



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	November 14, 2024
Originating Department	Finance Department
Contact Person	Lindsey Vaughn, Finance Director
Title	Resolution 24-1989/Authorizing the Mayor to implement a Low-Income Discount Program for sanitary sewer ratepayers OR to implement a Low-Income Discount Program for sanitary sewer ratepayers, and stormwater and surface water ratepayers

Prior History

- Council discussion - November 7, 2024, Special City Council Meeting

Legislative History

- First Presentation – November 14, 2024, Special City Council Meeting
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Attachments:

1. Resolution 24-1989, authorizing the Mayor to implement a Low-Income Discount Program for sanitary sewer ratepayers
2. Resolution 24-1989, authorizing the Mayor to implement a Low-Income Discount Program for sanitary sewer ratepayers, and stormwater and surface water ratepayers
3. Resolution 763
4. Resolution 1718

Executive Summary

During its November 7, 2024, special meeting the City Council discussed expanding the current discount program that applies to sanitary sewer customers that are either low-income seniors or low-income disabled persons. Two resolutions are provided for Council's consideration. The first expands the program to all low-income sanitary sewer ratepayers. The second, expands the program further to all lower income sanitary sewer rate payers, and all stormwater and surface water ratepayers.

Background

In January 2003, the City Council passed Resolution 763, which authorized the Mayor to implement a 50% Low-income Senior Citizen Discount program for sanitary sewer ratepayers. To be eligible for the program the ratepayer or spouse had to be 62 years old, and (1) have owned and resided at the property for at least one year prior to the date of application and/or renewal; (2) have received less than 50% of the local area median household gross annual income during the previous year, using the official annual income guidelines established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and (3) not reside in housing which is in any way considered to be Federally Subsidized Public Housing. In December 2018, the City Council passed Resolution 1718, which expanded the discount program to low-income persons with permanent disabilities recognized by the Social Security Administration.

Fiscal & Policy Implications

For stormwater and surface water services, the average Lake Forest Park household is charged \$25.96 per month, which is billed annually with property taxes (\$311.49 annually). With the utility tax increase being considered, this amount would increase to \$28.55 per month (\$342.64 annually).

Alternatives

<i>Options</i>	<i>Results</i>
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Staff Recommendation

Review the draft resolutions and provide the administration with any questions or requests for additional information. A resolution needs to be adopted at the November 21, 2024, Special City Council meeting if Council decides to expand the discount program.