

Date: April 16, 2025

202500756

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager 

Subject: LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION - GROUP 3 RESIDENTIAL STREET LIGHTING (2024-2027)

Attached is a legislative resolution captioned as follows:

DECLARING the necessity of assessing properties in Lighting Group 3 that benefit from special street lighting within the City of Cincinnati for the cost of such lighting for the three-year period beginning August 1, 2024.

The Assessed Street Lighting program allows property owners to pay added cost for enhanced or increased street lighting services. The Assessed Street Lighting program is divided into three groups; each group is assessed for a three-year period with one group being renewed each year. The groups are classified by the category of lighting and divided into individual districts usually consisting of a street segment.

- Group 1 consists of residential streets lighted by boulevard lights on decorative poles with underground wiring formally owned by Duke Energy and now owned and maintained by the City.
- Group 2 consists of streets within the central business district. There are various types of lighting within this area, most of which is owned and maintained by the City.
- Group 3 is an assortment of lights and streets not included in Group 1 and Group 2. Included in this group are neighborhood business districts and new residential developments. The ownership and maintenance responsibility for the lighting in these areas is divided between Duke Energy and the City.

The lighting for Group 3 consists of 2308 streetlights of various types and wattages installed on boulevard poles and Duke wood poles and various decorative lights within the Backstage District. The estimated total assessment for Group 3 is \$914,729.64 for the three-year assessment period. The City pays for a portion of the total street lighting costs that are relatively equivalent to what is normally provided from City funds on non-assessed streets. This lighting credit, the city's share of the cost of this lighting, for Group 3 varies from \$0.39 to \$1.14 per foot for the period and is determined by the street classification. On streets that have both standard lighting and special lighting, a 2% credit to the total operating and maintenance costs is applied instead. The City also pays the assessments associated with lighting intersections and city, federal, and state property contained within an assessment district.

The Department of Transportation and Engineering received petitions to establish new and/or upgrade existing assessment districts as shown below. The following assessment districts have been added to Group 3:

- College Hill
- Woodburn
- Madison
- Clifton Calhoun

The annual assessment renewal process has four major steps, which require action by City Council.

1. A Resolution of Necessity is prepared by the Law Department and submitted for passage.
2. After Council passes the Resolution of Necessity, all property owners who will be assessed more than \$500.00 for the three-year period are notified and given an opportunity to object to the proposed assessment.
3. After all objections to the proposed assessment have been addressed, an Ordinance Determining to Proceed is prepared by the Law Department and submitted for passage.
4. Immediately following the Ordinance Determining to Proceed, an Assessing Ordinance is prepared and submitted.

The Administration recommends the passage of the attached legislative resolution.

Attachment A – Street Lighting Group 3 - 2025

cc: Greg Long, Interim Director, Transportation and Engineering