

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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Chloe Eudaly Commissioner **Chris Warner** Director

Date: September 27, 2019
From: Phil Armand, Signals and Street Lighting
To: Officer Jake Jensen, Central Precinct
Cc: Mike Crebs, Parking Enforcement
Josh Crain, Signals and Street Lighting
RE: Entertainment District Street Lighting

In June 2019, Portland Police Bureau (PPB) Central Precinct officers met with PBOT Parking Services and Engineering Services staff requesting assistance in creating a better nighttime environment in the Entertainment District in the Old Town neighborhood in Northwest Portland. PPB officers noted that many of the street lights in the area have house-side shields that limit sidewalk and property illumination. In particular, the officers identified a parking lot, bounded by NW 5th Ave, NW 4th Ave, NW Davis St, and NW Couch St, as a particularly troubled location in the district.

PBOT's Signals and Street Lights Division (SSL) maintains twin ornamental street lights with both QL induction lamps and LED fixtures within the district. The QL lamps contain shield attachments within the globes to reflect light away from private property and towards the roadway. LED lamps have lighting arrays pre-assembled to focus most of the light towards the roadway. SSL staff analyzed the area to develop potential solutions to increase sidewalk and property lighting. SSL electricians removed shields from all QL street lights bordering the parking lot but were unable to make similar modifications to two existing LED lights. The LED flood light in the middle of the parking lot is privately owned and not under PBOT's jurisdiction.

After the shields were removed from the six QL lights around the parking lot, SSL staff conducted a light study in the field at night. Light readings were taken near each light, including the two LED units, both inside the parking lot and the roadway. In both cases, light readings indicated a satisfactory light levels. There was concern of degradation of light levels in the roadway, though measured roadway lighting continued to meet or exceed PBOT



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lighting guidelines. As a control point, SSL staff took light level readings at a similar parking lot nearby, where shields were not removed. Staff noted there was a significant light level difference within the two parking lots, though the roadway light levels remained largely the same.

There are three cases for the remaining street lights: 1) QL light and the shield can be removed upon request, 2) QL light and the shield should not be removed without adjacent residence approval, or 3) LED light and cannot be modified. The accompanying map and table details the status of each light in the area. Most of the QL lights in the area can have their shields removed to provide additional backlight. Seven QL lights should not be altered because the shields prevent excessive backlight from shining into residential or hotel windows. Tree trimming was requested where PBOT identified significant foliage obstructions.

SSL staff has finalized alterations to the street lights with shields removed from 6 lights, which provide more illumination on the sidewalks while maintaining sufficient street lighting. The shield removal has also provided more illumination to the parking lot that was highlighted by PPB officers. The next step in further increasing ambient lighting on sidewalks and private property is for PPB officers to request shield removed from specific lights. If the light is adjacent to a residence, officers should obtain approval from private entities, allowing SSL to remove the shields.

Streetlight Location	Pole Number	Lamp Type	Reason Shield Should Not Be Removed
NW 3rd Ave 1 S/O NW Everett St, ES	569	QL	Light will trespass into private residence
NW 3rd Ave & NW Davis St, NEC	573	QL	Light will trespass into private residence
NW 3rd Ave & NW Davis St, SEC	575	QL	Light will trespass into private residence
NW 3rd Ave 1 S/O NW Davis T, ES	576	QL	Light will trespass into private residence
NW 3rd Ave & NW Couch St, NEC	585	QL	Light will trespass into private residence
NW 3rd Ave & NW Davis St, NWC	954	QL	Light will trespass into the Society Hotel
NW Davis St 1 W/O NW 3rd Ave, NS	1077	QL	Light will trespass into the Society Hotel

