

Memorandum

To: Minneapolis City Council

CC: Mayor R.T. Rybak

From: Jon Wertjes

Date: 7/29/2009

Re: **Proposed Street Light Operations Fee – Summary of Public Comments**

I am writing to provide an update on public comments regarding the proposed street light operations fee.

General themes that have been repeated a number of times by the public include:

1. Street lighting is a basic city service and thus should be paid by property taxes.
2. Street light operation costs should be paid for by property taxes which are tax deductible. The fee is not tax-deductable.
3. Given the economic situation, paying more in a fee or tax is not desired.
4. While the amount of the fee is fairly small, there is a concern that this will open the door for future fee increases and possibly new fees for other things.
5. Other options other than a fee/tax should be considered.