

ORDINANCE NO. 2305
INTRODUCED BY: Johnston

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIGHTON, COLORADO, REPEALING ORDINANCE 2175 IN ITS ENTIRETY; ESTABLISHING THE BRIGHTON CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO REPLACE EXISTING PROGRAM KNOWN AS GOOD NEIGHBOR; AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT VOLUNTARY "ROUND-UP" CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUCH PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ACCEPT ADDITIONAL ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SUCH PROGRAM; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF SUCH PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that when a local family or individual is struggling with financial emergencies and needs, there are times when that family or individual is unable to make a timely payment of the utility bill to the City, resulting in a termination of utility services; and

WHEREAS, when utility services are terminated as a result of the inability to pay the utility charges, there are often significant consequences to the users of the utility services, including inability to provide basic water, cooking, and sanitation; and

WHEREAS, with the collection of a little spare change from Brighton utility customers who voluntarily agree to round-up their utility payments, the needs of others in the community who lack the temporary ability to pay their utility bill will be met and the adverse impacts on the community's overall health will be avoided; and

WHEREAS, on August 5th, 2014, City Council adopted Ordinance 2175 establishing a pilot program called Good Neighbor Program in order to collect round-up utility payments and to provide utility payment assistance; and

WHEREAS, City Council now desires to repeal Ordinance 2175 in order to replace the Good Neighbor Program while still retaining the ability to accept round-up donations and continue to offer utility payment assistance to the citizens of Brighton.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIGHTON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Ordinance 2175 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. The City Manager is hereby directed to establish a Customer Assistance Program ("Program") to be administered in accordance with the following:

A. City staff shall establish a Customer Assistance Program Account ("CAP Account"). Funds placed in the CAP Account shall be used for the purpose of

assisting City of Brighton utility customers in financial need consistent with this Ordinance.

- B. City of Brighton utility customers may, upon payment of their City monthly utility statement, voluntarily “round-up” their payment to the next dollar, and this rounded-up difference shall be placed in the CAP Account.
- C. In addition to contributions made by such “round-up” payments, City staff is also authorized to accept donations from any party indicating interest in assisting City utility customers in financial need. Such donations shall be placed in the CAP Account.
- D. Additional funding may be designated for inclusion in the CAP Account by City Council through the annual budget appropriation process.
- E. Awards shall only be granted to utility accounts in the name of an individual or family. No applications will be accepted or approved for a landlord, commercial, industrial, retail, or other utility customer who is not an individual or family.
- F. Any single award shall not exceed the outstanding utility bill amount, but applicants may receive multiple awards up to \$300 in assistance per calendar year.
- G. The City Manager shall, and not inconsistent with this Ordinance, develop eligibility criteria related to the Customer Assistance Program and any other requirements as appropriate for receiving assistance, including the form of application, information required in support of the application, eligibility requirements, and other policies and procedures for review and approval of the application.
- H. The City Manager is hereby authorized to develop additional policies and procedures not inconsistent with this Ordinance as needed for implementation and administration of the Program.

Section 3. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Almost Home, Inc., or similar nonprofit entity, for the administration of this Program, and not inconsistent with this Ordinance, which agreement may include payment of administrative expenses to such nonprofit in the amount not to exceed ten percent (10%) of amounts awarded for assistance.

Section 4. If any part or parts of this Ordinance are for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each part or parts hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one part or parts be declared invalid.

INTRODUCED, PASSED ON FIRST READING, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED,
THIS 2ND DAY OF APRIL, 2019.

PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING AND ORDERED PUBLISHED, BY TITLE
ONLY, THIS 16TH DAY OF APRIL, 2019.

CITY OF BRIGHTON, COLORADO

KENNETH J. KREUTZER, Mayor

ATTEST:

NATALIE HOEL, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JACK D. BAJOREK, City Attorney

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