

St. Augustine Record

Business: We'll fund lighting under bridge

City to discuss Capri Industries' offer Monday

Posted: June 12, 2010 - 12:06am

By [JENNIFER EDWARDS](#)

A local company is offering to fund the lighting for the Bridge of Lions, a \$300,000 project.

A spokesman for Capri Industries, an electrical and data contractor in St. Augustine, said Friday that the company would donate material and labor and raise donations for the rest of the undercarriage lighting.

"We are going to donate everything," Capri Operations Manager Troy Watson said. "We will reach out into some partnerships we have and get contributions for other things."

If there are any shortfalls, he said, "We will supply it ourselves."

Watson said it was making the offer because, "We just want to do our part in the community."

The next question is: will the city accept?

City Manager-designate John Regan said the City Commission would discuss the offer at its meeting Monday.

"They would like to be a strategic partner for us, to do a capital campaign ... so there are some things we need to talk about," he said.

The matter requires thought because "in the long run, we would be responsible for (maintaining and powering) the lighting and all that," he said.

He said he personally felt the offer was "very exciting."

"It's one of the greatest iconic symbols of St. Augustine," he said.

"I personally think it's extremely exciting ... and shows our campaign for the 450th is working, and we have the ability to go to the next level," he said.

If the City accepts the offer, Watson said the company would probably come up with a different design than the one the city commissioned from an architectural firm. That firm, RS&H of Jacksonville, presented the design in March.

"We are going to work with everybody in the City and get it to their liking," Watson said of the design.

He said Capri Industries believes that because the bridge "is part of our city ... we feel it (the lighting) will add a lot."

"St. Augustine has all the lights at Christmas time and when you look at it, it's going to be pretty," Watson said.

Jacqueline Fink is the president of the company and Gary Wayland is the vice president, according to the company's website. In addition to its headquarters in St. Augustine, the company has a regional office in Pembroke Pines.