

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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## STAFF

Nina Bodenhamer, City Give Director

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## SUBJECT

**First Reading of Ordinance No. 055, 2025, Appropriating Prior Year Reserves Received Through City Give for the Payment Assistance Fund as Designated by the Donors.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to request an appropriation of \$443,600 in philanthropic revenue received through City Give. These gifts to the Utilities Payment Program account (the “Payment Assistance Fund”) established in Section 26-722 of the Code, align with both the City’s strategic priorities and the respective donors’ designation.

In 2019, City Give, a formalized enterprise-wide initiative was launched to create a transparent, non-partisan governance structure for the acceptance and appropriations of charitable gifts.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The City has long been the beneficiary of local generosity and has a valuable role in our community’s philanthropic landscape. Generosity is demonstrated in both large and modest gifts, each appreciated for its investment in the mission and the range of services the City strives to deliver.

Both Section 2.5 of the City’s Financial Management Policy 2 – Revenue, as approved by Council, and the Administrative Philanthropic Governance Policy 6.04, adopted by the City Manager, (together the “City Give Policies”), provide the bases and processes for the responsible and efficient management of charitable donations to the City.

Over the past five years, donations to the Payment Assistance Fund have exceeded the distributions to community partners through the City’s partnership with Energy Outreach Colorado. Financial assistance is currently funded through two sources: unclaimed payments or deposits and charitable contributions. To utilize the accumulated funds effectively, the Utilities Affordability team has launched an additional program within the Payment Assistance Fund for residents to receive utility support, the Utilities Emergency Fund (UEF) program. The UEF program opened on January 1, 2025, and as of February 13, approximately \$86,000 has been distributed to 292 applicants.

Utilities Affordability Fund program staff monitor amounts appropriated for the program and plan to engage City Give when additional donations are needed to request additional expenditure authority in order to maintain utility support for qualified residents.

This item requests an appropriation of \$443,600 designated for the Payment Assistance Fund received through City Give in prior fiscal years. The donors directed the City to use these generous donations for designated purposes within and to benefit City service areas and programs.

**CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

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Upon adoption, this Ordinance will appropriate in the current fiscal year into the Light and Power Fund philanthropic revenue received through City Give in the amount of \$443,600 and authorize expenditures against those revenues for the purposes of the Utilities Emergency Fund program within the Payment Assistance Fund. These revenues have been received and accepted per the City Give Policies.

The City Manager has also determined that these appropriations are available and previously unappropriated from their designated Light and Power Fund and will not cause the total amount appropriated in the Light and Power Fund to exceed the current estimate of actual and anticipated revenues during fiscal year 2025.

**BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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None.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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None.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Ordinance for Consideration