SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

CB 118690

Record No.: CB 118690 **Type:** Ordinance (Ord) **Status:** Passed

Version: 1 **Ord. no:** Ord 125051 **In Control:** City Clerk

File Created: 04/28/2016

Final Action: 06/10/2016

Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; amending Section 21.49.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code to remove an exception from eligibility to the Utility Discount Program for tenants of federally subsidized housing with utility allowances and to update and modify certain program provisions.

Notes:

Sponsors: Sawant

Attachments:

Drafter: Kelly.Enright@seattle.gov

	Date
Filed with City Clerk:	
Mayor's Signature:	
Vetoed by Mayor:	
Veto Overridden:	
Veto Sustained:	

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File **Legal Notice Published:** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Ver-sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Mayor	05/03/2016	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
	Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was Mayor's leg transmitted to Council. to the City Clerk						
	Notes:						
1	City Clerk	05/03/2016	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	05/12/2016	sent for review	Energy and Environment Committee			
	Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Energy and Environment Committee						
	Notes:						

1	Full Council	05/23/2016	referred	Energy and Environment Committee	

Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was referred. to the Energy and Environment Committee
Notes:

1	Energy and Environment Committee	05/24/2016	pass		Pass

Action Text: The Committee recommends that Full Council pass the Council Bill (CB).
Notes:

In Favor: 3 Chair Sawant, Vice Chair Juarez, Member González

Opposed: 0

1	Full Council	05/31/2016	passed		Pass

Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote and the President signed the Bill:
Notes:

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Burgess, Councilmember González , Council President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

1	City Clerk	06/03/2016	submitted for Mayor's signature	Mayor	

Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was submitted for Mayor's signature. to the Mayor
Notes:

1	Mayor	06/10/2016	Signed		

Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was Signed.
Notes:

1	Mayor	06/10/2016	returned	City Clerk	

Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was returned. to the City Clerk
Notes:

1	City Clerk	06/10/2016	attested by City Clerk		

Action Text: The Ordinance (Ord) was attested by City Clerk.
Notes:

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE 125051

COUNCIL BILL 118690

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; amending Section 21.49.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code to remove an exception from eligibility to the Utility Discount Program for tenants of federally subsidized housing with utility allowances and to update and modify certain program provisions.

WHEREAS, since the early 1980's Seattle City Light has offered qualified low-income residential electric utility customers discounted electric rates through the Utility Discount Program; and

WHEREAS, both the 2012 City Light Strategic Plan and the 2014 Mayor's report, "Strengthening the Utility Discount Program," have goals for improving utilization of and increasing enrollment in the Utility Discount Program by qualified customers; and

WHEREAS, Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities have coordinated efforts to review current federally subsidized housing utility allowance policies and programs to confirm that participation in the Utility Discount Program would assist those qualified low-income customers with paying costs of utility services provided by the City and that removing the long-standing exception to participation by tenants in these programs would meet the goals of City Light, SPU, and the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Seattle City Light also recommends updating and modifying certain provisions authorizing the Utility Discount Program to be consistent with current practices; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 21.49.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 124978, is amended as follows:

21.49.040 - Residential rate assistance (Schedules REC, RET, RES, REH, REB, REE, REL, RLC, RLT, RLS, RLH, RLB, RLE, and RLL)

A. Utility discount program established

1. The City has established a utility discount program to assist qualified low-income residential utility customers with the costs of utility services provided by the City, including electric utility services.

2. Schedules REC, RET, RES, REH, REB, REE, REL, RLC, RLT, RLS, RLH, RLB, RLE, and RLL are available to qualified low-income residential customers in accordance with this chapter.

((~~Schedules REC (Residential Elderly: City) and RLC (Residential Low-Income: City)~~)))

3. Schedules REC, ((~~and~~)) RET, RES, REH, REB, REE, RLC, RLT, RLS, RLH, RLB, and RLE are available for separately metered residential service provided to ((~~City~~))customers who show satisfactory proof that they have a City Light residential account and reside in the dwelling unit where the account is billed and that they:

((~~1.~~)) a. For ((~~Schedule~~)) Schedules RLC, RLT, RLS, RLH, RLB, RLE, and RLL, receive Supplemental Security Income pursuant to 42 USC Sections 1381 — 1383; or

((~~2.~~)) b. For all Schedules ((~~RLC and~~)) REC, RET, RES, REH, REB, REE, REL, RLC, RLT, RLS, RLH, RLB, RLE, and RLL, reside in a household in which

the ((~~annual~~)) income of all household members together does 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.

((~~**RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April – September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.16 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.17 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October – March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.16 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.17 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~6.43 cents per meter per day~~

~~**RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April – September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.23 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.76 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October – March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.23 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.76 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~5.80 cents per meter per day~~))

4. The Department is authorized and directed to administer the program, including promulgating administrative rules from time to time in the manner provided in the Administrative Code (Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 3.02) and entering into cooperative agreements to carry out the intent and purpose of this chapter, in consultation with the Seattle Public Utilities and Human Services Departments, where appropriate. Customer compliance with the program rules is a condition for initial or ongoing eligibility for the utility discount program.

B. Schedules REC, RET, RES, REH, REB, REE, REL, RLC, RLT, RLS, RLH, RLB, RLE, and RLL

1. Schedules REC (Residential Elderly: City) and RLC (Residential Low-Income: City)

RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016:

Energy Charges:

Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)

First 10 kWh per day at 2.35 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.00 cents per kWh

Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)

First 16 kWh per day at 2.35 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.00 cents per kWh

Base Service Charge:

5.93 cents per meter per day

2. Schedules RET (Residential Elderly: Tukwila) and RLT (Residential Low-Income: Tukwila)

((~~Schedules RET and RLT are available for separately metered residential service provided to Tukwila customers who show satisfactory proof that they have a City Light residential account and reside in the dwelling unit where the account is billed and that they:~~

~~1. For Schedule RLT, receive Supplemental Security Income pursuant to 42 USC Sections 1381 – 1383; or~~

~~2. For Schedules RLT and RET, reside in a household in which the annual income of all household members together does 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.~~

~~**RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April – September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.32 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.49 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October – March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.32 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.49 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~6.43 cents per meter per day~~

~~**RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.19 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 5.07 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.19 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 5.07 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~5.80 cents per meter per day~~))

RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016:

Energy Charges:

Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)

First 10 kWh per day at 2.31 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.32 cents per kWh

Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)

First 16 kWh per day at 2.31 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.32 cents per kWh

Base Service Charge:

5.93 cents per meter per day

3. Schedules RES (Residential Elderly: Suburban) and RLS (Residential Low-Income: Suburban)

((~~Schedules RES and RLS are available for separately metered residential service provided to suburban customers who show satisfactory proof that they have a City Light residential account and reside in the dwelling unit where the account is billed and that they:~~

~~1. For Schedule RLS, receive Supplemental Security Income pursuant to 42 USC Sections 1381 – 1383; or~~

~~2. For Schedules RLS and RES, reside in a household in which the annual income of all household members together does 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:~~

~~RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014:~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April – September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.23 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.31 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October – March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.23 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.31 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~6.43 cents per meter per day~~

~~**RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.34 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.90 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.34 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.90 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~5.80 cents per meter per day~~))

RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016:

Energy Charges:

Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)

First 10 kWh per day at 2.46 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.14 cents per kWh

Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)

First 16 kWh per day at 2.46 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.14 cents per kWh

Base Service Charge:

5.93 cents per meter per day

4. Schedules REH (Residential Elderly: Shoreline) and RLH (Residential Low-Income: Shoreline)

((~~Schedules REH and RLH are available for separately metered residential service provided to Shoreline customers who show satisfactory proof that they have a City Light residential account and reside in the dwelling unit where the account is billed and that they:~~

~~1. For Schedule RLH, receive Supplemental Security Income pursuant to 42 USC Sections 1381 – 1383; or~~

~~2. For Schedules RLH and REH, reside in a household in which the annual income of all household members together does 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.~~

~~**RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April – September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.32 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.49 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October – March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.32 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.49 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~6.43 cents per meter per day~~

~~North City Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.03 cents per kWh~~

~~Aurora 1 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.07 cents per kWh~~

~~Aurora 2 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.07 cents per kWh~~

~~RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015:~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.49 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 5.00 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.49 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 5.00 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~5.80 cents per meter per day~~

~~North City Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.03 cents per kWh~~

~~Aurora 1 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.07 cents per kWh~~

~~Aurora 2 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.07 cents per kWh~~

~~**RATES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2015:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.49 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 5.00 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.49 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 5.00 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~5.80 cents per meter per day~~

~~North City Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.03 cents per kWh~~

~~Aurora 1 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.07 cents per kWh~~

~~Aurora 2 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.07 cents per kWh~~

~~Aurora 3A Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.02 cents per kWh~~))

RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016:

Energy Charges:

Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)

First 10 kWh per day at 2.62 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.25 cents per kWh

Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)

First 16 kWh per day at 2.62 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.25 cents per kWh

Base Service Charge:

5.93 cents per meter per day

North City Undergrounding Charge:

All kWh at 0.03 cents per kWh

Aurora 1 Undergrounding Charge:

All kWh at 0.07 cents per kWh

Aurora 2 Undergrounding Charge:

All kWh at 0.07 cents per kWh

Aurora 3A Undergrounding Charge:

All kWh at 0.02 cents per kWh

5. Schedules REB (Residential Elderly: Burien) and RLB (Residential Low-Income: Burien)

((~~Schedules REB and RLB are available for separately metered residential service provided to Burien customers who show satisfactory proof that they have a City Light residential account and reside in the dwelling unit where the account is billed and that they:~~

~~1. For Schedule RLB, receive Supplemental Security Income pursuant to 42 USC Sections 1381 — 1383; or~~

~~2. For Schedule RLB and REB, reside in a household in which the annual income of all household members together does 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.~~

~~RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014:~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April – September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.23 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.31 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October – March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.23 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.31 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~6.43 cents per meter per day~~

~~First Avenue South 1 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.15 cents per kWh~~

~~First Avenue South 2 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.05 cents per kWh~~

~~RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015:~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April – September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.34 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.90 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October – March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.34 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.90 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~5.80 cents per meter per day~~

~~First Avenue South 1 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.15 cents per kWh~~

~~First Avenue South 2 Undergrounding Charge:~~

~~All kWh at 0.05 cents per kWh~~))

RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016:

Energy Charges:

Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)

First 10 kWh per day at 2.46 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.14 cents per kWh

Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)

First 16 kWh per day at 2.46 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.14 cents per kWh

Base Service Charge:

5.93 cents per meter per day

First Avenue South 1 Undergrounding Charge:

All kWh at 0.15 cents per kWh

First Avenue South 2 Undergrounding Charge:

All kWh at 0.05 cents per kWh

6. Schedules REE (Residential Elderly: SeaTac) and RLE (Residential Low-Income: SeaTac)

((~~Schedules REE and RLE are available for separately metered residential service provided to SeaTac customers who show satisfactory proof that they have a City Light residential account and reside in the dwelling unit where the account is billed and that they:~~

~~1. For Schedule RLE, receive Supplemental Security Income pursuant to 42 USC Sections 1381 – 1383; or~~

~~2. For Schedules RLE and REE, reside in a household in which the annual income of all household members together does 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.~~

~~**RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April – September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.34 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.90 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October – March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.34 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.90 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~5.80 cents per meter per day~~))

RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016:

Energy Charges:

Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)

First 10 kWh per day at 2.62 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.25 cents per kWh

Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)

First 16 kWh per day at 2.62 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.25 cents per kWh

Base Service Charge:

5.93 cents per meter per day

7. Schedules REL (Residential Elderly: Lake Forest Park) and RLL (Residential Low-Income: Lake Forest Park)

((~~Schedules REL and RLL are available for separately metered residential service provided to Lake Forest Park customers who show satisfactory proof that they have a City Light residential account and reside in the dwelling unit where the account is billed and that they:~~

~~1. For Schedule RLL, receive Supplemental Security Income pursuant to 42 USC Sections 1381 — 1383; or~~

~~2. For Schedules RLL and REL, reside in a household in which the annual income of all household members together does 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.~~

~~**RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015:**~~

~~Energy Charges:~~

~~Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)~~

~~First 10 kWh per day at 2.34 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.90 cents per kWh~~

~~Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)~~

~~First 16 kWh per day at 2.34 cents per kWh~~

~~All additional kWh per day at 4.90 cents per kWh~~

~~Base Service Charge:~~

~~5.80 cents per meter per day~~))

RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016:

Energy Charges:

Summer Billing Cycles (April — September)

First 10 kWh per day at 2.46 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.14 cents per kWh

Winter Billing Cycles (October — March)

First 16 kWh per day at 2.46 cents per kWh

All additional kWh per day at 5.14 cents per kWh

Base Service Charge:

5.93 cents per meter per day

((~~B.~~)) C. Applicants for all Schedules REC, RLC, RET, RLT, RES, RLS, REH, RLH, REB, RLB, REE, RLE, REL, and RLL shall ((~~verify~~)) provide the information upon forms and in the manner required by the program rules to certify their eligibility for residential rate

assistance ((~~and shall provide such other data as is deemed appropriate upon forms and in the manner determined by the City's Human Services Department as directed by City Light~~)) . Customer eligibility ((~~to enter~~)) for the program may also be established from ((~~data~~)) eligibility information provided by ((~~affordable housing~~)) low-income service providers receiving federal, state, or local funding and subject to annual compliance monitoring by the granting authority, if the providers have entered into agreements with the City ((~~Light~~)) regarding the provision and use of the eligibility information. Such agreements do not limit the City's right to ((~~confirm the~~)) request additional information ((~~provided with~~)) from the customer or to verify the customer's eligibility information.

((~~C.~~)) D. Schedules REC, RLC, RET, RLT, RES, RLS, REH, RLH, REB, RLB, REE, RLE, REL, and RLL and any other form of residential rate assistance established by the Department are not available to those otherwise eligible persons who own their dwelling unit and who use electric heat as defined in Section 21.52.210 but who have not completed or who are not in the process of completing the energy conservation measures required for participation in the Comprehensive Residential Weatherization Program described in Section 21.52.260. Customers who own their own dwelling unit and who use electric heat have one year from the date of application for Schedules REC, RLC, RET, RLT, RES, RLS, REH, RLH, REB, RLB, REE, RLE, REL, and RLL to complete the energy conservation measures. Eligibility for residential rate assistance may be continued by the Department, however, if the Department determines that the customer's failure to complete the required energy conservation measures is the fault of the City in failing to furnish or properly administer the Low-income Electric Program set forth in Section 21.52.250.

((~~D. Schedules REC, RLC, RET, RLT, RES, RLS, REH, RLH, REB, RLB, REE, RLE, REL, and RLL shall not apply to any subsidized unit operated by the Seattle Housing Authority, the Housing Authority of the County of King, or the federal government where utility allowances are provided.~~))

E. Normal residential service under Schedules REC, RLC, RET, RLT, RES, RLS, REH, RLH, REB, RLB, REE, RLE, REL, and RLL shall be limited to single-phase.

((~~F. If Schedules REC, RLC, RET, RLT, RES, RLS, REH, RLH, REB, RLB, REE, RLE, REL, and RLL are applied to transient occupancy in separately metered living units, billing shall be in the name of the owner on a continuous basis.~~

~~G.~~)) F. Duplexes using a single meter prior to October 13, 1978, shall be considered as a single residence for the purpose of applying Schedules REC, RLC, RET, RLT, RES, RLS, REH, RLH, REB, RLB, REE, RLE, RLL, and REL. For a new duplex or a larger service to an existing duplex, each residence shall be separately metered.

((~~H.~~)) G. All electric service provided for domestic uses to a single residential account, including electrically heated swimming pools, shall have all consumption of electricity added together for billing on Schedules REC, RLC, RET, RLT, RES, RLS, REH, RLH, REB, RLB, REE, RLE, REL, and RLL.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect August 1, 2016.

Passed by the City Council the 31st day of MAY, 2016, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 31st day of MAY, 2016.

Bruce A. Harrell

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this 10th day of JUNE, 2016.

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this 10th day of JUNE, 2016.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

[For Ordinance 125051 / CB 118690]

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
City Light	Kelly Enright 684-3111	Greg Shiring 386-4085

** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; amending Section 21.49.040 of the Seattle Municipal Code to remove an exception from eligibility to the Utility Discount Program for tenants of federally subsidized housing with utility allowances and to update and modify certain program provisions.

Summary and background of the Legislation: In early 2014 Mayor Murray assembled an Interdepartmental team involving Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities and Human Services Department. The team was tasked with developing strategies for doubling enrollment in the Utility Discount Program (UDP) by the end of 2018. One strategy given careful consideration has been a long standing issue for the UDP. Customers in subsidized housing operated by Seattle Housing (SHA) or King County Housing (KCH) Authorities where utility allowances are provided are expressly ineligible to participate in the UDP under SMC 21.49.040.

As a result, many potential income-eligible participants have been denied the support of the UDP and often find themselves facing disconnection and seeking assistance through other programs such as Low Income Heating Assistance Program, Emergency Low Income Assistance Program, Project Share, etc. In fact they make up over 50% of those who are awarded help. This can be costly, stressful and over burdensome for a customer struggling with their utility bill.

The rationale for this long-standing exclusion appears to have been a concern that if the UDP is made available to tenants of these federally subsidized programs with utility allowances, the housing authorities themselves would benefit from the UDP participation instead of the low-income utility customers, i.e. the tenant's utility bill would go down with the discount, which would cause their rent to go up based on SHA's rent policies. The Interdepartmental team, in cooperation with SHA, reviewed current and relevant federal and SHA local policies and confirmed that tenants of SHA Programs would benefit from participation in the UDP and their participation would not cause an increase in the rent they would be required to pay to the SHA Program landlord.
Federally subsidized housing that provide utility allowances is the second largest reason why UDP applicants are denied participation in the UDP, yet many of the housing programs offered by either SHA or KCH have income guidelines that are even more stringent than those of the UDP.

Projections indicate that in 2016 approximately 10,300 SHA households would be eligible to receive the benefit of the current discount rates for City Light service. City Light revenues already account for a portion of these increased enrollments. This fiscal note identifies the

revenue impacts for the 8,700 increment of increased enrollments over what have been previously budgeted.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

____ This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

__X__ This legislation has direct financial implications.

Budget program(s) affected:				
Estimated $ Appropriation change:	General Fund $		Other $	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Estimated $ Revenue change:	Revenue to General Fund		Revenue to Other Funds	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
		-$144,000		-$2.4M
Positions affected:	No. of Positions		Total FTE Change	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Other departments affected:				

3.a. Appropriations

____ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

X_ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2015 Revenue	2016 Estimated Revenue
Light Fund (41000)	City Light	Retail rate revenue		-$2.4M
General Fund		**Tax Revenue**		**-$144,000**
TOTAL				**-$2.4M**

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:
Until rates are adjusted, there is concern that the fiscal effect of increasing enrollments of UDP may result in possible risk of ability to meeting financial plan targets. The Utility will take steps to monitor and manage this risk in a manner consistent with current practices including continuing to implement efficiencies in operating and capital projects budgets.

3.c. Positions

___ **This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.**

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a) Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?
The UDP is already factored into City Light's 2016 rates at an enrollment of approximately 17,500. City Light's operating budget has been adjusted to account for the increased enrollment. For 2016, with a larger than anticipated enrollment, we anticipate a revenue shortfall of $2,400,000. For 2017, the effects of this legislation (i.e. more UDP participants) is not likely to result in an overall rate increase, but its impact on rates is an approximately 0.5% increase. Until rates are adjusted, there is concern that the fiscal effect of increasing enrollments of UDP may result in possible risk of ability to meeting financial plan targets. City Light will take steps to monitor and manage this risk in a manner consistent with current practices including continuing to implement efficiencies in operating and capital projects budgets.

b) Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?
No.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?
HSD who will need to assist in the auditing of the auto enrollment. SPU will need to do legislation as well to allow for this opportunity with Seattle Housing Authority and King County Housing Authority to occur. This effort was worked through the inter-departmental team focused on strengthening the Utility Discount program and has been fully vetted with each impacted department.

d) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?
No.

e) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?
No.

f) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?
No.

g) Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?
This effort will directly help vulnerable or historically disadvantaged low-income communities. Those who have faced barriers with participation can now be auto enrolled.

h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.
This effort will allow us to reach the target of enrolling 28,000 customers in the Utility Discount Program 18 months ahead of schedule.

i) Other Issues:

List attachments/exhibits below: