



To: Councilmember Angela Whitfield-Calloway
From: John Prymack, Director, Public Lighting Department
Date: March 10, 2023
Re: Responses to Public Lighting Department Budget Questions

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 8, 2023, regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget for the Public Lighting Department.

1. What is the status of the decommissioning process? Was the decommissioning completed in December 2022 as anticipated?

To date, eight substations have been cleared out in preparation to being turned over the DBA for disposition. PLD is actively removing de-energized electrical cable from underground conduit for sale as scrap metal. PLD is working with OCP to let a contract to remove overhead assets following behind DTE Energy as they complete their hardening project. This hardening by DTE is expected to take five to seven years. DTE completed their use of PLD assets under the EDSA December 31, 2022, freeing the balance of assets formerly used to provide energy for streetlights, City offices, and private entities for removal.

2. What is the status of the former PLD substation located along Woodward Avenue in Palmer Park just north of Merrill Plaisance? Could that building be transferred to GSD/Recreation for re-use as a small restaurant for the patrons of Palmer Park with the existing parking lot and an addition to the north or south of the building? What would be any environmental concerns with the re-use of the building?

That substation (known as Palmer Park Sub) has been cleared out and turned over to GSD. To PLD's knowledge, a final plan has not been determined for the structure. There was a nominal amount of asbestos which has been remediated and no PCBs were found.

3. Since the PLD only has one remaining FTE, what is the schedule for the complete incorporation of PLD into another city department? Which department?

The City Charter calls for the existence of a Public Lighting Department. PLD believes the Charter would need to be amended before the PLD could be incorporated into another department.