

Excerpt from **Unapproved DRAFT** MINUTES WATER COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

October 20, 2022, 5:30 p.m.

1. **Income-Qualified Assistance Program Feedback**

Shannon Ash, Affordability Programs Manager, and Heather Young, Community Engagement Manager, presented on the Income-Qualified Assistance Program that aims to serve the community with a reduced rate program and education opportunities for low-income customers and to seek approval to bring it to Council.

Discussion Highlights

A Commissioner commented that in a past presentation, they had been led to believe that it would be nearly impossible to reach 2,000 participants, but it seems to be projected to exceed that number by 2023. The Commissioner added that the cost to run this program for Utilities is much higher than the \$415,000 figure presented, as it also includes staff effort and salaries. A Commissioner inquired about the qualifications, to which Ms. Young clarified that customers were auto-enrolled through the Colorado Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), a state-funded program. Ms. Ash clarified for a Commissioner that unclaimed funds are added to the payment assistance fund.

Commissioner Steed moved that the Water Commission recommend City Council approve to support the Income-Qualified Assistance Program becoming an adopted Utility program.

Commissioner Tarry seconded the motion.

Vote on the Motion: it passed, 5-1

Commissioner Primsky opposed the motion as the program may continue to encourage people to be dependent on government programs and not be resourceful in other ways. He also opposed as there was no real detailed application that was specific to the program itself. He would like to add that there should be a robust review process, as ratepayers should not support participants who may practice irresponsible spending, especially by looking at the projected spending for the program.