

EVERYTHING You Didn't Know that You Wanted to Know About Community Lights.

What started out as an information tool to help our clients has turned into a presentation for community association teams, practical use tools and now, this article. And like the title says, so many don't know that they need to know about Community Lights.

Though we offer DOM ASSIST to handle street light outages for our clients at no charge, we believe it's also important to be educated on some of the special nuances associated with lighting. Armed with this information you will be a more valuable resource to all the people you serve.

There are three different types of lighting in a community.

- 1. Watch Lights — 2. Street Lights — 3. Private Lights —

WATCH LIGHTS are non-metered neighborhood street lights owned and maintained by Dominion Power. "Non-metered" means that no one is counting how much electricity is used by these lights. "Maintained" by Dominion Power does not mean they do inspection of lights. WATCH LIGHTS must be reported as out.



There is no way to turn a WATCH LIGHT off. And tying into a WATCH LIGHT to power something else is stealing.

The Community Association will have a Dominion Power WATCH LIGHT account and will pay a monthly fee for the use of these lights.



STREET LIGHTS are owned by the City and located on private/ community property and maintained by Dominion Power. The Community Association doesn't pay anything for these lights and has responsibility for them, forever.

Located on a public street and in any style, **PRIVATE LIGHTS** are metered, maintained and owned by the Community. The Community can change them at will and add and/or remove PRIVATE LIGHTS at will if the Community agrees.

Because these are the Communities' PRIVATE LIGHTS, any electrical needs can be pulled from these lights. They are yours.

There will be Private Meter Account(s) associated with these PRIVATE LIGHTS. The Community only pays for the actual electricity that is used.

No matter what type of lights you have – WATCH LIGHTS, STREET LIGHTS, PRIVATE LIGHTS, they will stay what they are forever. Once a WATCH LIGHT, always a WATCH LIGHT .. and so on.

As a parting note, people frequently ask us about LED Lighting.

Here are the facts about LED:

- LED is cheaper to operate.
- LED lights will cost 5 – 10 times more than a traditional HID Light.
- The life of an LED is exponentially longer than an HID, lasting up to 25 years *(dependent on usage)*.
- LED Lights are not the solution for everyone. Depending on a number of variables, light fixtures can fail years before an LED driver will. The LED Driver is the technology behind LED.

This article is just a brief overview of a more detailed training curriculum we would be honored to present to your teams. We're a phone call away – either for DOM ASSIST or EVERYTHING You Didn't Know that You Wanted to Know About Community Lights.

Shannon Lee is president of Relay Electric, LLC, a full service professional lighting and electrical maintenance and design firm based in Suffolk, VA. Shannon breathes practical, real world wisdom and inspiration – laced with humor – into her interactions with the human race. She's a sought-after speaker and trainer who has received rave reviews for her fresh and easy to implement solutions to some of the challenges faced by businesses today.