

CITY OF BRIGHTON

CITY COUNCIL ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIGHTON, COLORADO ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM AND RESULTING ACCOUNTS TO ASSIST BRIGHTON FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE A TEMPORARY AND URGENT FINANCIAL INABILITY TO PAY THEIR UTILITY BILL TO THE CITY; AUTHORIZING THE CITY FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT VOLUNTARY “ROUND-UP” CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAID ACCOUNTS; SETTING ASIDE \$25,000 FROM THE CITY’S GENERAL FUND FOR USE IN THE UTILITY PAYMENT ASSISTANCE ACCOUNTS; AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE UTILITY BILLING COORDINATOR, TO APPROVE ASSISTANCE AWARDS FROM THE ACCOUNTS; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES INCLUDING THE CRITERIA AND STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE AWARDS; AND, SETTING FORTH DETAILS IN RELATION THERETO.

ORDINANCE NO.: 2175

INTRODUCED BY: Bell

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that when a local family or individual is struggling with financial emergencies and needs that there are times when they are 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, the City Council finds and determines that a Pilot Utility payment assistance program (Good Neighbor Program) should be implemented and a Utility Payment Assistance Accounts should be established for the collection of voluntary rounded-up utility payments and \$25,000 from the City’s General Fund for the provisions of Good Neighbor Program as more fully set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds and determines that the Good Neighbor Program shall be a 'pilot' program, and reviewed on an annual basis to determine if it should be continued, modified or terminated.

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

SECTION 1. Pilot Program Established. The Utility Department of the City is hereby directed to establish a Pilot Utility payment assistance accounts (known as the Good Neighbor Program) to be administered in accordance with the following:

1. The Finance Director shall transfer the sum of \$25,000 from the City's General Fund to the Pilot Utility payment assistance accounts.
2. City of Brighton utility customers may upon payment of their City utility bill voluntarily "round-up" their payment to the next dollar and the rounded-up difference shall be placed in the Pilot Utility payment assistance accounts.
3. The Pilot Utility payment assistance accounts shall be available for assisting delinquent utility users upon application and approval in the calendar month following implementation of the new utility billing software.

SECTION 2. Eligibility. To be eligible for assistance in the payment of a delinquent utility bill the following must be met:

1. The application shall be for a utility account 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.
2. The applicant shall provide such evidence and information establishing the temporary financial emergency which has prevented the payment of the utility bill as may be required by the application and the policies and procedures adopted by the City Manager.
3. No award shall exceed three hundred dollars (\$300).
4. An applicant may be awarded Utility payment assistance only once in any thirty-six (36) month period.

SECTION 3. Applications.

1. An individual or family seeking Utility payment assistance shall complete and file with the Utilities Billing Coordinator of the City an application on the form provided by the Utilities Department.
2. The Utilities Billing Coordinator shall review the application and recommend approval or denial to the Finance Director.
3. The Finance Director shall review the application and recommendation of the Utilities Billing Coordinator and may approve the application if the eligibility requirements have been met and there are available funds.

4. Upon approval, the applicant's utility account shall be credited with the amount so approved.

SECTION 4. Miscellaneous.

1. The City Manager shall adopt policies and procedures related to the Pilot Utility payment assistance program, 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.
2. The City Manager shall advise the City Council no less than annually of the status of the Pilot Utility payment assistance program, including the amount of funds contributed by utility customers, number of applications, disposition of the applications, and the remaining funds in the accounts.
3. The Pilot Utility payment assistance program shall be reviewed by the City Council on an annual basis, or before January 1 of each year, to determine if it should be continued, modified or terminated.

SECTION 5. Validity. 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. If a dispute or conflict arises between the Codes as adopted herein, and the elevator, escalator and conveyance codes adopted by the State of Colorado, then the more stringent provisions of each respective Code shall prevail.

INTRODUCED, PASSED ON FIRST READING, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED
THIS 5th DAY OF August, 2014.

CITY OF BRIGHTON, COLORADO


Richard N. McLean, Mayor

ATTEST:


Natalie Hoel, City Clerk

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Margaret R. Brubaker, Esq., City Attorney

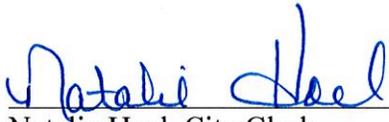
PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING AND ORDERED PUBLISHED THIS 19th
DAY OF August, 2014.

CITY OF BRIGHTON, COLORADO



Richard N. McLean, Mayor

ATTEST:



Natalie Hoel, City Clerk

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