

ORDINANCE NO. 199-2022

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING IMPLEMENTATION BY COMPANION RESOLUTION CREATION AND INITIATION OF PROJECT RESTOR; PROVIDING OPERATING PARAMETERS WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT RESTOR; TO AUTHORIZE ORGANIZATION OF OFFICES, DIVISIONS, DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS OF THE CITY TO ADDRESS IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT RESTOR; TO MAKE REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL RELATIVE TO PROJECT RESTOR; TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMORTIZATION, ALLOCATION, ASSISTANCE, ACCEPTANCE OF GRANTS AND DONATIONS, AND APPLICATIONS FOR MATCHING FUNDS, GRANTS AND DONATIONS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO IMPLEMENT PROJECT RESTOR; TO BUDGET WITH RESPECT TO PROJECT RESTOR; AND TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS WITH RESPECT THERETO.

SECTION I: BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Alexandria, Louisiana, in legal session convened, that the Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to implement PROJECT RESTOR as promulgated by Resolution #0340-2022, subject to the following declared Purpose, Eligibility Criteria, Application Process and related matters ordained herein and conditions as the Mayor in his discretion deems reasonable and necessary.

PURPOSE: The goal of RESTOR is to offer immediate and meaningful relief to low, medium, and fixed income customers negatively impacted by circumstances far beyond their control. RESTOR builds a public-private partnership to create a relief fund of up to \$3.5 million with a targeted impact of 3,500 low, medium, or fixed income households. At the same time, RESTOR would offer the opportunity for meaningful, long-term change by providing project participants with additional voluntary support services such as budgeting education, energy efficiency instruction, and weatherization guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

RESTOR's eligibility criteria are modeled after the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Household income and size will determine each individual applicant's eligibility and benefit amount. The full eligibility criteria are detailed below:

# Household Members	Annual Household Income	Monthly Household Income	Maximum Grant Amount
1	\$39,060	\$3,255	\$469
2	\$51,080	\$4,257	\$613
3	\$63,098	\$5,258	\$757
4	\$75,117	\$6,260	\$901
5	\$87,135	\$7,261	\$1,046
6	\$92,543	\$7,712	\$1,111
7	\$94,647	\$7,887	\$1,136
8	\$96,751	\$8,063	\$1,161
9	\$98,854	\$8,238	\$1,186
10	\$100,957	\$8,413	\$1,211

APPLICATION PROCESS: Like LIHEAP applicants, RESTOR applicants will need to provide the following information to be considered:

- Utility Bills for Heating and Cooling no older than 30 days;
- All check stubs from the previous 30 days for all household employment (additional requirements for self-employment and no-employment will apply);
- Proof of unearned income (Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, Retirement, Pension Funds, Disability, Rental Income, Regular Contributions, etc.);
- Proof of present address (rent receipt, lease or deed, etc.);
- Government-issued photo ID of the applicant and their Social Security card;
- Proof of total members living in your household and their Social Security cards (exceptions may apply); and
- All applications would be timestamped and dated when received in complete form.

To facilitate timely access, RESTOR applications should be accepted at all City community centers on dates and times to be established by the Mayor and as well as online to accommodate those who may be homebound or avoiding large crowds due to ongoing health concerns.

SECTION II: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, etc. that a fund is established in the amount of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$250,000.00) Dollars to be appropriated from Finance, Utility Administration account #531110, and established in a line item for PROJECT RESTOR, under the direction of the Mayor and the offices,

divisions, departments and programs of the city under his direction to address implementation of PROJECT RESTOR and to include funding for IT services, meter performance audits, professional services for automated meter infrastructure and other related PROJECT RESTOR purposes in the opinion of the Mayor reasonable and necessary with such remaining funds for PROJECT RESTOR credits, all to assist needy, low income persons and other customers of the Alexandria Utility Services with utility services and the Mayor and the Director of Utilities are each authorized to implement PROJECT RESTOR with eligibility requirements, the application process as set out above and guidelines for assistance established by Resolution #0340-2022 and otherwise as the Mayor in his discretion deems reasonable and necessary.

SECTION III: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Mayor is authorized on behalf of the City to provide for the amortization, allocation, assistance, acceptance of grants and donations from private and public sources for funds for PROJECT RESTOR and otherwise for needy and low income and other residential utilities customers as the Mayor in his discretion believes reasonable and necessary.

SECTION IV: BE IT ORDAINED that PROJECT RESTOR is deemed remedial and for a public purpose, to assist the needy and low income and other residential utility services customers and the City Council declares the purposes are as outlined in Resolution #0340-2022 and for the benefit of the Alexandria Utility System ("AUS") and residential customers accounts and further the Mayor, and under his direction the City's Finance Director, would serve as the Project's monitor and final arbiter for any application or eligibility questions. If approved, the sums and credits awarded would be applied as a credit to the residential customer applicant's current City of Alexandria utility account. In no case will cash awards be paid. In the event Project applications and awards exceed the total Project budget, credits will be awarded in the order applications were timestamped and dated when received in complete form.

SECTION V: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Ordinance # 178-2016, insofar as the Policy and Process for *Rebates and Certification of Settlement Values* from the restricted fund balance authorized therein, is deemed concluded and the restricted funds so remaining in the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand (\$2,500,000.00) Dollars are earmarked for PROJECT RESTOR and such purposes as may be appropriated in this Ordinance and hereinafter by the City Council. The Mayor and City Attorney are authorized to file such legal action, including declaratory judgment proceeding as the Mayor may direct relative to available funds

for PROJECT RESTOR and the Alexandria Utility System (AUS) and as the Mayor otherwise believes reasonable and necessary.

SECTION VI: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the Mayor and the Director of Utilities are authorized and empowered to implement PROJECT RESTOR and otherwise consistent with PROJECT RESTOR enforce and mandate compliance with the Alexandria Code of Ordinances, Chapter 26, and otherwise, for collection of utility bills and charges for services, subject to PROJECT RESTOR for cutoffs, terminations and payment installment plans believed reasonable and necessary in the opinion of the Mayor, Director of Utilities and Director of Finance consistent with Resolution No. 0340-2022, this ordinance and such policy and procedures as the Mayor deems reasonable and necessary consistent herewith.

SECTION VII: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED the City Council hereby ordains consistent with PROJECT RESTOR, the AUS, by written notice to the City Council from the Director of Utilities, shall implement on a date certain for cut offs, implementation of late fees and a schedule for repayment plans under PROJECT RESTOR and otherwise the provisions for payment of utility bills in Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances, and otherwise provided in the Code of Ordinances, shall remain viable and enforceable thereafter. PROJECT RESTOR shall remain in force and effect until the end of repayment plans established thereunder or written notification from the AUS, Director of Utilities, to the City Council whichever occurs first.

SECTION VIII. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED if any provision of this Ordinance, or the application thereof, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision, item or application.

SECTION IX. FINALLY BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED this Ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor, or, if not signed or vetoed by the Mayor, upon expiration of the time for ordinances to become law without the signature by the Mayor.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on the 29th day of November, 2022.

NOTICE PUBLISHED ON THE 2nd day of December, 2022.

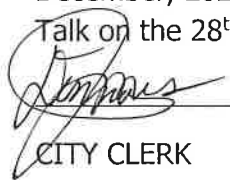
THIS to a final vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows:

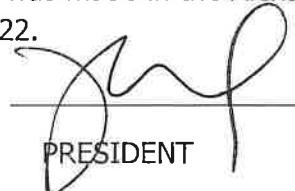
YEAS: Fowler, Washington, Johnson, Villard, Felter, Perry, Rubin.

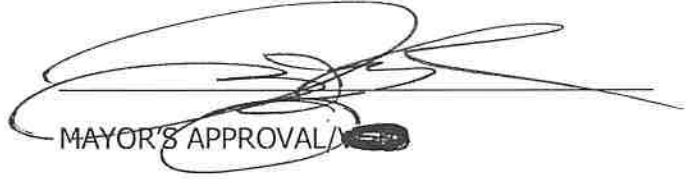
NAYS: None.

ABSENT: None.

AND THE ORDINANCE was declared adopted on this the 21st day of December, 2022 and final publication was made in the Alexandria Town Talk on the 28th day of December, 2022.


CITY CLERK


PRESIDENT


MAYOR'S APPROVAL

DELIVERED: DATE: 12/21/22 TIME: 4:50pm

RECEIVED: DATE: _____ TIME: _____

DELIVERED DEC 21 2022