



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

March 19th, 2024

Department of Public safety
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, Minnesota
55101

Regarding: Letter of Support for grant funding for "Lights On" Program

Dear Commissioner Jacobson:

The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) supports the Lights On program. Currently there are approximately 112 Police Departments and 24 Sheriff's Offices in Minnesota partnering with Lights On. This program takes the enforcement of traffic safety laws on Minnesota roads and transforms it into an opportunity for Law Enforcement Officers to educate motorists about traffic safety and create positive police-community relations.

The MCPA supports the request for grant funding to keep this important program in Minnesota. The MCPA would be happy to testify to its efficacy and benefits if you so desire.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Jeff Potts
Executive Director



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

100 Empire Drive, Suite 222, St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651.451.7216 Fax: 651.451.8087

Email: info@mnsheriffs.org

January 22, 2024

Robert Jacobson, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Public Safety
445 Minnesota Street
Saint Paul MN 55101

Dear Commissioner Jacobson,

I am writing to express the support and endorsement of the Minnesota Sheriffs for the proposed addition of the "*Lights on!*" program of the Office of Traffic Safety and Department of Public Safety. Currently, the *Lights on!* program is utilized by 24 sheriff's offices, and we would like to see that expanded across the state of Minnesota. The *Lights On!* approach is a creative and positive way to address traffic safety concerns while building stronger relationships in our communities. As you know, it transforms traditional traffic enforcement into an educational and helpful means to aid drivers in correcting the safety concern.

The *Minnesota Sheriffs' Association* wishes to encourage you to support the \$250,000 grant request for *Lights on!* This would allow, and support, an expansion of the programs and assist local law enforcement agencies in addressing traffic safety concerns while also building stronger relationships within their communities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Respectfully,

James Stuart
Executive Director

CC: Mike Hanson, Office of Traffic Safety Director



MEMO

To: John Harrington, MicroGrants & LightsOn

From: Chief Bierdeman, Maplewood Police Department

CC:

Date: 04/08/2024

Re: LightsOn Data Request

Lights On Update from Maplewood Police Department 4/4/2024

Partner in the program beginning **January 1, 2024**

Number of letters mailed (as of 4/4/2024): **250**

Total Vouchers: **44**

-Total vouchers mailed out to those who requested (as of 4/4/2024) – **27**

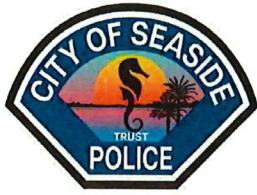
-Total vouchers picked up in person at Maplewood City Hall (as of 4/4/2024) – **17**

- Extremely positive responses from those who have contacted us regarding their voucher. All that have emailed or called on the phone have been sincerely thankful.
- Everyone has been very grateful for the voucher and not having to pay for the light.
- Many were unaware that a headlight, taillight, or brake lights were out. Many thanked our department for bringing this to their attention because they drive their children around and remarked that this is a safety issue they can now address.
- Many have said what a positive and significant program LightsOn is.
- We have not heard about any issues people have had regarding using the voucher.
- One woman who came in for her voucher and stated that she sincerely appreciated the voucher and did not have to pay to replace her headlight. She had been off work due to an injury and would not have been able to afford the cost of having her light replaced.
- Our Officers have commented that this is a great way to interact with the public, and the person coming in for the voucher makes them feel like they are really doing good.

City of Maplewood
Police Department
1830 County Road B East
Maplewood, MN 55109



Office 651-249-2600
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www.maplewoodmn.gov



SEASIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*TRUST: Transparency * Respect * Unity * Service * Training*

Nicholas Borges, Chief of Police

440 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Telephone (831) 899-6748
FAX (831) 899-6297
TDD (831) 899-6217

April 4, 2024

Department of Public Safety
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, Minnesota
55101

Re: Letter of Support for grant funding for "Lights On" Program

Dear Commissioner,

As one of the first law enforcement organizations that adopted "Lights On" last year I can tell you the relationship with our community and local government has strengthened with a sense of trust and accountability. Our community knows they can rely on us when they are in need and we are here to help, not make people's lives more difficult. More importantly, this program reduces, significantly, the traumas often caused when being stopped by police.

In honor of Philnado Castille, we fully support this program and its roots to Minnesota and the Castille family. I have become friends with Philnado's mother, Valerie Castille. This program reduces police contact for minor violations that will reduce police uses of force, all while helping keep the roadways safer with proper lighting equipment on vehicles.

As a leader in the country by having this program come from Minnesota, I urge you to keep this program alive and fully funded, as it not only represents your state, but the entire country. Minnesota has found a program that actually produced results in nationwide police reform and we ask you continue to serve your state in this critical step forward with community relations.

I thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Respectfully,

Nick Borges

Nick Borges
Police Chief

April 8, 2024

Commissioner Robert Jacobson
Minnesota Department of Public Safety
445 Minnesota Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Commissioner Jacobson,

I am writing to express Rochester Police Department's support for the Lights On! program.

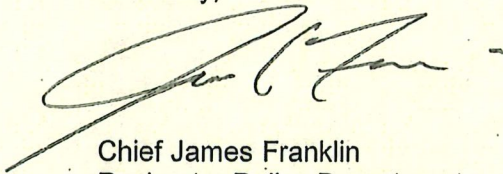
RPD began utilizing Lights On! in 2019 and has since given out more than 250 vouchers. Every time we replace a ticket with a voucher, we not only improve safety on our roads, but also foster positive engagement in our community.

We followed up with one voucher recipient, and here is what he shared: "At first I was shocked that I was pulled over. I didn't know what to think, but the officer approached me with utmost kindness and told me the problem. It really surprised me that he offered to fix [my light] for me for free. So appreciative of that officer and the whole program!"

Interactions like the one described are vital for community-oriented policing, a strategy emphasizing that together, we can create safer communities.

Please give the highest consideration to funding from the State of Minnesota to keep this valuable program free for law enforcement agencies.

Sincerely,



Chief James Franklin
Rochester Police Department

April 8, 2024

Senator Carla Nelson
Minnesota State Senate
95 University Ave W.
Senate Building, Room 2301
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Senator Nelson,

I am writing to express Rochester Police Department's support for the Lights On! program.

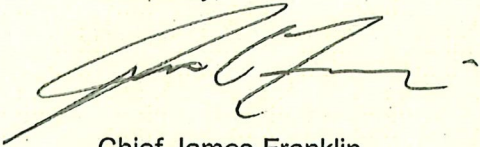
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Interactions like the one described are vital for community-oriented policing, a strategy emphasizing that together, we can create safer communities.

Please give the highest consideration to funding from the State of Minnesota to keep this valuable program free for law enforcement agencies.

Sincerely,



Chief James Franklin
Rochester Police Department



Blaine Police Department

10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449-8100
Main 763-785-6168 | BlaineMN.gov

April 5, 2024

Senator Michael E. Kreun
Minnesota State Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2321
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Letter of Support for grant funding for "Lights On" Program

Dear Senator Kreun:

I am writing in support of the "Lights On" Program (bills SF 5117 and HF 5057). Our agency has a dedicated Traffic Enforcement Unit that works extremely hard and understands the importance of public safety through the enforcement of traffic laws. This program takes the enforcement of traffic safety laws on Minnesota roads and transforms it into an opportunity for law enforcement officers to educate motorists about traffic safety and create positive police interactions with our community.

The Blaine Police Department supports the request for grant funding to keep this important program and we thank you for your commitment to the citizens of Minnesota. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or further information on this matter.

Sincerely,

Brian Podany
Safety Services Director/Chief of Police
Blaine Police Department