

Ordinance No. 123749

Council Bill No. 117313

AN ORDINANCE relating to emergency assistance for low-income Seattle Public Utilities customers and amending Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Related Legislation File:

Date Introduced and Referred: <u>Oct. 17, 2011</u>	To: (committee): <u>Special Budget</u>
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date Re-referred:	To: (committee):
Date of Final Action: <u>11.21.11</u>	Date Presented to Mayor: <u>11.23.11</u>
Date Signed by Mayor: <u>Nov. 30, 2011</u>	Date Returned to City Clerk: <u>Nov. 30, 2011</u>
Published by Title Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date Vetoed by Mayor:
Published in Full Text	
Date Veto Published:	Date Passed Over Veto:
Date Veto Sustained:	Date Returned Without Signature:

The City of Seattle – Legislative Department

Council Bill/Ordinance sponsored by [Signature]

Committee Action:

Date	Recommendation	Vote
<u>11.8.11</u>	<u>Pass as amended</u>	<u>9-0</u>

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council.

Full Council Action:

Date	Decision	Vote
<u>11.21.11</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>8-0</u> <u>excused</u> <u>[Signature]</u> : <u>NK</u>

ORDINANCE

123749

1
2 AN ORDINANCE relating to emergency assistance for low-income Seattle Public Utilities
3 customers and amending Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

4 WHEREAS, low-income rate credits are available under Section 21.76.030 of the Seattle
5 Municipal Code for Seattle Public Utility customers with annual household incomes that
6 do not exceed 70 percent of the Washington State median income for the number of
individuals in the household as computed annually by the state or the City; and

7 WHEREAS, once-a-year emergency assistance for paying delinquent Seattle Public Utilities
8 bills is available under Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code to customers
9 with annual household incomes that do exceed 125 percent of the poverty level for the
10 number of individuals in the household as computed annually by the U.S. Government;
and

11 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council intends to establish a single threshold of 70% of
12 Washington state median income to qualify low-income Seattle Public Utilities customers
for both utility rate credits and emergency assistance for paying delinquent bills; and

13 WHEREAS, a 70% of Washington state median income threshold will simplify the City process
14 for determining the eligibility of customers for low-income programs and will increase
the number of eligible customers; and

15 WHEREAS, emergency assistance is available to low-income customers who are billed by
16 Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) for utility services, and the Council wishes to clarify that
17 the assistance applies to services included in the combined utilities bill issued by SPU,
which includes water, wastewater and solid waste charges, NOW, THEREFORE,

18 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

19 **Section 1.** Effective January 1, 2012, Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code,
20 which section was enacted by Ordinance 122174, is amended as follows:

21 **21.76.065 Low income emergency assistance program.**

22
23 A. Qualification. Upon satisfactory proof, emergency assistance shall be issued to each
24 household for which a member of the household is billed, by SPU, for water, ((~~drainage,~~)
25 wastewater or solid waste services and:
26
27

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Seattle Public Utilities	Meg Moorehead 4-8929	

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to emergency assistance for low-income Seattle Public Utilities customers and amending Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary of the Legislation:

This ordinance would change the SMC 21.76.065 threshold to qualify customers for the once-a-year emergency assistance in paying delinquent Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) bills from 125% of the federal poverty level to 70% of Washington state median income. The 70% of state median income threshold is already used to qualify low-income customers for 50% rate credits under SMC 21.76.030. The legislation also clarifies that emergency assistance applies to services included in the combined utilities bill issued by SPU, which includes water, wastewater and solid waste charges.

Background:

To reduce the impact of rate increases on low-income customers, in 2009 the Council changed the eligibility threshold for SPU low-income rate credits to 70% of state median income. The change made more customers eligible for discounted rates. At that time the eligibility thresholds were not changed for once-a-year emergency assistance to low-income customers who have delinquent SPU bills. The emergency assistance provides a credit of up to 50% of a customer's delinquent bill, with the 2011 credit not to exceed \$297. During its review of 2012-2014 water rates, the Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods (SPUN) Committee recommended that the emergency assistance threshold be changed to 70% of state median income. The consistent threshold for the two programs is intended to simplify the qualification process and provide assistance to more low-income customers. With the change, about twice as many customers would be eligible for assistance.

Please check one of the following:

This legislation does not have any financial implications.

This legislation has financial implications.

There are no appropriation impacts or position changes associated with this proposed Council



Bill.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement: Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Department	Revenue Source	2011 Revenue	2012 Revenue
Water Fund 43000	Seattle Public Utilities	Water Sales	\$0	\$75,000
Water Fund 43000	Seattle Public Utilities	EAP Credits	\$0	(\$75,000)
Drainage & Wastewater Fund 44010	Seattle Public Utilities	EAP Credits	\$0	(\$65,000)
Solid Waste Fund 45000	Seattle Public Utilities	EAP Credits	\$0	(\$65,000)
TOTAL				(\$130,000)

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

The 2012 revenue reductions reflect the estimated impact of expanding the participation in the Emergency Assistance Program. The Water Fund impact will be offset by adjusting the 2012 water rates to offset this increase in credits. Solid waste and wastewater rates have already been approved for 2012, therefore the revenue decreases represent the estimated decrease in solid waste and wastewater revenues due to increased participation in the Emergency Assistance Program.

Other Implications:

a) Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?

The financial impacts shown in this fiscal note assume that the number of enrolled low-income customers rises slightly from 2011 levels, but remains far below 100% of eligible customers. If the number of customers seeking and receiving SPU low-income assistance increases substantially, future rates for other ratepayers will need to increase to compensate for the lower rates paid by a greater number of low-income customers.

b) What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?

In 2010, 886 customers received emergency credits worth \$189,000 toward delinquent water, sewer, drainage and solid waste bills. If the legislation is not implemented, SPU assistance might continue at past levels, resulting in less revenue loss than might occur under the proposed legislation.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?



No

d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?

Council objectives are to expand the number of low-income customers that have access to emergency assistance for paying delinquent bills, given the difficult economic times and rising utility rates. A threshold other than 70% of state median income could have been selected but would not have the administrative advantage associated with using the same threshold used for SPU low-income rate credits.

e) Is the legislation subject to public hearing requirements?

No.

f) Other Issues:

None.

List attachments to the fiscal note below:

None.



ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to emergency assistance for low-income Seattle Public Utilities customers and amending Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, low-income rate credits are available under Section 21.76.030 of the Seattle Municipal Code for Seattle Public Utility customers with annual household incomes that do not exceed 70 percent of the Washington State median income for the number of individuals in the household as computed annually by the state or the City; and

WHEREAS, once-a-year emergency assistance for paying delinquent Seattle Public Utilities bills is available under Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code to customers with annual household incomes that do exceed 125 percent of the poverty level for the number of individuals in the household as computed annually by the U.S. Government; and

WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council intends to establish a single threshold of 70% of Washington state median income to qualify low-income Seattle Public Utilities customers for both utility rate credits and emergency assistance for paying delinquent bills; and

WHEREAS, a 70% of Washington state median income threshold will simplify the City process for determining the eligibility of customers for low-income programs and will increase the number of eligible customers; and

WHEREAS, emergency assistance is available to low-income customers who are billed by Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) for utility services, and the Council wishes to clarify that the assistance applies to services included in the combined utilities bill issued by SPU, which includes water, wastewater and solid waste charges, NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was enacted by Ordinance 122174, is amended as follows:

21.76.065 Low income emergency assistance program.

A. Qualification. Upon satisfactory proof, emergency assistance shall be issued to each household for which a member of the household is billed, by SPU, for water, ((drainage,)) wastewater or solid waste services and:

THIS VERSION IS NOT ADOPTED



STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

279019
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No. TITLE ONLY

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:123742-123764

was published on

12/09/11

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 293.48, which amount has been paid in full.

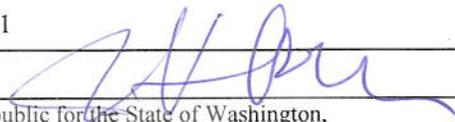


Affidavit of Publication



Subscribed and sworn to before me on

12/09/11



Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on November 21, 2011, and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.seattle.gov>. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>. Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-8344.

ORDINANCE NO. 123742

AN ORDINANCE relating to rates and charges for water services of Seattle Public Utilities; revising water rates and charges and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 21.04 in connection therewith; removing Water District 61 and Richmond Beach Area meter surcharges and amending Seattle Municipal Code 21.12 in connection therewith; and revising credits to low-income customers and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 21.76 in connection therewith.

ORDINANCE NO. 123743

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Revenue Stabilization Account of the Cumulative Reserve Subfund; revising policies regarding deposits into the Subfund; amending Seattle Municipal Code Subsection 5.80.020 B in connection therewith; and superseding a portion of Resolution 31083.

ORDINANCE NO. 123744

AN ORDINANCE relating to civil service; combining the staff of the Civil Service Commission and Public Safety Civil Service Commission and amending sections 4.04.250, 4.08.050, and 4.08.070 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

ORDINANCE NO. 123745

AN ORDINANCE relating to City employment; establishing a 2012 furlough program for certain employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements.

ORDINANCE NO. 123746

AN ORDINANCE amending Chapter 20.48 of the Seattle Municipal Code in order to modify City policies pertaining to capital appropriations.

ORDINANCE NO. 123747

AN ORDINANCE relating to solid waste taxation; amending Section 5.48.055 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and increasing the transfer tax rate effective January 1, 2012.

ORDINANCE NO. 123748

AN ORDINANCE relating to the financing of the South Lake Union Streetcar project; amending Ordinance 122603, last amended by Ordinance 123164, to extend the term of an interfund loan.

ORDINANCE NO. 123749

AN ORDINANCE relating to emergency assistance for low-income Seattle Public Utilities customers and amending Section 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

ORDINANCE NO. 123750

AN ORDINANCE relating to the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy; accepting the recommendations of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee concerning the Development Category Inflation Adjustment and the Opportunity Fund category; reallocating funds from the Development Category to the Opportunity Fund Category; and creating new major maintenance projects in the Opportunity Fund Category; all by a three-fourths vote of the City Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 123751

AN ORDINANCE relating to contracting indebtedness; authorizing and providing for the issuance and sale of limited tax general obligation bonds to pay all or part of the cost of financing elements of the City's capital improvement program, issuing and selling the bonds, and other City purposes approved by ordinance; providing for terms and sale of the bonds; creating a bond fund; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

ORDINANCE NO. 123752

AN ORDINANCE relating to the electric system of The City of Seattle; authorizing the issuance and sale of municipal light and power revenue bonds for the purposes of providing funds for certain additions and betterments to and extensions of the existing municipal light and power plant and system of the City, paying the costs of issuing and selling those bonds and providing for the reserve fund requirement; providing for the terms, conditions, covenants and manner of sale of those bonds; describing the lien of those bonds; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

ORDINANCE NO. 123753

AN ORDINANCE relating to financing of the drainage and wastewater system of The City of Seattle; adopting a system or plan of additions and betterments to and extensions of the drainage and wastewater system; authorizing the issuance and sale of drainage and wastewater revenue bonds, in one or more series, for the purposes of paying all or part of the cost of carrying out that system or plan, providing for the reserve requirement for bonds, and issuing and selling the bonds; providing for the terms, conditions, covenants and manner of sale of the bonds; describing the lien of the bonds; creating certain accounts of the City relating to the bonds; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

ORDINANCE NO. 123754

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Department of Transportation; amending Section 11.23.120 of the Seattle Municipal Code establishing fees related to Commercial Vehicle Load Zone permits pursuant to the trucking and parking regulations of the Traffic Code.

ORDINANCE NO. 123755

AN ORDINANCE related to fees and charges for permits and activities of the Department of Planning and Development and related fees by other departments; amending a section of Ordinance 123453; and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 22.900A, Administration and Enforcement; Chapter 22.900B, General Provisions; Chapter 22.900C, Fees for Land Use Review; Chapter 22.900D, Fees for New and Altered Buildings and Equipment; Chapter 22.900E, Fees for Certificates and Registrations; Chapter 22.900F, Compliance and Other Inspections; and Chapter 22.900G, Fees Collected for Other Departments.

ORDINANCE NO. 123756

AN ORDINANCE relating to a reorganization of the Human Services Department; amending Section 3.20.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code to restructure, rename and create various divisions in the Human Services Department.

ORDINANCE NO. 123757

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department, directing the transfer of certain funds in the Light Fund into the Rate Stabilization Account in 2011, and amending SMC 21.49.086 (G) relating to the operation of said Account.

ORDINANCE NO. 123758

AN ORDINANCE adopting a budget, including a capital improvement program and position modifications, for The City of Seattle for 2012; creating positions exempt from civil service, all by a two-thirds vote of the City Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 123759

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Department of Parks and Recreation; establishing the 2012 fee schedule for the use of park properties and other park and recreation facilities and services; superseding previous park and recreation fee schedules; and amending Section 18.28.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

ORDINANCE NO. 123760

AN ORDINANCE amending the 2011 Budget, including the 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP); changing appropriations to various departments and budget control levels; and from various funds in the Budget; revising project descriptions; revising project allocations for certain projects in the 2011-2016 CIP; making cash transfers between various city funds; creating new appropriations, amending ordinances 123442 and 123664; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts; all by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

ORDINANCE NO. 123761

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program; authorizing the creation of a City fund; and authorizing the loan of funds from the City's Consolidated (Residual) Cash Pool, or its participating funds, to the new fund.

ORDINANCE NO. 123762

AN ORDINANCE relating to the levy of property taxes; fixing the rates and/or amounts of taxes to be levied, and levying the same upon all

taxable property, both real and personal, in The City of Seattle, to finance the departments and activities of City government and to provide for the general obligation bond interest and redemption requirements for the year beginning on the first day of January 2012; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

ORDINANCE NO. 123763

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the levy of regular property taxes by The City of Seattle for collection in 2012, representing an increase above the regular property taxes levied for collection in 2011; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts

ORDINANCE NO. 123764

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain audited claims and ordering the payment thereof.

Publication ordered by the City Clerk
Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, December 9, 2011.
12/9(279019)