

Analytics Kickstart: Shedding Light on Safety

Fort Lauderdale, FL

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The Bottom Line

Fort Lauderdale's vision to be a safe, beautiful, pedestrian friendly city for all residents can be enhanced by improving the city's intel regarding its street lighting, so GovEx is helping FTL understand the process for building out an intelligence layer for street light operations to leverage when making repair and installation decisions.

Problem

Although the city manages a portion of street lighting for the city's residential neighborhoods and parks, and they survey residents about street light adequacy, the city lacks an adequate parcel-based map of the city's street lighting infrastructure which would enable numerous lighting optimization projects.

Leadership

The city of Fort Lauderdale places enormous importance on ensuring its streets are not only safe, but that residents and visitors *feel* safe no matter where they travel in this destination city.

Staffing

The project involved a collaboration between four members of the GovEx team and several members of the Fort Lauderdale team, which experienced a turnover of key staff in the City Manager's office during the course of this project.

Data

Unfortunately, the city was unable to provide a location-based inventory of city-owned pedestrian lights, so the project team leveraged streetlight locations owned by Florida Power and Light (FP&L); Crime data for Uniform Crime Reporting requirements; and resident survey data about the perception of safety.

Technology

During the planning, development and execution of this project, the team used Excel, CARTO, and QGIS.

Methodology

The team mapped FP&L street light locations against physical and political boundaries & developed a methodology for identifying light coverage and dark areas of the city. The team then compared the results to crime and perception of crime survey results.

Results

The city's inability to provide an inventory of city-owned lighting prevents GovEx from drawing any conclusions about their relationship to public safety. Based on an analysis of FP&L-owned lighting, there are no obvious areas of darkness which correspond to disproportionate levels of crime or the perception thereof.