



Commonwealth of Virginia

RODNEY L. LUSK

Fairfax County, Franconia District Supervisor
6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22310



Public Streetlight Information and Planning Request

Joint Board Matter by Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk and Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn

Mr. Chairman –

Fairfax County pays for the operation of over 50,000 streetlights. That is an impressive number, but unfortunately many neighborhoods and roads in the County do not have streetlights or have gaps in coverage on their street. My office, as I am sure yours does as well, often receives requests for new streetlights to be installed on our streets.

Streetlights are a beneficial tool in public safety. They promote road safety for drivers and pedestrians by increasing visibility during low-light or nighttime hours. Unfortunately, we see a significant number of pedestrian fatalities occur during these time periods. Streetlights are also a deterrent to certain kinds of crimes, such as automobile thefts.

Recently the Board has undertaken important measures to convert outdated bulbs to LED whenever possible through the LED Conversion Program. The Streetlight Developer program is another important program that provides for the installation

of streetlights in new developments. These are critical programs to improving our streetlight network, but neither provide a method for neighborhoods to request and receive new streetlights for the safety of their existing community.

Thanks to your leadership Mr. Chairman, last year this Board added \$200,000 to each District Discretionary fund, which allows each Supervisor to authorize the purchase of new streetlights when requested. That funding is absolutely critical for our short-term needs; however, no formal year-over-year program exists for residents to request new streetlights. The Streetlight Citizen Petition Program, which allowed citizens to request streetlights through an official process, has not been funded since approximately 2003.

After discussion with the Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, we believe the Board should begin planning long-term on this topic. Supervisor Alcorn and I move that the County Executive direct the appropriate staff to conduct a review and develop long-term strategies to fund streetlight requests in existing communities, identify parties responsible or potentially responsible for streetlight installation and maintenance, and report back to this Board at the Public Safety Committee by the end of the first quarter next year. Additionally, I move that the County Executive direct the appropriate staff to prepare a NIP for the Board with information on the status of each District's discretionary fund and describe how these funds can be used by each Supervisor.