

**AGENDA ITEM**  
October 15, 2019

Subject: Street Light Addition for East Hickory

Department: Administration

A Nevada Police staff study was conducted to evaluate the need for additional street lighting in the 700-1300 block of East Hickory Street. The study recommended the addition of three (3) street lights along Hickory Street from Cypress Street to Subway Boulevard.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1542**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEVADA, MISSOURI APPROVING THE ADDITION OF THREE STREET LIGHTS WITHIN THE CITY OF NEVADA, MISSOURI.**

**WHEREAS**, addition of street lights must be done by resolution in order to satisfy EVERGY, INC procedures; and

**WHEREAS**, the addition of three (3) street lights along East Hickory Street from Cypress Street to Subway Boulevard will be beneficial for the safety of the residents within this neighborhood and is therefore advisable by the City of Nevada.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Nevada, Missouri, approves the installation of street lights at the locations indicated herein.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019

(seal)  
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
George Knox, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnna Williams, City Clerk





- Tim Holbrooks, Representative for C.A.T Motorcycle Repair located at 809 E. Hickory Street
- Corey Johnson, Property Owner at 815 E. Hickory Street
- Monte Sheets, Representative for MFA Producers, located at 905 E. Hickory Street
- Kenneth Kurdi, Resident at 922 E. Hickory Street
- Lyndon Eberhard, Property Owner at 924 E. Hickory Street
- Marlana Shipley, Representative for Producers Grain located at 1107 E. Hickory Street
- Roger Conner, Property Owner at Conner's Auto Repair located at 1120 E. Hickory Street
- Angie Reasoner, Representative for Countryside Animal Hospital located at 1200 E. Hickory Street
- Lawrence Wilson, Representative for Life Church located at 421 N. Centennial Boulevard

#### SUMMARY:

The original request for this review came from Lyndon Eberhard, property owner at 924 E. Hickory Street. Mr. Eberhard expressed concern that the area is not well lit at night. Mr. Eberhard indicated that additional street lighting in the area would increase visibility and be beneficial for public safety in the area.

While conducting physical site survey of this area I observed existing street lights at the following locations:

One (1) street light at the southeast corner of the intersection of N. Osage Boulevard and E. Hickory Street

One (1) street light at the southwest corner of the intersection of N. Colorado Street and E. Hickory Street

One (1) street light at the southeast corner of the intersection of N. Center Street and E. Hickory Street

One (1) street light at the southwest corner of the intersection of N. Mill Street and E. Hickory Street

One (1) street light at the southwest corner of the intersection of N. Centennial Boulevard and E. Hickory Street

I observed that on E. Hickory Street driving east that the last residential home is located at 922 E. Hickory Street. I observed that a street light was positioned at every city street intersection other than the intersection of N. Cypress Street and E. Hickory Street.

The residential properties in this area of E. Hickory Street are located at 705 E. Hickory, 717 E. Hickory, 719 E. Hickory and 922 E. Hickory. I determined that the homes at 705 E. Hickory and 719 E. Hickory are currently vacant. The remainder of properties along this section of E. Hickory Street consists of commercial businesses. I also observed that the majority of these businesses along E. Hickory Street provide their own exterior lighting.

I spoke with Manuel Benavidez, resident at 717 E. Hickory. Mr. Benavidez said that he felt that additional street lighting would be beneficial for pedestrian traffic in the area. Mr. Benavidez said it would create more visibility for the area at night and would make it easier for motorists to see people walking near the roadway. Mr. Benavidez said he was not overly concerned about this issue. Mr. Benavidez said he did not believe additional street lighting would be a crime deterrent, and that although there is foot traffic in this area he had not experienced any issues with criminal activity. Mr. Benavidez also expressed some concern over the costs associated with adding additional street lights.

I spoke to Kenneth Kurdi, resident at 922 E. Hickory. Mr. Kurdi expressed support for additional street light in the area. Mr. Kurdi said that the primary reason he felt there was a need for additional street lighting was to improve overall nighttime visibility for pedestrians. Mr. Kurdi also reported a heavy presence of speeding motorists along this section of E. Hickory Street. Mr. Kurdi said he felt additional lighting may deter speeding vehicles or at least make them more visible. Mr. Kurdi said he had a battery taken from a vehicle parked on his property but that he had not reported it to police. Mr. Kurdi reported seeing a lot of foot traffic in his neighborhood all hours of the night. I noted that the existing street light at the intersection of N. Mill Street and E. Hickory Street was approximately twenty (20) yards away from east property line of Mr. Kurdi's residence.

I spoke to Monte Sheets, manager at MFA Producers located at 905 E. Hickory. Mr. Sheets said he had no specific concerns that would necessitate additional street lighting. Mr. Sheets said that more lights could be beneficial but he was indifferent to the outcome of this study. Mr. Sheets reported no issues with criminal activity in the area. Mr. Sheets said there was some foot traffic in the area but that it had not created any concerns. Mr. Sheets said their business provided their own exterior lighting for their building and parking lot.

I spoke to Angie Reasoner, employee at Countryside Animal Hospital located at 1200 E. Hickory. I noted there were no existing street lights near this business. Ms. Reasoner had no specific concerns to support the need for additional street lighting. Ms. Reasoner reported no issues with criminal activity at their location. Ms. Reasoner said their

business provided their own exterior lighting. Ms. Reasoner said that she believed the city has bigger concerns than adding additional streets in their area along E. Hickory Street.

I spoke to Roger Conner, property owner of Conner's Auto Repair located at 1120 E. Hickory. The building at this location sets back approximately 30 yards south of E. Hickory Street. Mr. Conner said he was in favor of adding street lights to the area. Mr. Conner reported experiencing vandalism and theft from vehicles parking in the lot of his business. Mr. Conner reported having five or so criminal incidents at his business since 2013. Mr. Conner said he believed additional street lighting would make area business lots such as his more visible at night and deter criminal activity.

I spoke to Marlana Shipley, employee at Producers Grain located at 1107 E. Hickory. The building at this location is situated approximately 50 yards north of E. Hickory Street. I noted no existing street lights near this business. Ms. Shipley spoke in favor of additional street lighting. Ms. Shipley said they have experienced some minor thefts of property from the business lot. Ms. Shipley said they installed security cameras which work great in daylight but do not work well at night due to the lack of external lighting near their business. Ms. Shipley said that additional street lighting would allow their security cameras to be far more effective at night. Ms. Shipley also reported heavy foot traffic during day and at night.

I spoke to Lyndon Eberhard, property owner at 924 E. Hickory. Mr. Leonard said his chief concern for the need of more street lighting was the abundance of foot traffic in the area at night. Mr. Eberhard said some of the foot traffic dresses in dark clothing and walks along the middle of the roadway. Mr. Eberhard felt that improved street lighting would make foot traffic more visible to motorists driving along this section of E. Hickory Street. Mr. Eberhard also said he had been approached by Nevada Fire Chief Bill Thornton on this issue and Chief Thornton was in favor of additional street lighting in this area as well. Mr. Eberhard said additional street lighting would increase nighttime visibility for motorists and for foot traffic in the area. Mr. Eberhard reported being approached a couple that lives near the intersection of E. Hickory Street and N. Cypress Street who told him they narrowly missed hitting a pedestrian with their vehicle in this area due to poor street lighting. The couple told him the pedestrian was walking in the roadway and was wearing dark clothing, making it difficult for them to see him. Mr. Eberhard also reported finding a person sleeping in a shed on his property at 924 E. Hickory. Mr. Eberhard said that additional street lighting could help deter criminal activity in the area.

Mr. Eberhard expressed additional concerns regarding this section of E. Hickory. Mr. Eberhard said he would like to see the shoulders widened along the roadway. Mr. Eberhard spoke of an upcoming repair project on the E. Austin overpass that could result in traffic being detoured to this section of E. Hickory Street. Mr. Eberhard said if this roadway was used as a main thoroughfare it should be well lit at night and the shoulders should be widened to sustain more and larger traffic including tractor trailers. Mr. Eberhard expressed concern that with the current condition of the road, if a large

truck were to overturn into the ditch it could be catastrophic. Mr. Eberhard said providing adequate street lighting and adequate roadway shoulders would decrease the possibility of a catastrophic event from occurring.

I spoke to Mike Shrimplin, manager of Carquest Auto Parts located at 704 E. Hickory. Mr. Shrimplin said he had no specific concerns about the current street lighting in this area. Mr. Shrimplin felt more lighting may be beneficial to the neighborhood but that it was not needed around his business. Mr. Shrimplin said that while there is some foot traffic in the area he has had no issues with criminal activity at their location. Mr. Shrimplin said they already have adequate exterior lighting around their business.

I spoke to Corey Johnson, property owner at 815 E. Hickory. Mr. Johnson said the existing exterior lighting around his property is sufficient. Mr. Johnson did speak in favor of additional street lights along this stretch of E. Hickory. Mr. Johnson said he had previous conversations with Mr. Eberhard about low light areas along this section of E. Hickory and concurred with Mr. Eberhard's concerns. Mr. Johnson also expressed concern regarding the impact to this area based on the Austin overpass construction project and said that if traffic was detoured to E. Hickory that improvements including additional street lighting would be needed.

I spoke to Chris Haynes, Vernon County Emergency Management Director who works part time out of the Vernon County Emergency Operations Center located at 800 E. Hickory. Mr. Haynes said he is rarely at this building during the nighttime hours. Mr. Haynes said the building has its own exterior lighting on the east side where the parking lot is located. Mr. Haynes expressed support for additional street lighting along E. Hickory near their building and also near the railroad tracks to the east. Mr. Haynes said their building has exterior cameras and that there is some foot traffic in the area all hours of the day and night. Mr. Haynes reported some property damage to their building approximately one year ago.

I spoke to Mike Reasoner, employee at Vernon County Road and Bridge located at 720 E. Hickory. Mr. Reasoner said their building was not staffed during the nighttime hours and had not noticed poor lighting conditions in their immediate area. Mr. Reasoner said he had no specific concerns about the current street lighting in their area. Mr. Reasoner did report prior criminal activity in their area including thefts and property damage to nearby businesses and vehicles.

I spoke to Chris Mangum and Tim Holbrooks, business owners of C.A.T. Motorcycle Repair & More located at 809 E. Hickory. Both expressed support for additional street lighting in the area. Both reported heavy foot traffic and issues with trespassers on their property all hours of the day and night. Both said they felt additional street lighting could help deter criminal activity and make foot traffic more visible to police when patrolling their area. They indicated they did not currently have a security system or exterior lighting for their business but were in the process of getting them. Both said additional street lighting nearby would be beneficial to their business.



I spoke to Lawrence Wilson, lead pastor for Life Church located at 421 N. Centennial which is at the intersection of E. Hickory Street and N. Centennial Boulevard. I noted no existing street in this area. Mr. Wilson said he had lived in an apartment inside the church building for a year and a half and had no specific concerns about the current street lighting in their area. Mr. Wilson said their building has its own exterior lighting. Mr. Wilson did say additional street lighting could be beneficial to the area for the safety of pedestrian traffic. Mr. Wilson reported no issues with criminal activity at their location.

I conducted an analysis of calls for service for 2019 year to date for the 700-1300 blocks of E. Hickory Street. In this time frame there were 34 calls for service in this area. The call for service type breakdown is as follows:

Number of Calls	Call Type
16	Traffic Stop
3	Careless & Imprudent Driving
2	Derelict Vehicle
2	Motor Vehicle Crash
2	Traffic Hazard
2	Follow Up Investigation
1	Ambulance Request Assistance
1	Theft of Services
1	Suspicious Person
1	Stranded Motorist
1	Debris in Roadway
1	Burning Complaint
1	Disturbance In Progress
34 Total	

COST:

The initial costs to install new street lights at this location would be minimal as KCPL will provide the materials and labor to install the street lights at no cost to the City. The City would be responsible for the usage costs of the street lights. KCPL advised that the average cost per street light in approximately \$197 a year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

I am recommending the addition of street lighting in the 700-1300 block of E. Hickory Street. During my onsite analysis I noted that there is no street lighting in the 1000-1300 blocks of E. Hickory Street. The majority of persons interviewed for this study were in favor of additional street lighting in this area. Although most businesses in this area provide their own exterior lighting around their buildings, this lighting does not extend into the street in most cases. Existing utility poles along E. Hickory Street could be used for installation points of additional street lighting.

If this section of E. Hickory Street between N. Osage Boulevard and N. Centennial Boulevard were to be utilized as a detour route for traffic traveling through our city on US 54 during the Austin Boulevard overpass construction project, then I believe additional street lighting would be a necessary improvement for overall safety of this route for motorists and pedestrians. I concur with many of the residents and property owners interviewed in the belief that additional street lighting would improve visibility for motorists, pedestrians and law enforcement patrolling this area at night. The increased visibility may have a deterring effect on criminal activity in this area as well.

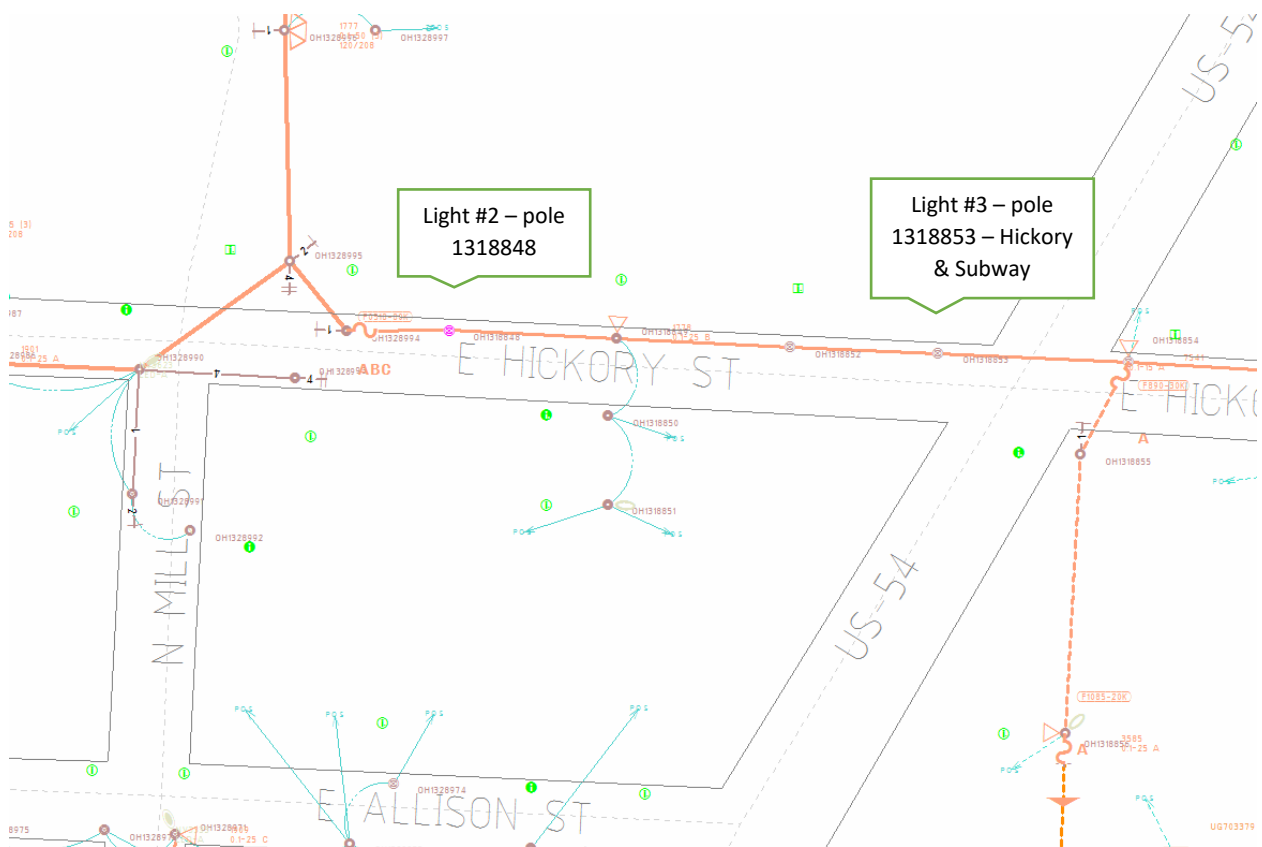
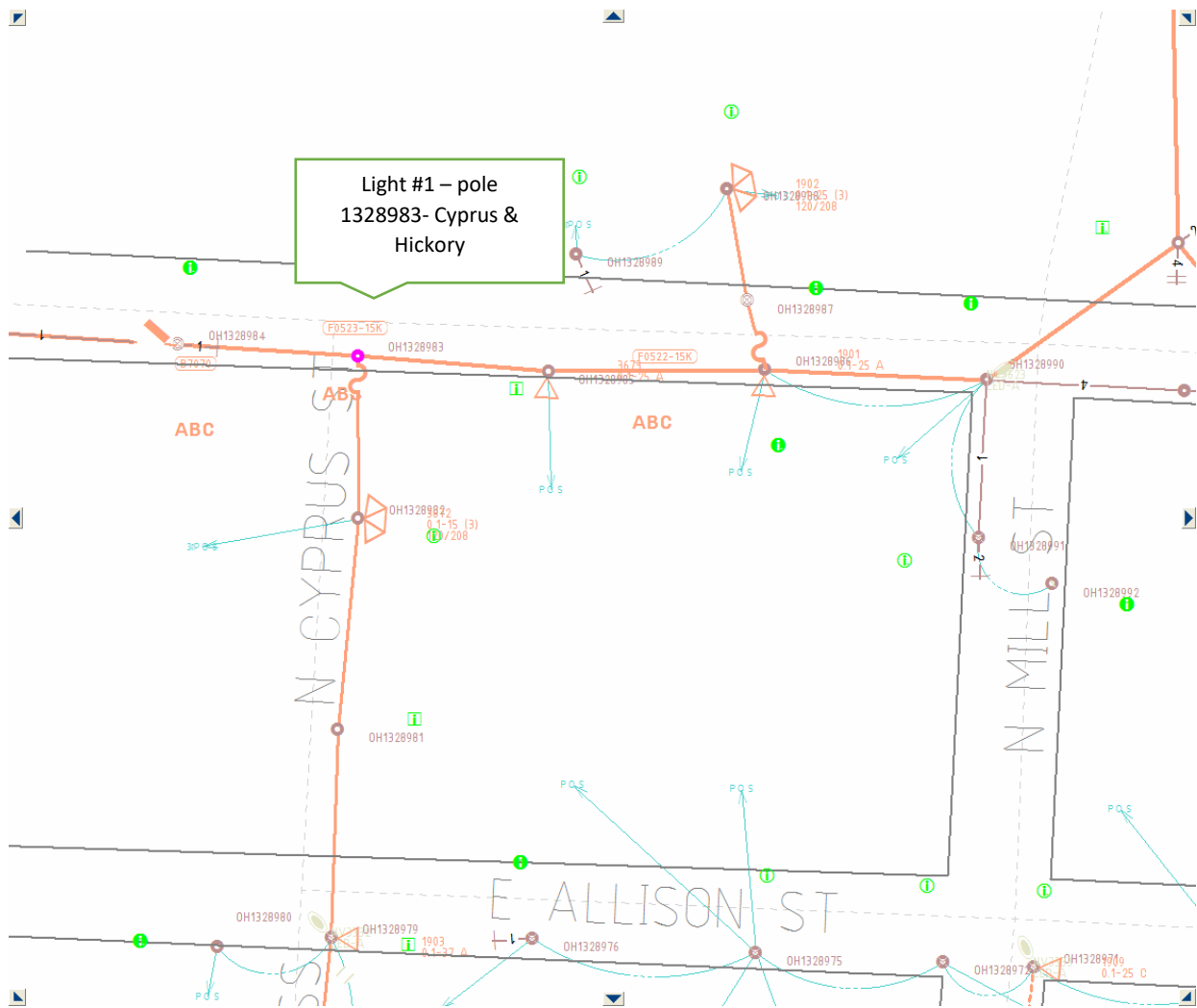
Based on the placement of the existing street lights in the 700-1300 blocks of E. Hickory Street I am recommending the installation of three (3) additional street lights in the following areas:

The addition of one (1) street light on an existing utility pole at the intersection of N. Cypress Street and E. Hickory Street.

The addition of one (1) street light on an existing utility pole in front of Producers Grain at 1107 E. Hickory Street.

The addition of one (1) street light on an existing utility pole west of the intersection of N. Subway Boulevard and E. Hickory Street.

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE	YES	NO
Lieutenant Steve Bastow	<i>[Signature]</i>	9/30/19	X	
Captain Jimmie Dye	<i>[Signature]</i>	9-30-19	X	
Chief Casey Crain	<i>[Signature]</i>	9.30.19	X	
Return To:				



Proposed Street Light locations for City of Nevada – E Hickory St

LED A on existing wood poles

10/1/2019

Kansas City Power & Light  
721 N Osage Blvd  
Nevada, MO 64772