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## Media Advisory

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# Copper wire theft repair goal reached

## City repairs all wait-listed neighborhoods without streetlights and addresses new locations without streetlights in 90 days or less

With additional funds approved in April, the City reached its goal of restoring power to thousands of streetlights stripped of copper wire. The City is also fulfilling its commitment to repair new locations within 90 days of being reported.

On April 10, the City Council approved the transfer of an additional \$2 million in non general funds to pay for the aftermath of an escalated number of copper wire theft incidents that had left 150 neighborhoods in the dark on a waiting list for up to 12 months. All 150 neighborhoods have since been repaired, unless the locations are non residential or vacant properties. The average number of new incidents per week has also dropped to about five, down from 20. Credit goes to the Police Department whose investigations have led to arrests, police efforts at salvage yards, and the Public Works installing metal locking pull box lids and welding shut the access point on the streetlight pole.

Also in April, the City introduced a webpage and interactive map of reported areas that are without streetlights and what month repairs are expected and what areas have been repaired. See the webpage and maps [here](#).

The \$2 million provided the means to hire three additional electrical contractors and make the repairs a priority.

-more-

*Copper wire thefts, 2*


“We understand how important streetlights are to the safety and security of a community. Since April 10, we have made tremendous progress by dedicating two staff members to oversee multiple electrical crews who are dedicated solely to getting streetlights back on in a reasonable time frame. Since April, we’ve restored power to some 8800 dark streetlights,” said Hector Barron, City Traffic Engineer.

The City has spent an accumulation of more than \$1.4 million (materials and labor) restoring more than 18,800 street lights hit by copper wire thieves from 2010 through November.

The public is reminded to call 911 to report crimes in progress or suspicious activity around streetlights and to call 311 to report streetlight outages. Please note that City workers use vehicles displaying a City seal and authorized City contractors display a sign with the City seal while making streetlight repairs.

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