

Craig, Sonda

From: Lisa Middleton <elisemid@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 4:45 PM
To: ZZ Council Members; Chris Kahlow
Subject: Please enter into the record for the downtown lighting vote that will take place tonight

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Dear Council Members,

Thank you for installing the new streetlights on my corner. It's made a real difference—I feel safer walking at night, and the soft lighting makes our neighborhood look peaceful and beautiful in the evenings. I truly appreciate the care and expense that went into this improvement.

I'm writing to ask that we continue expanding street lighting in downtown neighborhoods. Lighting is one of those small details that has a big impact. It makes our streets safer, more welcoming, and helps everyone feel more connected to their community.

Streetlights are a public good—everyone benefits from them equally, and one person's use doesn't take away from anyone else. Well-lit areas have been shown to reduce crime and, just as importantly, reduce the fear of crime. This encourages more people to walk, bike, or simply spend time outside after dark, which brings life and energy to our neighborhoods.

It also matters for equity. Poor lighting often affects lower-income neighborhoods the most, making them feel neglected or unsafe. That can limit business hours, discourage community gatherings, and even affect property values. Public lighting is a tool we can use to close that gap and show that all neighborhoods in La Crosse are equally valued.

I hope we can keep going in the right direction. Thank you again for the improvements already made. Please continue prioritizing well-placed, thoughtful lighting in the downtown area. It makes a difference.

Thank you, Lisa Middleton