

Motion


With the recent increases that residents are seeing to their Southern California Gas utility bills, especially in this past month, and with the unusually cold weather we are experiencing, the City needs to respond with a program to provide relief to help those residents, including low-income as well as middle income residents who may need help in meeting the rising gas utility costs. The City recently created a Climate Equity Fund specifically for this purpose, utilizing funds from the Southern California Gas Company franchise: for mitigation measures in neighborhoods or populations that suffer disproportionately from climate impacts.

While the City already has the CARE program that offers relief to very low income residents, we need to create a gas utility assistance program to address the needs of not only low-income populations but also middle income households which often are left out of current assistance programs even though their need for help is also great.

Providing gas bill relief is necessary as it will help to alleviate the financial burden that has been created by the sudden and unexpected increase to individuals and households' SoCal gas bills. Financial relief not only helps to maintain quality of life, but also promotes stability and equality within the community by reducing financial stress and increasing access to essential services such as heating and cooking.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst and the Department of Public Works be directed to report with recommendations for the creation and operation of an assistance program to provide financial relief to low-income as well as middle income residents who may need help in meeting the rising SoCal Gas utility costs.

PRESENTED BY _____


JOHN S. LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY _____



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