



Beltrami County Sheriff's Office & **Bemidji Police Department** **PRESS RELEASE**

Lights On! A new partnership between Bemidji Police Department and Beltrami County Sheriff's Office

*Building Relationships, Strengthening Communities:
One Bulb at a Time*



BEMIDJI, MN: The Bemidji Police Department and Beltrami County Sheriff's Office are very excited to announce our new partnership with LIGHTS ON! LIGHTS ON! a microgrants sponsored program is an innovative solution to help motorists get the necessary repairs to their vehicles lighting issues, making our roads safer, helping to improve the financial stability for the recipient, and improves law enforcement and community relations.

LIGHTS ON! Will begin as a two part program starting Monday, March 9th with Deputies and Police Officers inviting motorists that are stopped for an equipment violation to participate in a survey conducted through Wilder Research. The research period will last for four weeks and then beginning in April, the Deputies and Police Officers will begin issuing vouchers-instead of citations, to the motorist to get the necessary lighting related repairs completed at no cost to them.

WHY THE SURVEY FIRST? The survey program is intended to take feedback from the public to improve the LIGHTS ON! Program as well as improve local policing initiatives and the driver's experience with law enforcement in the future.

What to expect? If you are stopped for an equipment violation, the Bemidji Police Officer or the Beltrami County Deputy Sheriff will ask you if you would to participate in the survey through Wilder Research and will provide you with a link to take the approximately 15 minute long survey. Those completing the survey will be sent a \$10 gift card from Wilder Research for Target or Amazon. YOU DO NOT need to participate in the survey-it is completely voluntary and for those that do complete the survey, your information will not be linked back to you or the individual officer, Deputy, or the law enforcement agency.

Then beginning in April, if you are stopped for an equipment violation, such as the burned out headlamp or tail light by a Beltrami County Deputy or Bemidji Police Officer, the Deputy or Officer will issue you a voucher to get the necessary repairs completed locally at no charge to you, up to \$250.00. Tires Plus of Bemidji, Southside Towing and Recovery, and Stu's Auto Electric will be the local repair shops participating in the program.

More information about LIGHTS ON! can be found at www.lightsonus.org/ or by contacting the Bemidji Police Department or Beltrami County Sheriff's Office at 218-333-9111 or through the web at <http://www.co.beltrami.mn.us/Departments/Law%20enforcement/Sheriff.html> or <https://www.ci.bemidji.mn.us/police>

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(L-R) Bemidji Police Department Captain Dave Lazella, Beltrami County Sheriff's Office Captain Jason Riggs, LIGHTS ON! representative Sherman Patterson, Bemidji Police Chief Mike Mastin, Beltrami County Sheriff Ernie Beitel