

RESOLUTION NO. 5166

A RESOLUTION CREATING A LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ALL CUSTOMERS RECEIVING RESIDENTIAL WATER SERVICE FROM THE CITY OF ALBANY.

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Water Task Force reviewed the needs of, and funding for, the City's water system from September 2001 to September 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Water Task Force developed a 10-year strategic Water Financial Plan to meet capital, operation and maintenance, and regulatory requirements for Albany's water system; and

WHEREAS, the Water Financial Plan was presented to the public for comment on August 26, 2004, and September 15, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Water Financial Plan was adopted by the Albany City Council on October 13, 2004; and


WHEREAS, the Water Financial Plan included recommendations from the Mayor's Water Task Force to implement a low-income assistance program for qualifying water customers; and

WHEREAS, City staff received direction on program specifics from the Albany City Council on May 11, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Albany City Council that the Low-Income Assistance Program, including credits and surcharges, as described in Exhibit "A" (attached hereto) is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect January 1, 2006.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE THIS 27TH DAY OF JULY 2005.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

DEFINITIONS

Disabled: Persons who are unable to engage in any substantial paid activity by reason of any documented, medically determinable, physical or mental impairment that can be expected to last for twelve continuous months or longer. A statement of disability benefits may be considered proof of disability for an applicant.

Senior Citizen: Persons who are at least 60 years old.

Low-Income: Defined by 30 percent of Linn County's median income, for the respective family size, as determined by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income limits defined by their Policy Development and Research Information Service.

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

- Low income and a senior citizen, or
- Low income and disabled.
- Water bill must be in qualifying person's name.
- Qualifying person must be at least 18 years old.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE

Qualifying customers shall receive a credit for up to their first four units of water consumption for each monthly bill. Base charge, residential surcharge, and all charges for consumption greater than four units still apply. Credits cannot be banked or saved. Credits not used in any particular month may not be carried forward to be used in any subsequent month.

RECERTIFICATION

Qualifying customers will be required to re-certify annually.

PROGRAM FUNDING

The program will be funded through a surcharge on residential customer's water bills. The surcharge is designed to cover the cost of providing the credit and administration fees. The surcharge will be established in water rate resolutions.

The surcharge will be adjusted annually to maintain adequate revenue to cover actual program costs.

TERM OF PROGRAM

The low-income assistance program will be run on a two-year trial basis, January 1, 2006, through December 31, 2008.