



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$ 8,360 TO THE CITY OF MARQUAND

Greg C. Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$8,360 to Mayor Dennis Ward on November 22, 2005. The funds will be used to purchase street lights for the City's downtown area. The lights are needed for the safety of the residents to travel through the Downtown area to access the bank, church, school and city hall after dark. The City qualified for a 55% grant, with the remaining 45 % to be paid from a grant from Missouri Department of Transportation.

"I am very pleased to announce that the City of Marquand will be receiving this grant," said Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee. "Illuminating the downtown area will help improve safety for residents and assist in revitalizing the downtown area. I appreciate USDA Rural Development for assessing the need for projects like this to benefit communities in the Lower Mississippi Delta Region."

"Our transportation infrastructure is critical to the economy and quality of life in our rural region of Missouri. We rely on our roads to be safe, convenient links between people and essential goods and services. Our roads also play a critical role in business development. USDA Rural Development works very hard to identify opportunities to invest in rural Missouri, and I appreciate their effort on this project," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

"Rural Development is very proud to provide assistance for this important project," said Branum. "The funding comes from the Community Facility Grant program.

Mayor Dennis Ward said, "The City of Marquand is very grateful to USDA Rural Development, they've always been there when we needed them. Without available grant dollars, progress would be impossible. The streetlights, coupled with other projects we currently have underway, will give Marquand a much improved curb appeal and greatly enhance its economic growth in the future."

"Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," Branum added. "Appreciation is also extended to U.S. Senators



Terry Luetkemeyer, Greg Branum, Kay Durso, City Clerk, Donna Martin, Kevin Hinkebein, and Mayor Dennis Ward

“Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Kevin Hinkebein, Rural Development Manager, at 812 Progress Dr. Farmington, Missouri 63640 or by calling (573)-756-6413 extension 4.

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