March 30, 2006

Ms. C. Celeste Lacour-Belyn  
UIRF Program Coordinator  
Department of Development  
Economic Development Division  
109 N. Front Street, 1st Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ms. Lacour-Belyn,

Please find a Project Proposal for the Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund prepared by the Undergraduate Student Government at The Ohio State University. Our Off-Campus Core Area Street Lighting Improvement Project is a community initiative with support from many involved parties.

You’ll find letters of support from our university community including Dr. Karen A. Holbrook, President of The Ohio State University, Richard A. Hollingsworth, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs, Amanda Graf, President of the InterProfessional Council, and Barbara Pletz, President of the Council of Graduate Students. Also, our community partners have pledged support including Campus Partners, University Area Commission, Community Crime Patrol, and Evans Scholars.

It is with much community pride that we submit this proposal for review. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Scharer  
President  

Matt Kreiner  
Vice President
March 27, 2006

Suzanne Scharer, President
Undergraduate Student Government
201 Ohio Union
1739 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Ms. Scharer:

I am writing to express the support of the University Area Commission for the Undergraduate Student Government’s proposal for Street Lighting in the University Off-Campus Core Area. This area of the city is one of the most densely populated and has one of the highest levels of pedestrian traffic. The proposed project will dramatically improve the reliability of an outdated street lighting system and greatly reduce the maintenance burden on the Division of Electricity. The project will significantly increase the general safety and well-being of the residents and visitors in this area of the city. A reliable street lighting system also will enhance the public perception of the safety of this neighborhood and could improve the general occupancy rates of the rental housing. The University Area Commission voted unanimously to support this important project.

Thank you for taking on this project for the good of the University Area.

Sincerely,

Ron Hupman
President
University Area Commission
March 29, 2006

Ms. Suzanne M. Scharer  
President  
Undergraduate Student Government  
201 Ohio Union  
1739 North High Street  
CAMPUS

Dear Suz:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the Off-Campus Core Area Street Lighting Improvement Project application submitted by the Undergraduate Student Government to the city of Columbus. It is essential that this antiquated system be replaced to increase the safety of residents in the University neighborhood.


"The area was not designed with outdoor lighting in mind...the lighting around residences is generally poor. There are dark passageways between residences which provide ideal hiding spots for criminals.” It is critical that one of the densest areas of the city, with a high level of late night activity, has adequate lighting.

The approval of this project will ultimately increase safety for all residents in the University neighborhood. It will also reduce the burden on Division of Electricity staff to maintain the current system, malfunctions of which often result in streets being dark for days at a time.

I am optimistic that the city will view your proposal in a favorable manner and applaud your leadership and the initiative that USG has taken to improve the quality of life for all residents living in the University district.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional support.

Sincerely yours,

Karen A. Holbrook  
President
March 28, 2006

Ms. Suzanne Scharer, President
Undergraduate Student Government
201 Ohio Union
1739 North High Street
CAMPUS

Dear Suz:

I enthusiastically support the proposal that Undergraduate Student Government is submitting for consideration by the Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund to improve street lighting in the core off-campus housing area. The USG proposal calls for stronger illumination, as well as underground wiring that would address the maintenance issues that now cause the system to shut off lighting for entire blocks for days at a time. Nearly every study of crime and safety issues in this area over the past two decades has included a recommendation for better street and alley lighting. While some lighting improvements have been made, the area continues to have inadequate and unreliable illumination.

I believe improved lighting would result in a significant safety improvement for Ohio State University students, other residents and visitors to this neighborhood. The area is plagued by car thefts, burglaries and robberies. While better lighting alone will not eliminate crime, it would be a deterrent to break-ins in many cases and improve the ability of potential victims to avoid being accosted and to identify those behaving suspiciously.

Improved safety—and perception of safety—will positively affect the overall economic and social health of the area by making the housing and businesses in the area more attractive to residents and visitors. It is in the best interests of the city of Columbus as well as OSU, that this neighborhood remain vital and stable. Concerns about safety top the list of reasons students give for seeking housing outside the University District.
March 28, 2006  
Suzanne Scharer  
Page 2

The student lifestyle—with evening classes and activities, off-campus employment, and frequent socializing—means that many of the residents of this very densely populated area are walking in the neighborhood after dark. Many housing units do not have on-site parking, and residents who work outside the area often must return very late at night and search for on-street parking, which frequently cannot be found in proximity to their homes. There is no area of the city where more people are in need of good street lighting than the off-campus neighborhood.

I urge funding of this proposal. Improved street lighting would materially enhance safety, and it would signify a commitment to this historic and vital neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Hollingsworth  
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
March 26, 2006

Suzanne Scharer, President
Undergraduate Student Government
The Ohio State University
201 Ohio Union
1739 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Suzanne,

The Inter-Professional Council at The Ohio State University offers its full and enthusiastic support of the “Off Campus Core Area Street Lighting Improvement Project.”

The safety of residents, students, and visitors is an important area of concern for members of the Inter-Professional Council, and we applaud the continued efforts to improve the safety and sense of community in an area inhabited primarily by members of the university community. The issue of lighting in the University District is not a new one. Several years ago the Undergraduate Student Government worked tirelessly with the university and the City of Columbus to secure the placement of blue safety lights in this area. Improvement of the street lighting is a logical and necessary next step in protecting students and visitors out at night as well as the cars and property along those streets. Installation of reliable and effective lighting in the off campus area will help to build a sense of responsibility and accountability among students in the University District and in so doing would encourage more students, including graduate and professional students, to move back into this area. Improved lighting off campus is a necessary step to improve safety, but may also be able to serve as a catalyst to stimulate the creation of a distinct and lasting identity for this neighborhood; a neighborhood that students, faculty, and families can feel safe, secure, and proud to be part of.

The Inter-Professional Council extends our full support in this endeavor and we look forward to continued collaboration and partnership with the Undergraduate Student Government.

Sincerely,

Amanda E. Graf
President
Inter-Professional Council
March 26, 2006

Suzanne Scharer, President
Undergraduate Student Government
The Ohio State University
201 Ohio Union
1739 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Suzanne,

The Council of Graduate Students at The Ohio State University also gives our full and enthusiastic support of the “Off Campus Core Area Street Lighting Improvement Project” along with our professional and undergraduate colleagues, the Inter-Professional Council and Undergraduate Student Government.

One method to provide the safety of residents, students, and visitors is to permanently “light up the night” for the OSU core perimeter. The Council of Graduate Students has urged increased lighting in areas on campus for the safety of graduate students who often work late at night in laboratories and must walk to their cars, residence halls, or to nearby apartments. We view this as no different; rather we view it as an extension of the increased lighting that has occurred on campus during the past few years. Not only does increased lighting ensure safety for us all but for our property as well.

An effective lighting system is also a way to create a distinct identity of the campus neighborhoods. In addition, we concur with IPC that an improved lighting would help draw graduate students to live with the local neighborhoods.

The Council of Graduate Students extends our full support in this endeavor and we look forward to continued collaboration and partnership with the Undergraduate Student Government and the Inter-Professional Council to make The Ohio State University and its environs a safe place for all.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Barbara A. Pletz
President
Council of Graduate Students
March 30, 2006

Ms. Suzanne Scharer, President
Undergraduate Student Government
The Ohio State University
201 Ohio Union
1739 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43210

RE: Proposal for replacement of street lighting

Dear Ms. Scharer:

Campus Partners supports Undergraduate Student Government’s proposal to the City of Columbus that the existing street lighting system in the predominantly student neighborhood east of High Street be replaced.

When Campus Partners was established in 1995, its initial task was to led a broad-based community planning process which produced the University Neighborhoods Revitalization Plan: Concept Document. This plan subsequently was adopted by Columbus City Council in 1997 as an official city plan for the University District.

The revitalization plan recognizes public safety as a key component of improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods. Recommendation 10.5.7 specifically addresses the issue of lighting:

   Improve levels of street lighting in critical areas where high levels of evening and late night pedestrian traffic occur, predominantly in the East, North and South Campus Neighborhoods.

Through the years, the city has recognized the large amount of late-night pedestrian activity in the student neighborhood by enhancing the lighting levels in the alleys. Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and the Community Crime Patrol have periodically informed the city’s Division of Electricity of burned out lamps and lights obscured by trees and shrubs. The Division of Electricity has been responsive to these maintenance issues.
More recently, however, the concern of neighborhood residents and visitors has not been individual street lights that are burned out or obscured, but rather situations in which all of the lights on the street are out. These situations were brought to the attention of the Division of Electricity by representatives USG, Community Crime Patrol, Campus Partners and the University Community Business Association. Upon investigation, the Division of Electricity concluded that the existing street lighting system, with its underground circuits, is antiquated and should be replaced.

The neighborhood served by this street lighting system has nearly 5,700 residents (based on the 2000 Census) and draws thousands of other visitors on a regular basis. There is unlikely to be any other neighborhood in the city with as much late-night activity as this area. A reliable street lighting system is critical to public safety in this neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

Terry D. Foegler, AICP
President
March 28, 2006

Suzanne Scharer
President
Undergraduate Student Government
201 Ohio Union, 1739 N. High St
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Ms. Scharer:

I am writing in support of The Ohio State University's Undergraduate Student Government's proposal to the Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund to replace the street lighting system in the student core neighborhood.

As the director of Community Crime Patrol, I am well aware of the importance of reliable and effective lighting in terms of keeping students and residents safe, particularly since the streets, sidewalks and alleys in the University District are used more heavily at night than in any other neighborhood in the city.

Part of CCP's mission always has been to report "environmental" issues, such as burned-out street lights, gas leaks, missing street signs, and the like. Since January of 2006, our patrol staff has called in 142 burned-out street lights in the University District. Our patrol staff has been patrolling the University District for more than 15 years, and we are convinced that lighting and other "environmental" issues, such as code violations and graffiti, must be addressed for any crime prevention program to be effective and to make residents feel safer.

I wholeheartedly support this proposal and look forward to a continued working relationship with you and the safety committee of USG.

Sincerely,

Ellen L. Moore
Executive Director

/elm
March 27, 2006

Suzanne Scharer, President
Undergraduate Student Government
201 Ohio Union
1739 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Ms. Scharer,

I would like to take this time to inform you of the overwhelming support that the Evans Scholars have for the off-campus lighting project. The Evans Scholars have been extremely active in off-campus security and safety since the death of one of our fellow Evans Scholars, Stephanie Hummer, in 1994.

We believe that an improved lighting system in the off-campus area would greatly benefit the entire Ohio State student body. We believe that this updated lighting system would deter criminal activity in the area and begin to establish a feeling of community between neighbors in the off-campus area.

It is obvious that the Gateway project has greatly enhanced the perception of the off-campus area. It is the Evans Scholars’ belief that a more reliable lighting would further enhance this perception.

Our house has worked in unison with the Undergraduate Student Government on many worthwhile projects, including the off-campus blue light project. We feel that this lighting project is perhaps the most deserving and important project since that time and we are willing to offer our support in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Timothy G. Schirmer
Executive Vice President
Ohio State Evans Scholars

Doctrina et Communitas
Urban Infrastructure Recovery Fund 2005-2007 Parks & Lights

Project Proposal Form

Project Name
Off-Campus Core Area Street Lighting Improvement Project

Submitting Organization
Undergraduate Student Government
The Ohio State University
201 Ohio Union
1739 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43210

Contact Person
Suzanne Scharer, President
Undergraduate Student Government

Matt Kreiner, Vice President
Undergraduate Student Government

Phone Number
Phone: (614) 292-2101     Fax: (614) 292-0405       Email: Scharer.7@osu.edu

Estimated Cost of Project (if available)
$938,000

Identify Source of Estimate
Mihai Orbacea, Engineering Associate III, Columbus Division of Electricity

Project Category
Lighting – Street

Project Location (Specify streets, intersections, parks or neighborhood boundaries, maps are helpful)
Both sides of all streets bounded by Chittenden Avenue on the south, High Street on the west, Summit Street on the east and Woodruff Avenue on the north. This project, however, will not include High Street, Summit Street or Chittenden Avenue properties.

Problem Description (What is the problem this project will help eliminate?)
This project location defines some of the earliest subdivisions in Columbus history, dating to the late 19th century. Although the existing underground street lighting system has been re-lamped numerous times and lighting levels meet minimum specifications, the two circuits which service this underground system are antiquated and are prone to service disruptions, leaving entire blocks without street lights for days at a time. This area is densely populated with multifamily housing serving Ohio State students. The sidewalks and streets undoubtedly have the highest number of pedestrians late at night of any neighborhood in Columbus. When lights are out on a whole street, this creates an unsafe condition for residents and visitors, along with opportunities for criminal activity.

**Project Description (Describe what you are proposing, maps and photos are helpful)**

This project proposes to upgrade the 134 luminaries and two underground circuits in this predominantly student neighborhood to include:
- A state-of-the-art underground street lighting system totally replacing circuits number 64 and 65.
- Fluted 13-foot fiberglass poles with acorn fixtures and 100-watt HPS lamps.
- Foot-candle level of 0.4 in lieu of the standard 0.2.

**Project Impact (How will this project improve your neighborhood, how many will benefit?)**

The proposed project will dramatically improve the reliability of an outdated underground street lighting system and greatly reduce the constant maintenance burden on the Division of Electricity. The project will ensure the reliability of the street lighting system for the general safety and well-being of the residents and visitors in this most densely populated area of the city. A reliable street lighting system also will enhance the public perception of the safety of this neighborhood and could improve the general occupancy rates of the rental housing. Based on block data from the 2000 Census, the area of the project location includes approximately 5,691 residents. Not only is this a densely populated area, but thousands of visitors are regularly drawn to the neighborhood by High Street businesses, the fraternity and sorority houses, rooming houses, and religious congregations (Indianola Presbyterian, Summit United Methodist, Hillel Foundation, Lutheran Student Chapel and Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints).

**Other Area Improvements (Projects planned by the city or private entities)**

- High Street streetscape improvement plan jointly prepared by Ohio State and the City of Columbus for the area of 11th Avenue to Lane Avenue.
- High Street capital improvements from Lane Avenue to Arcadia Avenue funded by the City of Columbus.
- Construction of South Campus Gateway, a $152-million urban, mixed-use redevelopment project developed by Campus Partners.
- Planning and construction of new Neighborhood Policing Center by City of Columbus and Ohio State.
- Construction of large, new apartment building on Summit Street at East 17th Avenue by private developer.
- Construction of new fraternity house on East 16th Avenue by Evans Scholars.
• Construction of a new Ohio Union on the existing site on High Street. Demolition of the existing building is scheduled to begin in mid-2007.
• Study of re-opening of East 13th, 14th, 16th and 18th avenues at High Street by City of Columbus under contract with Campus Partners.
• Planning for redevelopment of East 15th Avenue and High Street by Campus Partners, City of Columbus and private properties owners.
• New construction on northwest corner of Lane Avenue and High Street by Epic Realty.
• New commercial development at 2120 N. High St. by developer Scott Schiff.