

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

Ordinance amending the Bellevue City Code (BCC) Chapter 4.10 – Utility Tax Relief Program to align with City Code Chapter 24.10 – Utilities Service Charge Relief; aligning the Utility Rate Relief Program and the Utility Tax Relief Program.

Toni Call, Director, 452-7863

Jamie Robinson, Assistant Director, 452-6843

Troy Lucas, Tax Division Manager, 452-4358

*Finance and Asset Management Department*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Ordinance will amend BCC Chapter 4.10 to align with changes made to City Code Chapter 24.10 adopted by Council on January 7, 2019 to modify the Utility Rate Relief Program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6475

If approved, effective date: 09/26/2019

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS****Background**

Staff seeks to amend the Utility Occupation Tax Code to align the Utility Tax Relief (UTR) Program with the Utility Rate Relief (URR) Program.

The URR update was presented to Council on October 8, 2018 with code revisions to BCC Chapter 24.10 adopted on January 7, 2019 (ORD 6451). In reviewing the changes, staff became aware that BCC Chapter 4.10 regarding the companion UTR was not updated at the same time. This action will update BCC Chapter 4.10 to be in alignment with previous Council action.

The URR program provided within BCC Chapter 24 provides low-income seniors and persons with disabilities with a discount on utility service charges for direct-billing customers or a rebate for indirect-billing customers for utility service charges paid during the previous year. The UTC provides the companion discount for the utility occupation tax in the form of a rebate check from utility occupation taxes paid to the City during the previous year.

Updates to the UTR Program are recommended to ensure current Bellevue residents and customers of the Utilities Department are served by the two programs. The updates proposed in this memo align the language in BCC Chapter 4.10 to the language in BCC Chapter 24.10.

**Proposed Changes to City Code**

This Ordinance implements the following housekeeping updates to BCC Chapter 4.10:

This Ordinance mirrors the adopted language in BCC Chapter 24.10 to improve the application process for administrative efficiency, removes portions of the code that are outdated, aligns the definition of disposable income and updates customer eligibility requirement.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

State Law

Article VII Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Washington allows the gift of public funds for the support of the poor and infirm.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact anticipated from the adoption of this Ordinance.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Adopt the Ordinance amending the Bellevue City Code (BCC) Chapter 4.10 – Utility Tax Relief Program to align with City Code Chapter 24.10 – Utilities Service Charge Relief; aligning the Utility Rate Relief Program and the Utility Tax Relief Program.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

- A. Ordinance – Redlined
  - B. URR agenda memo January 7, 2019
  - C. URR Study Session Memo October 8, 2018
- Proposed Ordinance No. 6475

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A