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**Meeting Name:** Town Council Meeting  
**Meeting Date:** January 24, 2024  
**Prepared By:** Andrea Dobbins, Project Coordinator/Risk Manager  
**Item Title:** FPL Street Light Discussion- Turtle Friendly Light Options

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## **DISCUSSION:**

For decades the Town staff has partnered with the Loggerhead Marineline Center (LMC), Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to protect the sea turtles that nest on the beaches of Juno Beach from March 1- October 31. Reducing and eliminating artificial light is critical to prevent false crawls from the female turtle looking to nest and hatchling disorientation. There are fifteen (15) Florida Power and Light (FPL) streetlights that have been identified in Juno Beach as priority 1 (high), 2 (medium), or 3 (low). (See the attached list of streetlights.) While the priority level of the poles is subjective, a good deal of consideration by all three parties is used to make these prioritizations.

It is generally agreed that “no light” is the best option for preserving the safety of the sea turtles but there are some other approved options that can be considered which include the installation of shields and/or amber lights. FPL will install shields at no cost, but they are not always effective and the location of the streetlight is a factor. Another consideration with the shield is the elevation of the beach which may change as seen by the recent storms in December 2023, which eroded the beach and dropped the elevation by at least 3’ in some areas. When the elevation of the beach changes it renders the shield useless and fails to protect the sea turtles from light disorientation.

The other option that FPL offers for sea turtle protection is amber lighting. There are two types of amber lights that are considered “turtle friendly”: the ATB2 for a monthly fee of \$17.60/month per light (\$1,900.80 per year for all 9 lights) or the RSW-XL for a monthly fee of \$15.72/month per light (\$1,697.76 per year for all 9 lights).

The three options for protecting the sea turtles from light pollution and disorientation are:

- Current practice to keep the lights turned off during turtle nesting season (March 1 – October 31)
- Install shields on the streetlights
- Install one of the amber light options offered by FPL

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Council discuss the options for the streetlights and direct staff how to proceed.