

ORDINANCE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 11-12 of the Municipal Code of Chicago is hereby amended by adding a new Section 11-12-470, as follows:

11-12-470 Leak Relief Pilot Program.

(a) *Title.* This section shall be known and cited as the Leak Relief Pilot Program.

(b) *Purpose.* The Leak Relief Pilot Program is intended to address unexpected City water and sewer bills for customers whose properties experience underground water leaks on their metered water service line.

(c) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

"Basis period" means either the 12-month period before the leak started or the 6-month period after the leak was repaired. If these time periods are not representative of the average amount of water supplied to the property for which relief is sought, then the basis period will be timeframe determined by the Department of Finance after review of the account and any relevant documentation.

"Comptroller" means the Comptroller of the City of Chicago, or the Comptroller's designee.

"Eligible leak" means a leak on a property owner's water service line where:

(1) the water service line is controlled by a meter located outside of the property; and

(2) the leak is located on the water service line underground between the meter and the property; and

(3) the leak impacted the property owner's utility bill; and

(4) the Department of Water Management has confirmed the location of the leak; and

(5) the leak was repaired on or after January 1, 2023.

"Eligible leak period" means the period when the Eligible Leak impacted the property owner's utility bill as determined by the Department of Finance.

"LRP" means the Leak Relief Pilot Program created by this section.

"Participant" means a participant in the LRP.

"Property owner" means the owner of a single family, two-unit, or three-unit residence, or a commercial property with a water service line of 1 inch in size or less, located in the City of Chicago.

(d) *Eligibility.* A property owner may become a participant in the LRP if:

(1) the property owner applies to the Comptroller to become a participant; and

(2) the water service line serving the property has experienced an eligible leak; and

(3) a property owner has never been granted relief under the LRP for the property in question.

The Comptroller may require the property owner to provide all documents which may be reasonably needed to support a property owner's eligibility for the LRP as a part of the application for relief.

(e) *Determination of Relief.* After acceptance and enrollment in the LRP, the Department of Finance shall:

(1) review the billing history of the participant;

(2) review the history of water passing through the meter at the participant's property, and any other relevant information, to determine which service periods were likely impacted by the eligible leak;

(3) calculate the average amount of water passing through the meter during the basis period;

(4) provide a credit adjustment to reduce the amount of the charges for service during the eligible leak period to an estimated amount based on the average amount of water passing through the meter during the basis period. If the basis period average is higher than the eligible leak period average, then no adjustment shall be applied.

(f) *Rules.* The Comptroller is authorized to adopt such rules as the Comptroller may deem necessary for the proper implementation, administration, and enforcement of this section.

(g) *Property interest.* The LRP is created in the City's sole discretion, and participation in the program and any benefits that result from the program are not intended to create a property interest in any participant or in any individual eligible for the program.

(h) *Expiration.* This section shall expire and be repealed of its own accord, without further action by the City Council, on December 31, 2026.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on January 1, 2025.