

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

20061114-2 PM 11:33

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Public Works Agency
DATE: November 14, 2006

RE: **Action On A Report Recommending An Increase In Exterior Lighting At Schools With After-School Programs Or Activities After 5PM During The Winter To Improve Public Safety For Staff And Youth**

SUMMARY

This report presents a recommendation from the Public Works Agency, Electrical Services Division staff for evaluating the exterior lighting at selected Oakland Unified School District schools with evening after-school programs, and summarizes the steps taken to ensure adequate lighting in the public right of way adjacent to two schools with recent reports of nighttime crime activity.

At the request of Council Member Nancy Nadel, the Electrical Services Division (ESD) evaluated lighting in the vicinity of Lafayette Elementary School (1700 Market Street) and KIPP Bridge College Preparatory School (991 14th Street).

In collaboration with OUSD, the Public Works Agency's Parks and Building Services Division and Electrical Services Division determined the following during the lighting survey around the two schools:

- There were 4 out of approximately 100 street lights that were not working; the lights were repaired.
- Overall, street lighting was operating at or above the national standard lighting levels.
- There was burned out exterior lighting within the two schools; the lighting was replaced.

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) identified 37 schools with after-school programs (*see Attachment A*). Staff recommends that OUSD staff undertake an audit of these schools to determine when exterior lighting was most recently upgraded. Staff further recommends that OUSD staff perform lighting surveys on those schools with the oldest lighting upgrades with the intent of possibly upgrading and/or adding exterior lights.

Item: _____
Public Works Committee
November 14, 2006

FISCAL IMPACT

City staff roughly estimates a cost of \$6,300 to evaluate the existing light levels, and to perform expected minor repairs (i.e., replacing of burned out light bulbs) within each school. The cost estimate is based on industry best practices, which includes 20 hours of an electrical engineer's and 30 hours of an electrician's labor at each school. The estimate does not include the costs of lighting materials, utility undergrounding, tree trimming or other costs associated with lighting upgrades or on-going maintenance.

If OUSD decides to upgrade its lights, on-going maintenance costs would need to be added to OUSD's annual maintenance budget.

BACKGROUND

PUBLIC WORKS, ELECTRICAL SERVICES ACTION

On October 22, 1964, the City of Oakland adopted a Traffic Safety Street Lighting Warrant within the City's public right of way to promote the safe and orderly movement of nighttime traffic. This warrant was amended in 1999 and is now known as Street Lighting Warrants.

The City's minimum acceptable lighting level set forth in the Traffic Safety Street Lighting Warrant is equivalent to the recommended roadway lighting levels developed by the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA). All street lights installed after October 22, 1964 meet or exceed the recommended lighting levels.

The ESD, in part, seeks the assistance of the public to report street light outages due to the large number of street lights throughout Oakland. During the week of September 25, 2006, ESD conducted a survey of street lighting around Lafayette Elementary School (1700 Market Street) and KIPP Bridge College Preparatory School (991 14th Street). The following was observed:

1. Approximately 100 street lights were visually inspected and, of those, 4 street lamps were out and repaired.
2. Street lighting levels surrounding the two schools meet or exceed the illumination levels set in the City's street light warrant standards.
3. Street lights surrounding the two schools have adequate clearance from nearby trees to properly illuminate the roadway.

PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND BUILDING SERVICES ACTION

During the week of October 2, 2006, Parks and Building Services staff inspected the two parks adjacent to the two schools, Lowell Park (1180 14th Street) and Marston Campbell Park (17th and West Streets). The findings are as follows:

1. There is no park lighting at Marston Campbell Park.
2. There were park lights out at Lowell Park which were repaired by Parks and Building Services Division staff.

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

The Oakland Unified School District has an exterior lighting standard for all modernization projects and maintenance repairs. The specified minimum maintained lighting level at the walking surface exceeds the IESNA recommended average illuminance for Security Lighting.

OUSD's exterior lighting systems operate using photosensitive and timer controls to provide peripheral campus lighting during the evening and early morning. The exterior lighting systems are programmed to turn on after sundown and are turned off at around 10PM. The lights are also programmed to turn back on during the early morning at around 6AM.

OUSD seeks the assistance of each school's representative (usually the principal) to report non-working lights and/or areas where insufficient lighting is observed. Since the two nighttime crime-related incidents, OUSD Buildings and Grounds Department has conducted a visual inspection of the exterior lighting at the two schools and replaced non-working lights.

OUSD identified 37 out of a total of 119 public schools that conduct after-school programs. A report on the evaluation of lighting in areas around all schools is not feasible at this time due to limited staff, time, and lack of funds. ESD staff recommends that OUSD undertake an initial pilot project to evaluate exterior lighting on school grounds, at selected schools that conduct after-school programs to obtain information on the conditions of existing school lighting.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The purpose and goal of the City's Traffic Safety Street Lighting Warrant is to provide a nighttime environment in which people can see comfortably and accurately identify objects on the roadway being traveled. The street lighting warrant is not intended to provide security lighting to physical property behind the public right of way. It is beyond the jurisdiction and staff availability of the ESD to conduct lighting surveys within the Oakland schools.

Currently, there are 37 school sites in OUSD receiving California Department of Education funding for after-school programs. When Proposition 49 funds are awarded, it is anticipated that

this number will expand to 83 OUSD elementary and middle schools, plus a large number of the charter schools in Oakland.

POLICY DESCRIPTION

PUBLIC WORKS, ELECTRICAL SERVICES POLICIES

1. Street Lighting Warrants (1999) – Specific guidelines on minimum and optimum street lighting levels.
2. Outdoor Lighting Standards (2002) – Specific equipment standards used to attain the recommended minimum outdoor lighting levels set by the Street Lighting Warrants.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The labor and materials associated in evaluating, repairing, and/or upgrading exterior lighting at Oakland schools can be obtained locally, thus increasing employment and revenue for the City.

Environmental: Maximum feasible incorporation of “green building” materials such as utilizing energy efficient lighting will be given priority.

Social Equity: The additional lighting around Oakland school(s) will provide students, staff, and citizens a greater sense of safety through increased nighttime visibility.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

Additional lighting will allow improved visibility to disabled and/or senior citizens utilizing the Oakland school facilities during nighttime hours.

RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

The ESD recommends that a school exterior lighting evaluation pilot project be established by OUSD for selected schools identified with after-school programs. This pilot project would provide information on the conditions of existing school exterior lighting as well as provide recommendations to enhance/upgrade existing exterior lighting to improve public safety.

The results obtained from this pilot project can be used to determine whether a more economical approach can be made to evaluate the remaining schools and/or the anticipated total of 83 schools after the award of Proposition 49 funding.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Staff requests that Council accept this report.

Respectfully submitted,



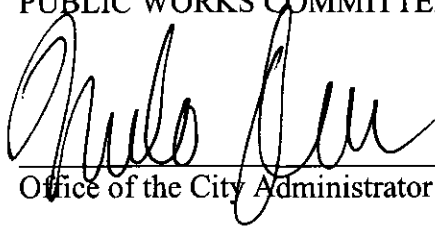
Raul Godinez, II, P.E.
Director, Public Works Agency

Reviewed by:
Bruce Saunders, Assistant Director
Infrastructure and Operations

Prepared by:
Joseph Hu, Electrical Engineer III
Electrical Services Division

Attachment A: List of Schools with After-School Programs

APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Administrator

**Oakland Unified School District Schools
with
Evening After-School Programs**

Attachment A

As of October 26, 2006

ACORN Woodland
Allendale Elementary
ASCEND
BEST High School
Bret Harte Middle
Calvin Simmons
Claremont Middle
Cole
Elmhurst Middle
Emerson Elementary
Esperanza Elementary
EXCEL High
Franklin Elementary
Frick Middle
Fruitvale Elementary
Garfield Elementary
Hoover Elementary
International Community
King, Martin Luther Jr.

Kizmet
Lakeview Elementary
Laurel Elementary
Lincoln Elementary
Madison Middle
Manzanita Elementary
Markham Elementary
Maxwell Park Elementary
Melrose Leadership Academy
Prescott Elementary (PLACE)
Roosevelt Middle
Sankofa Academy
Santa Fe Elementary
Sequoia Elementary
Skyline High School
Think College Now
Urban Promise Academy
Westlake Middle