



Village of Woodridge

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January 12, 2005

Woodridge, IL 60517

Dear

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your desire to have more streetlights installed on MacArthur Drive. I was happy to see that you participated in the Town Meeting and had a chance to see how people from all over the community come together to help establish priorities for the elected officials and Village staff.

Public safety is always an issue that people are interested in and for that reason there were four tables dedicated to that topic during the group discussion portion of the Town Meeting. Residents at each of those tables offered helpful input and established priorities focusing generally on public education, outreach and enforcement. The topic of street lighting was raised only at your table, but even there it was not identified as a priority for the community.

In the past year, the Village Board has considered your request and even examined our policy in a broader context. The Village Board reviewed several options for responding to resident requests for streetlights. Staff presented the Board with four options to serve as a basis for discussions:

1. Maintain current policy with no substantive changes to the streetlight inventory.
2. Adopt a policy as developed by the Public Works Department wherein individual requests for streetlights are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Staff from both the Police and Public Works departments can jointly consider requests for streetlight enhancements based upon need as determined, in part, by traffic and crime analysis which may suggest street lighting is a contributing factor.
3. Undertake a capital improvement program to install streetlights in older neighborhoods with the same standards as new subdivisions at an estimated initial expense over \$2 million, plus annual maintenance and energy costs.

4. Develop a program wherein neighborhoods interested in additional streetlights could directly participate in cost-sharing with the Village.

The Board supported option number two, wherein staff from the Police and Public Works Departments would evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis. Decisions for installation of one or more streetlights will be based upon the specific concerns of the resident(s) and data collected which may indicate that the lack of lighting is a contributing factor to those concerns (i.e. traffic accidents, neighborhood crime).

I know that you and your husband met with Public Works Director Phil Modaff to discuss your specific concerns and the Village Boards recent deliberations. The Police and Public Works Departments conducted a crime and traffic analysis that provided no evidence that the lack of streetlights has contributed in any way to criminal activity or traffic accidents on MacArthur.

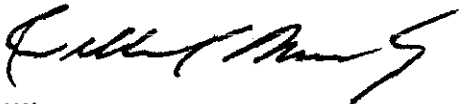
While development standards change from year to year in Woodridge (and other communities), the cost of the new standards is borne by the developers, and ultimately the new homeowners. Newly adopted standards often reflect availability of new or improved materials and technology, or the demands of the always evolving housing market. As a result, communities end up with a variety of neighborhoods, each with its own unique character. And each may also present homeowners or potential buyers with some tradeoffs such as more or fewer streetlights, parkway tree variety and maturity, sidewalks, bike paths, proximity to schools and so on.

I would encourage further discussion with the neighbors who signed the petition you presented in your letter to determine if there is an interest in sharing the cost for installation of streetlights. I have sent a copy of this response letter to all the people who signed the petition that accompanied your recent letter (see attached).

I hope to see you again at one or more community meetings such as the Town Meeting and Neighborhood Dialogues.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF WOODRIDGE



William F. Murphy
Mayor

cc: John Perry, Village Administrator