



ORDINANCE NO. 28865

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to public utilities; amending Ordinance No. 22858,
2 regarding the Low Income Assistance Fund, to allow the fund to be utilized
3 for bill assistance for qualifying customers of all utilities.

4 WHEREAS the Project Need Program ("Program") was created effective
5 December 22, 1982, to encourage Tacoma Power customers to donate to a
6 special fund to be used and applied for the benefit of assisting eligible low-income
7 customers with power bill payments, and

8 WHEREAS the City of Tacoma Fund 4805 was created on January 4, 1983,
9 by Ordinance No. 22858 for the purpose of accounting for monetary transactions of
10 any kind required to carry out the Program, and

11 WHEREAS the Program was later renamed the Family Need Program,
12 and ultimately renamed as the Bill Credit Assistance Plan ("BCAP"), and

13 WHEREAS on March 13, 2020, the City Manager and Mayor declared an
14 emergency existed in the City caused by COVID-19 under Emergency Rule No. 2
15 ("Emergency Rule"), which was confirmed by the City Council on March 17, 2020,
16 and subsequently amended and confirmed by the City Council on September 28,
17 2021, and

18 WHEREAS the Emergency Rule ordered the City utilities for electricity,
19 water, sanitary sewer, storm water, and solid waste to postpone shutoff for
20 nonpayment of utility rates, fees, and charges for residential and commercial
21 customers, and that late payment fees would not accrue on balances incurred
22 during the term of the Proclamation of Emergency, and
23
24
25
26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

WHEREAS the postponement of utility shutoffs for nonpayment and the waiver of late fees during the period of emergency ended March 31, 2022, and as of the end of the period of shutoff postponement, many Tacoma Public Utility customers have significant past due balances and continue to have difficulty meeting current utility bill obligations, and

WHEREAS in order to help members of our community recover from the impacts of COVID-19, and to ensure continued access to vital utility services, the City Council and the Tacoma Public Utility Board (“PUB”) engaged in numerous efforts to assist more low-income customers with current and past due balances, which includes removing the limitation on the BCAP program that allowed certain donated funds to be used only for assistance with power charges, and

WHEREAS the PUB, by Resolution No. U-11332, confirmed its intent to make such funds available to assist income-eligible households with all utility charges, and

WHEREAS an ordinance amendment is required to expand the purpose of Fund 4805 to remove the limitation on its use to assist with power charges so that the funds are available to assist income-eligible customers with all utility charges; Now, Therefore,



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That Ordinance No. 22858, regarding the Low Income Assistance Fund, is hereby amended to allow the fund to be utilized for bill assistance for qualifying customers of all utilities.

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Deputy City Attorney