

City Clerk

CITY OF PROVIDENCE . MAYOR VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.



Merlin A. DeConti, Jr.
Director

Department of Building Inspection

112 Union Street, Providence, R. I. 02903
421 - 7740

Russell O. Ide
~~Office of the City Clerk~~

- Chief Electrical Inspector
- Anthony M. Santagata
- Chief Plumbing, Drainage
and Gas Piping Inspector
- Joseph F. Kane
- Chief Mechanical Inspector

June 26, 1981

TO: MEMBERS OF PROVIDENCE CITY COUNCIL
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

IN CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MERLIN A. DeCONTI, JR., DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

JUL 2 1981

READ: WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Rose M. Mendonca CLERK

RE: REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHTS

On Tuesday, June 9, 1981, Mr. Russell O. Ide, Chief Electrical Inspector, and I, met with members of the Narragansett Electric Company Consumers Services Division. The purpose of this meeting was to establish a procedure to be used for replacing and installing street lights in the City of Providence. Because of the lack of a Public Service Engineer, there has been no set procedure by which street lighting requests can be processed, and this has caused quite a bit of confusion on the part of the City and the Narragansett Electric Company.

Mr. Frank P. Almquist, from the Narragansett Electric Company, outlined the street light replacement and installation activity for the months of April and May, 1981. Activity during the month of April showed 33 installations or removals, costing the City an additional \$70.59 in electrical useage. The month of May showed 145 installations or removals, costing the City an additional cost of \$421.50 for that month in electrical useage.

Such a large number of replacements and installations present a problem for both the City and Narragansett Electric Company. From the City's point of view, a large number of replacements can be very costly. Take the month of May as an example. The street lighting bill for the month was \$86,725.82. The cost of electricity for the new lights must be added to this figure. This additional \$421.50 brings the total bill for the month to \$87,147.32. This makes the increased cost of \$421.50 look small in comparison with the monthly charge. However, the increased cost must be paid every month thereafter, along with a fuel adjustment charge of approximately 30%. Therefore, the City will have to pay over \$6,500 per year, each year, just for the street light installations requested in May. Activity on this level each month could add over \$70,000 to the street lighting bill each year, and that is a significant sum.

From the Narragansett Electric Company's point of view, the large number of requests present a two-fold problem. First of all, the cost to Narragansett Electric Company to make a replacement or new installation is not offset by the small increase in electrical useage. Due to this fact the street lighting rate S-7 schedule has the following provision included within it:

"DISCONTINUANCE OF LIGHTS - The customer may not discontinue during any calendar year lights in excess of one percent of the maximum number of each type of lights in service at any time during such year unless discontinued lights are replaced by such number of other types of lights as may be mutually agreed upon."

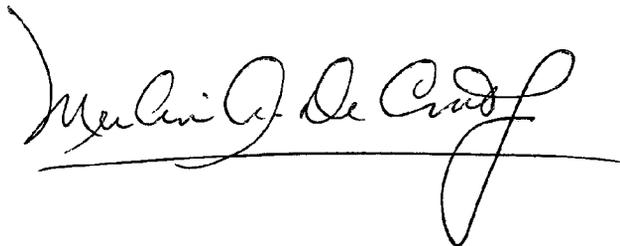
According to this schedule, Providence can have no more than 28 sodium vapor lights installed during a calendar year. To date, in 1981 Narragansett Electric Company has replaced 106 sodium vapor lights and has a number of requests pending. Obviously there has been no attempt to enforce the 1% cap at this time. However, the Narragansett Electric Company is concerned that a large number of requests for sodium vapor lights would force a discontinuance of installations because this capital expenditure cannot be justified on a large scale.

Narragansett Electric Company's other concern is that many of the requests from the City of Providence are an unnecessary "overkill" of a particular problem. There are a number of instances where a slightly larger mercury vapor light could solve a problem, but a request has been made for a much larger sodium vapor installation. Narragansett Electric Company has had difficulty in addressing this problem since the requests come in the form of a council resolution and not directly from the person with the problem.

In order to attempt to eliminate these problems and to minimize wasteful and unnecessary lighting replacements and installations, the following procedure has been developed for all street lighting installations and replacements.

Any councilman who has received a request for a change of street light should submit to the Department of Building Inspection, c/o Russell O. Ide, Chief Electrical Inspector, a description of the lighting problem; not a request for a change in the light. If the lighting problem cannot be sufficiently explained, the name and address of the person with the problem should be provided. Once this has been received, Mr. Ide will schedule an appointment with the Narragansett Electric Company to inspect the site and determine the best and most economic way to correct the problem. This recommendation will then be returned to the councilman in writing. This should eliminate anyone from having to decide the proper way to solve the problem. Once this letter has been received, a resolution accompanying the letter should be submitted directly to Narragansett Electric Company, c/o Mr. Joseph J. Ascoli, District Manager, 280 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

By using this procedure the Narragansett Electric Company and the City of Providence will have surveyed the site and come up with a reasonable solution to the problem which is acceptable to both parties. In addition, you can show your constituents that the City has taken action and won't be in a position where you have made a request of Narragansett Electric Company which is not acceptable to them. Should this Department, after inspecting the site with Narragansett Electric Company, come up with a recommendation which is not acceptable to you or your constituents, you may request that the problem be reviewed by Mr. Ascoli's supervisor, Mr. Joseph Posk. It is hoped that this procedure will be able to eliminate the confusion that presently exists, and at the same time save the City of Providence some expenses in replacing street lights.


Merlin J. De Cruz

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PROVIDENCE, R.I.