



CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Commission

DATE: November 18, 2025

SUBJECT: Discussion and direction regarding Temporary Abatement of Water Utility Bills for Federal Government Employees affected by the Government Shutdown. –
Commissioner Mallozzi

RECOMMENDATION:

Commissioner Mallozzi recommends that the City Commission discuss and give direction on temporarily suspending water utility bill payments for residents currently employed by the federal government and affected by the ongoing government shutdown, and to allow installment payment arrangements after the shutdown ends, if needed.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

During the federal government shutdown, some government employees might face unpaid work or delayed pay. As a result, residents could struggle to pay their monthly water bills on time. In past shutdowns, local governments have often implemented temporary relief measures to keep essential services running and support affected households.

This item is being brought forward for Commission discussion and direction regarding whether the City wishes to temporarily suspend utility water bill collections for verified federal government employees who reside within the City during the shutdown.

ANALYSIS:

Under the proposed relief approach, qualifying residents who are federal government employees affected by the shutdown would not be required to make water utility payments until the shutdown ends. Water service would remain uninterrupted during the relief period.

Once the shutdown ends and federal employees start receiving pay again, eligible account holders will be allowed to pay any outstanding balance in installments according to a mutually agreed-upon payment schedule through the Utility Billing Division. This method helps ensure continuous essential water service while providing reasonable flexibility to households facing hardship through no fault of their own.

To administer the program, affected residents would need to submit documentation proving federal government status and verification that they are currently unpaid due to the shutdown.