety by reducing copper wire theft; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the Council directs the Department of Public Works to take all steps necessary to create a master plan for city lighting that includes full lighting inventory and also finds effective solutions for reducing outages including the reduction the theft of copper wiring from the city's street lighting system.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the goal of such analysis referenced above is to discover new solutions and best practices, potentially being utilized by other cities, that are cost-effective and will prevent outages and damage to New Orleans' streetlights.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, for the purposes of residing copper thefts, the analysis of new and innovative technologies shall include cost analysis, a menu of options to help combat the theft of copper wire from City infrastructure, and projected timelines for implementation.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, That as part of this process, the Department of Public works shall request evaluation of each solution explore the following information:

- Exploring options to curtail copper wire theft from streetlight networks such as solar-powered lighting, putting alarms on pull boxes, and camera installation.
 - The solution's effectiveness at preventing/deterring copper wire theft
 - The solution's ease of installation
 - The solution's scalability across the City's street light network
 - The solution's cost-effectiveness

- Any value-added capabilities of the solution

**THE FOREGOING MOTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED
ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:**

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE MOTION WAS ADOPTED.