



Department of Public Works

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Commissioner of Public Works

For Immediate Release

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Street Lighting Charge Reflected on Second Quarter Milwaukee Municipal Services Bill *New program ensures City's vital streetlight system is reliably funded*

A new program that will pay for the annual operating cost of the City of Milwaukee's street lighting system will take effect in 2021. Beginning with the second quarter billing cycle (April to June), Municipal Service Bills will have a Street Lighting Charge which was approved by the Common Council and Mayor in the 2021 City budget. Street lighting service is important to residents and businesses, and this dedicated funding source protects it from future budget pressures.

Street Lights are a benefit of living in the City – they are important for safety and security

- The Department of Public Works maintains and operates over 77,000 street lights.
- Street lighting improves residents' perception of safety.
- Motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists are safer from accidents and reckless driving in well-lit areas.
- The street light network extends the hours during which outdoor activities can take place, enhancing safety and quality of life in the neighborhoods.

How much is the street lighting charge?

- The Street Lighting Charge is calculated for a property based on the length of its street frontage. This applies to all classes of property within the City that are served by City street lighting.
- The rate used to calculate the total charge is \$1.00 per linear foot.
- A typical residential property with 40 feet of frontage will be charged \$10.00 quarterly, or \$40.00 annually. Residential properties located on corners will only be charged for the shorter side of their street frontage. All other property types are assessed for the street frontage of the entire property.
- The charge will first appear on the second quarter Milwaukee Municipal Services Bills and will include both the first and second quarter charges. Future charges will appear quarterly.
- The Milwaukee Water Works provides billing and collection of the charges on behalf of other City departments and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Does every property in the City of Milwaukee pay the charge?

Several subdivisions on the south and northwest sides of the city are not served by city streetlights and will not be charged.

What does this charge pay for?

The Street Lighting Charge will provide the annual operating cost of street light service, repair, maintenance, customer service and electric power. The charge also funds new lighting improvements designed to improve safety.

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