

## **City of Mesa Transportation: Decorative Tree Lighting Policy**

The Decorative Tree Lighting Policy ('policy') identifies criteria to be used when evaluating the installation of decorative tree lights within the City of Mesa ('City').

Decorative tree lighting projects ('tree lighting projects') that have been approved by the City Council prior to the implementation of this policy shall be permitted to move forward into design and construction.

### **1. Criteria**

- A. Existing trees proposed to receive a tree lighting project must be located within City right-of-way, a City public utilities and facilities easement (PUFE), or a public utility easement (PUE). If such easement or right-of-way does not exist, the property owner must provide the necessary easement or right-of-way to the City at no charge.
- B. This policy shall be limited to existing trees that are privately maintained by the property owner or requesting party.
- C. Potential tree lighting projects under this policy will be limited to commercial properties located within a defined and themed commercial district or at a gateway location to the City.
- D. Lighting provided by the City under this policy is limited to decorative lighting. The purpose of decorative lighting is not illumination of walkways or the roadway, and the decorative lighting shall not offset lighting requirements that the property owner is otherwise required to install or achieve for walkways or roadways.
- E. The requesting party should demonstrate that a tree lighting project will increase tourism or commercial activity in the area, or that the project will have some other definable benefit for the City. Transportation Department staff will consult with the Economic Development Director, or designee, in reviewing requests for tree lighting projects.
- F. The City shall have the right to deny, or limit, a project based on its anticipated cost and/or anticipated cost to anticipated benefit to the City.
- G. Should staff determine that a potential tree lighting project is warranted under this policy, a Budget Adjustment Request (B.A.R.) will be submitted to Mayor and City Council as part of the next budget cycle.
- H. The City's ability to complete approved projects under this policy is dependent upon the City having authorized funding from City Council sufficient to accomplish the project. Compliance with this policy, or approval under this policy, is not, of itself, a commitment to fund a project.
- I. The relationship between the property owner and the City shall be as follows:
  - a. The City will design, construct, and oversee construction and acceptance of the tree lighting project.

- b. The City will pay all costs, within reason, associated with bringing electrical power to the lighting site. The property owner is expected to allow connection to their electrical power service to provide power for the decorative lights.
- c. The property owner will take over ownership and full maintenance responsibilities for the tree lighting project after construction is completed and accepted by the City, and shall pay all utility and other costs associated with the decorative lighting thereafter. After turnover to the property owner, the City no longer has any responsibility, liability, obligations, or ownership of the tree lighting project.
- d. Expansion or modification to the tree lighting project after the initial system is turned over to the property owner requires advanced approval from the City and shall be designed and constructed by the property owner at their expense. Such expansion or modification projects will also be subject to City permit fees and processes that are in place for commercial development projects.
- e. Details of the full arrangement between the City and the property owner shall be set forth in a legally binding document, which shall be executed by the City and the property owner prior to the start of construction.

## **2. Approval**

This policy shall become effective after approval by the Sustainability and Transportation Committee and City Council acceptance of the minutes.

## **3. Amendments and Deviations**

The City Manager, or designee, can, in writing, approve amendments and deviations from this policy.