

Department of Public Works

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MEMO

TO: Alderwoman Sandy Weidner, Chairman, Public Works and Services Committee

FROM: Mark H. Yehlen,  Commissioner of Public Works

DATE: April 5, 2013

SUBJECT: **Resubmission of Draft Adopt-A-Streetlight Program Documents, Item 18-8563**

As directed by the Common Council on December 4, 2012, I'm resubmitting a revised draft City of Racine Adopt-A-Streetlight Program and Implementation Plan, Item 13-856, consideration of which was deferred by the Public Works and Services Committee on February, 12, 2013.

Implementation and operation of an Adopt-A-Streetlight Program will incur undetermined costs and additional administrative workload for the Public Works and Finance Departments.

Adopt-A-Streetlight Program

Thanks for your interest in the City of Racine's Adopt-A-Streetlight Program. The City of Racine has identified numerous WE Energies leased streetlights for removal under a newly adopted WE Energies Leased Streetlight Location/Spacing Policy. The Common Council approved this policy to establish uniform street lighting standards and cut expenses.

The Department of Public Works developed the Adopt-A-Light Program to allow interested residents an opportunity to "adopt" an existing WE Energies street or alley light slated for removal, and keep it installed by paying an annual fee. New lights can't be installed, or removed lights reinstalled under this program.

How much is the annual fee to maintain a street or alley light?

The annual fee is based on the City's annual lease cost plus a \$15 fee to cover administrative expenses. The monthly lease rates are determined by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and based on the type and wattage of the light fixture installed. These rates can be found on WE Energies website using this link: http://www.we-energies.com/night_aura/products/wi_lightingrates.pdf The City falls under the Ms-3 Rate Schedule.

As an example, if you are interested in adopting a typical 150 watt sodium-vapor streetlight (2013 Ms-3 rate of \$15.81 per month), the annual fee is $\$15.81/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ months/year} + \$15.00 = \$204.72$ per year.

The annual fee for a typical 50 watt alley light (2013 Ms-3 rate of 10.08 per month) is $\$10.08/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ months/year} + \$15.00 = \$135.96$ per year.

Fees for 2013 will be prorated from the time the lease would have been terminated to December 31, 2013. The target date for terminating leases is **May XX, 2013**. To determine the fee for a particular light, call the Public Works Department at (262) 636-9121 with the light location, and they will calculate the prorated 2013 Fee and the estimated 2014 Fee for this light.

Which street and alley lights have been selected for removal?

The street and alley lights slated for removal are shown on this map: [link](#)

I'm interested! How can I adopt a streetlight?

To adopt a streetlight, you can print and complete the Adopt-A-Light Program application form found on our website: [link](#). You can also call the Engineering Department at (262) 636-9166 to have an application form sent to you. Either mail or bring the completed form with a check for the prorated 2013 annual fee to the City of Racine Engineering Department in Room 304 of City Hall (730 Washington Avenue Racine, Wisconsin 53403) by **May XX, 2013** to be enrolled in the program.

The lease on all street and alley lights identified for removal and not adopted by **MAY XX, 2013**, will be terminated on **MAY XX, 2013**. Once the lease for a light is terminated, WE Energies is required to remove the light fixture and pole (if the pole doesn't have other utilities installed on it) as soon as the work can be accomplished.

Fees for subsequent years will be computed annually in September based on the rate schedule approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. Invoices for the annual fees will be mailed to the program enrollees each October. If the annual fee for an adopted street or alley light isn't received by the 1st of December, the lease with WE Energies for that light will be terminated effective December 31st of that year.

Once the WE Energies lease for a street or alley light is terminated, it can't be re-adopted. If a program enrollee moves or chooses not to renew their sponsorship for a light, enrollment can be transferred to another resident by

informing the Engineering Department at (262) 636-9166. Payment from the new sponsor must be received by the 1st of December to maintain the adopted light for the following year.

What if more than one resident wants to adopt the same light?

If two or more residents want to share the cost of adopting a light, one of the residents in the group will be responsible for collecting from the others. The City will invoice only one resident for the adoption fees.

Who takes care of maintenance of an adopted streetlight?

WE Energies will operate and maintain the streetlight; however, once you adopt a streetlight, you are responsible for notifying WE Energies of outages by calling 800-662-4797, or using WE Energies online notification system: http://www.we-energies.com/night_aura/contact/rptoutage.htm

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City of Racine Adopt-A-Streetlight Program

Application Form

Instructions:

Fill out this form and return it to the City Engineering Department along with a check for the pro-rated 2013 Fee by mail or in person. (Call the Public Works Department at (262) 636-9121 with the Pole Number/light location, and they will calculate the prorated 2013 Fee and estimated 2014 Fee for this light.)

City of Racine Engineering Department
730 Washington Avenue, Room 304
Racine, Wisconsin, 53403

Yes, I want to adopt the streetlight identified below:

Pole Number: _____ (Found on utility/light pole at eye level)

On _____ Street/Road/Avenue/Circle/Lane
(circle one)

Or in the alley between _____ and _____ (parallel streets)

and _____ and _____ (cross streets)

Nearest house address _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature*: _____ Date: _____

**Your signature indicates you accept the terms described within the City of Racine's Adopt-A-Light Program and will pay annual fees to remain enrolled in subsequent years (annual WE Energies lease cost plus a \$15.00 administrative fee).*