

More street lights needed in Winston Hills

Why can't Woodridge be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to public safety? I am a Woodridge resident living in the Winston Hills subdivision on the north side of town. Our subdivision is in an older section where the homes and street lighting are 40+ years old. My fellow residents and I feel that some changes need to be made to make the older areas of the village more in alignment with the current basic standards for lighting and our own village code. For example, our subdivision contains the four longest streets in the entire village (each being a half mile long) but yet each street has only one street light, which is also a very old light. That is only one light for every quarter mile. The current standard per village code is one light per every 200 feet.

I brought this to the attention of the village administration and have personally met with the director of public works. Because of our dissatisfaction, a study was conducted. The study showed very low

crime, and a low accident rate. Because of this result, the consensus of the study showed additional street lights are unnecessary. We were told additional street lighting would be possible if we were willing to pay for the project ourselves.

My fellow residents and I feel differently. We think standards are set for a purpose, and wonder why there seems to be a double standard in regards to the village code for lighting. We know it is a builder's responsibility to install street lighting in new subdivisions, but what happens years later when equipment deteriorates or becomes obsolete?

We feel there is a special need for the unique situation of the four longest streets in the village — Taylor Drive, Maxwell Drive, MacArthur Drive and Winston Drive. We don't feel confident driving on these streets at night. It is extremely difficult to see cars parked on the sides of the street, whether one is driving or backing a vehicle out of a driveway. (The driveways are staggered so cars are always in the back up zone.) Good luck. Crossing the street as a pedestrian or using the sidewalks it just is

not safe!

We are just asking for Woodridge to be a different kind of town ... one that is proactive and corrects a problem before something unfortunate happens to one of our residents, rather than reactive like other towns, and correct problems once it is too late.

*April Clark
Woodridge*