

ORDINANCE O-4868

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSAL LOW-INCOME RELIEF PROGRAM, CREATING A NEW CHAPTER OF THE KIRKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO CODIFY THE UNIVERSAL LOW-INCOME RELIEF PROGRAM, AND REPEALING VARIOUS CODE PROVISIONS WITH MORE LIMITED LOW-INCOME RELIEF PROGRAMS.

1           WHEREAS, the Washington State Constitution, Article VII,  
2 Section 7, permits “support of the poor and infirm” by local governments;  
3 and  
4

5           WHEREAS, since 1989, the City has operated a utility discount  
6 program that is open to low-income, single-family residential customers  
7 who are 62 years or older, blind, disabled, or on home kidney dialysis,  
8 but the program requires the person to be the bill holder, which prevents  
9 many residents who rent their residence from benefiting from the  
10 program; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that low-income  
13 residents in particular are impacted by inflation, rising utility rates, and  
14 other increasing costs of living in the city, and further recognizes that an  
15 individual working at minimum wage currently needs to work 120 hours  
16 a week to afford a one-bedroom apartment on the Eastside; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, the City Council wants to continue its efforts to  
19 support low-income residents who call Kirkland home and, to that end,  
20 desires to create a universal low-income relief program that discounts,  
21 reduces, or provides rebates for City utilities rates and from various City  
22 fees ensuring safeguards are in place to support a diverse and equitable  
23 community; and  
24

25           WHEREAS, the City Council desires to have this new universal  
26 low-income relief program accessible for those who are eligible  
27 regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, marital status, education,  
28 employment, housing type, or disability status.  
29

30           NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Kirkland do  
31 ordain as follows:  
32

33           Section 1. The City Council hereby establishes a universal low-  
34 income relief program for those rates and fees charged and imposed  
35 beginning January 1, 2024. A new chapter, entitled “Low-Income Relief  
36 Program,” shall be codified and added to Title 5 of the Kirkland Municipal  
37 Code (KMC) as chapter 5.90.  
38

39           Section 2. A new section shall be added to chapter 5.90 KMC,  
40 to be codified as KMC 5.90.010, to read as follows:  
41

42 **5.90.010 Kirkland Universal Low-Income Relief Program**

43

44 The purpose of the City of Kirkland Universal Low-Income Relief  
45 Program is to promote more affordable living in the city and create a  
46 more equitable community through reductions of or rebates for certain  
47 City fees and charges.

48

49 Section 3. A new section shall be added to chapter 5.90 KMC,  
50 to be codified as KMC 5.90.020, to read as follows:

51

52 **5.90.020 Definitions**

53

54 For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

55

56 "Director" means the Director of the Finance and Administration  
57 Department.

58

59 "Low-income household" means one or more adults and their  
60 dependents whose gross income does not exceed 80 percent of the  
61 median household income for King County, adjusted for household size.

62

63 "Low-income resident" means a person residing within the city of  
64 Kirkland whose gross income does not exceed 80 percent of the median  
65 household income for King County.

66

67 Section 4. A new section shall be added to chapter 5.90 KMC,  
68 to be codified as KMC 5.90.030, to read as follows:

69

70 **5.90.030 Administration.**

71

72 (a) The finance and administration department shall be responsible for  
73 implementing this chapter and the universal low-income relief  
74 program.

75

76 (b) The Director shall have the authority to issue such rules and  
77 administrative procedures as may be necessary to implement this  
chapter.

78

79 Section 5. A new section shall be added to chapter 5.90 KMC,  
80 to be codified as KMC 5.90.040, to read as follows:

81

82 **5.90.040 Qualification.**

83

84 (a) All applications for participation in any low-income relief program or  
85 claims for rebate under this chapter shall be submitted on a form  
86 approved by the Director and accompanied by that documentation  
87 required by the Director to establish eligibility. Applications or  
88 claims for rebate under this chapter must include a certification by  
89 the applicant or claimant that, under the penalty of perjury, all  
information provided in the application or claim is true and correct.

90 (b) The Director may require the applicant or claimant to provide those  
 91 documents the Director deems necessary to establish proper proof  
 92 of income level, which may include but not be limited to copies of  
 93 their federal income tax return for the previous year, Social  
 94 Security benefits statement or award letter, or similar  
 95 documentation.

96 (c) The city, in its discretion, may require any applicant or claimant  
 97 paying a discounted rate or receiving a rebate under this chapter to  
 98 produce updated proof of qualification at any time during the period  
 99 of qualification.

100 (d) A qualified low-income household paying a discounted low-income  
 101 relief rate or a qualified low-income resident receiving a low-  
 102 income relief rebate must promptly notify the City if the applicant or  
 103 claimant no longer meets the criteria for receiving the qualified low-  
 104 income discount rate or rebate.

105  
 106 Section 6. A new section shall be added to chapter 5.90 KMC,  
 107 to be codified as KMC 5.90.050, to read as follows:

108  
 109 **5.90.050 Discounted utility rates and fees.**

110  
 111 (a) Qualified low-income households residing in a single-family  
 112 residential unit that are directly billed by the City as a customer will  
 113 be charged the following water, sewer, and garage rates user  
 114 rates:

115 (1) Water. Fifty percent of the basic charge (includes two  
 116 hundred cubic feet of water consumed) as set forth in  
 117 Table 15.24.020, and the full amount of the water  
 118 consumption charge as set forth in Table 15.24.024 of  
 119 the Kirkland Municipal Code.

120 (2) Sewer. Seventy-five percent of the single-family  
 121 residential rate set forth in Table 15.24.070 of the  
 122 Kirkland Municipal Code.

123 (3) Solid Waste. Sixty percent of the rate set forth in  
 124 KMC 16.12.030(1)(A).

125 (b) Qualified low-income households residing in a multi-family  
 126 residential unit with utility costs itemized in their rental agreement  
 127 or rental bill are eligible to receive a rebate for applicable City-  
 128 owned utilities based on the utility payment amounts specified in  
 129 their rental agreement or bill.

130 (c) Qualified low-income households residing in a multi-family  
 131 residential unit with utility costs included in the rental amount are

132 eligible to receive a rebate for applicable City-owned utilities based  
 133 on the residential unit size in accordance with the following table:

	<b>Monthly Rebate (in dollars)</b>		
<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sewer</b>	<b>Garbage</b>
Studio	9	9	10
1 Bedroom	10	10	10
2 Bedroom	12	12	10
3+ Bedroom	14	14	10

139 (d) All claims for rebate under this section must be submitted within six  
 140 months following the month for which the rebate is requested. A  
 141 qualified low-income household may submit multiple rebate  
 142 requests together.

143  
 144 Section 7. A new section shall be added to chapter 5.90 KMC,  
 145 to be codified as KMC 5.90.060, to read as follows:

146  
 147 **5.90.060 Discounted pet license rates and fees.**

148 (a) The pet license fee established by KMC 8.09.130 charged to a  
 149 qualified low-income resident for an altered pet shall be discounted  
 150 by the full cost of the license.

151 (b) The pet license fee established by KMC 8.09.130 charged to a  
 152 qualified low-income resident for an unaltered pet shall be  
 153 discounted up to the cost of an altered pet license fee.

154 (c) The transfer license fee established by KMC 8.09.130 charged to a  
 155 qualified low-income resident shall be discounted up to the cost of  
 156 an altered pet license fee.

157  
 158 Section 8. A new section shall be added to chapter 5.90 KMC,  
 159 to be codified as KMC 5.90.070, to read as follows:

160  
 161 **5.90.070 Vehicle fee rebate.**

162  
 163 (a) A qualified low-income resident may request a fixed amount rebate  
 164 of the city-imposed vehicle fee established by Ordinance O-4834,  
 165 or a successor ordinance under chapter 19.22 KMC, by submitting  
 166 an application at the specified time and must have personally paid  
 167 the city-imposed vehicle fee.

168  
 169 (b) The fixed amount rebate shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00)

170  
 171 (c) All claims for rebate must be filed within the vehicle license period  
 172 for which the rebate is requested.

173

174 (d) Such rebates will not be paid from any funds that would be in  
175 violation of chapter 82.80 RCW.

176  
177 Section 9. A new section shall be added to chapter 5.90 KMC,  
178 to be codified as KMC 5.90.080, to read as follows:  
179

180 **5.90.080 Discounted business license rates and fees.**

181  
182 The basic license fee for the annual business license issued under  
183 chapter 7.02 KMC to be charged to a qualified low-income resident  
184 shall be fifty percent of the basic license fee established by KMC  
185 7.02.120. No discount shall be applied to the applicable revenue  
186 generating regulatory license fee.

187  
188 Section 10. KMC 15.24.100, and the corresponding portions of  
189 Ordinance O-3766 § 5 (2000) and its predecessors, is hereby repealed.  
190

191 Section 11. KMC 16.12.025, and the corresponding portions of  
192 Ordinance O-3771 § 1 (2000) and its predecessors, is hereby repealed.  
193

194 Section 12. If any provision of this ordinance or its application  
195 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the  
196 ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or  
197 circumstances is not affected.  
198

199 Section 13. This ordinance shall be in force and effect on  
200 January 1, 2024, after its passage by the Kirkland City Council and  
201 publication, as required by law.  
202

203  
204 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open  
205 meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.  
206

207 Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of  
208 \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathi Anderson, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Raymond, City Attorney

PUBLICATION SUMMARY  
OF ORDINANCE NO. 4868

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND RELATING TO ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSAL LOW-INCOME RELIEF PROGRAM, CREATING A NEW CHAPTER OF THE KIRKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO CODIFY THE UNIVERSAL LOW-INCOME RELIEF PROGRAM, AND REPEALING VARIOUS CODE PROVISIONS WITH MORE LIMITED LOW-INCOME RELIEF PROGRAMS.

- 1           SECTION 1. Establishes a universal low-income relief  
2 program beginning January 1, 2024, adding a new Chapter 5.90 to the  
3 Kirkland Municipal Code (“KMC”).  
4
- 5           SECTION 2. Adds a new KMC Section 5.90.010 entitled  
6 “Kirkland Universal Low-Income Relief Program.”  
7
- 8           SECTION 3. Adds a new KMC Section 5.90.020 related to  
9 definitions for the Chapter.  
10
- 11          SECTION 4. Adds a new KMC Section 5.90.030 related to the  
12 administration of the program.  
13
- 14          SECTION 5. Adds a new KMC Section 5.90.040 related to  
15 qualifications for the program.  
16
- 17          SECTION 6. Adds a new KMC Section 5.90.050 related to the  
18 discounted utility rates and fees.  
19
- 20          SECTION 7. Adds a new KMC Section 5.90.060 related to the  
21 discounted pet license rates and fees.  
22
- 23          SECTION 8. Adds a new KMC Section 5.90.070 related to a  
24 vehicle fee rebate.  
25
- 26          SECTION 9. Adds a new KMC Section 5.90.080 related to  
27 discounted business license rates and fees.  
28
- 29          SECTION 10. Repeals KMC Section 15.24.100.  
30
- 31          SECTION 11. Repeals KMC Section 16.12.025.  
32
- 33          SECTION 12. Provides a severability clause for the ordinance.  
34
- 35          SECTION 13. Authorizes publication of the ordinance by  
36 summary, which summary is approved by the City Council pursuant to  
37 Section 1.08.017 Kirkland Municipal Code and establishes the effective  
38 date as five days after publication of summary.  
39
- 40          The full text of this Ordinance will be mailed without charge to  
41 any person upon request made to the City Clerk for the City of Kirkland.  
42 The Ordinance was passed by the Kirkland City Council at its meeting  
43 on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

44  
45  
46  
47

I certify that the foregoing is a summary of Ordinance  
\_\_\_\_\_ approved by the Kirkland City Council for summary  
publication.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathi Anderson, City Clerk