

Homes in darkness: Northeast side residents fight for LED street light restoration

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SBG San Antonio Staff Reports

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SAN ANTONIO - LED streets offer a wide variety of benefits; including greater visibility to reduce the risk of criminal activities where you live.

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San Antonio's Street Lights Program

It's why some Northeast side neighbors became worried, when their light went dark for more than two months. They reached out to us for help.

"The neighbors look out for neighbors," said Mario Tristan.

In this Northeast side subdivision, neighbors are on patrol; keeping an eye on their homes, cars and each other.

"We're mostly elderly out here," Ann Sanchez said.

When they got an energy efficient LED street light well, it helped.

"I mean it lights up like from houses down, so you feel safe, like great," Tristan said.

"It's a very bright light so it's nice when it's on," Sanchez said. "It just gives you a feeling of at least you can see what's going on out there."

So you can just imagine how neighbors felt when the area went dark, they say, about two months ago.

We asked "With no lighting how's that been for you?

Uneasy, sleep with one eye open," Tristan replied.

Mario Tristan is leading the charge to get CPS Energy to just get the light back on. Without it's like... Well, he'll tell ya.

"Like a magnet for the bad people," Tristan explained.

He says crews did some wire work underground two months ago and the light's been out ever since.

"They just did this job haphazardly and never came back to finish it," Tristan said.

Ann Sanchez says the neighborhood's 'changed' over the years.

"And how's that make you feel?

Very unsafe, very unsafe because of the things I do see are going around in the neighborhood," Sanchez replied.

Out of concern for safety, they say they've tried to light a fire under CPS Energy.

"What does CPS say?

Oh there's a permit that needs to be pulled," Tristan replied.

We checked the San Antonio Police Crime map. Within a one-mile radius of the street light, within the past year there've been:

- 29 thefts
- 8 aggravated assaults
- 7 car thefts
- 2 burglaries

"There's transients that walk through late at night," Tristan said.

When we reached out to CPS Energy they explained:

"This project required a significant amount of excavation and required CPS Energy to coordinate with other entities."

Entities neighbors say have long finished their portion of the work.

"I want it fixed, like yesterday," Tristan said.

"In a timely manner, I mean I think two and some months is like way overdue," Sanchez said.

We reached out to CPS Energy on a Thursday. The company said in a statement, "CPS Energy has taken the appropriate steps."

Crews came out the following Monday and the street light was back on that Tuesday.