

RESOLUTION NO. 2978

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FINANCIAL RELIEF PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN HOMEOWNERS TO ASSIST WITH PAYMENT OF THE CITY'S STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

WHEREAS, the City Council has adopted an ordinance authorizing the imposition of a stormwater utility fee, in order to provide a source of revenue for the City's stormwater management enterprise fund; and

WHEREAS, in order to fairly distribute responsibility for protection of water resources among properties that contribute to stormwater runoff, the stormwater utility fee is to be calculated based on the amount of impervious area present on a developed property, including residential property; nevertheless, City Council recognizes that for certain residential homeowners, payment of the utility fee may present a special financial hardship; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code § 63.2-314, City Council is authorized to make public grants to the City's local board of social services for the purpose of aiding needy persons, and City Council desires to make such public grants for the purpose of aiding persons in need of assistance with payment of the stormwater utility fee (Stormwater Utility Relief), namely:

- i) those persons certified by the Department of Finance as qualified for the City's Real Estate Tax Relief program for the Elderly and Disabled based income and assets means criteria, and
- ii) those persons certified by the Department of Finance as being totally and permanently disabled veterans pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-3219.5 who by virtue of their disability are unable to participate in gainful employment and/or their surviving spouses, and
- iii) those persons certified by the Department of Finance pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-3219.9 as being a qualified surviving spouse of any veteran Killed in Action; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires for staff to proceed with disbursement of the Stormwater Utility Relief funding, in accordance with criteria intended to offer assistance to the homeowners referenced above who City Council believes may be particularly vulnerable to additional fees and costs related to home ownership;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

- 1) The Stormwater Utility Relief funding shall be deposited in the City's treasury to the credit of the City's Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), and shall be dispensed by DCHS to the Department of Finance as grant funding on behalf of the needy homeowners referenced herein to pay their stormwater utility fee, as authorized by this Resolution; and
- 2) The Department of Finance shall be responsible for administration of the Stormwater Utility Relief Program within the parameters established by this Resolution; in doing so, the Department of Finance shall be deemed to be performing activities directly connected with the administration of a public assistance grant program, on behalf of and in conjunction with the DCHS; and
- 3) The Director of Social Services, acting pursuant to Virginia Code § 63.2-304 as the City's local board, shall not be required to participate in the day to day administration of the Stormwater Utility Relief Program, but shall have the right and authority to inspect records pertaining to the administration and disbursement of grant funds under the Program, and to receive such information and records as the Director of Social Services deems necessary to verify that the Program funds have been and are being administered and disbursed in accordance with the parameters established by this Resolution; and
- 4) The Director of Finance and the Director of Social Services shall have the authority to

coordinate and establish policies, procedures, protocols and record-keeping requirements as they collectively deem necessary for the administration and accounting of the Stormwater Utility Relief Program, consistent with the confidentiality requirements applicable to the performance of their respective duties.

Adopted: February 23, 2021



JUSTIN M. WILSON
Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk