



## Legislation Details

**File #:** 18-0307      **Version:** 0      **Name:** Water Accountability and Equity Act  
**Type:** Ordinance      **Status:** Enacted  
**File created:** 12/3/2018      **In control:** City Council  
**On agenda:**      **Final action:** 1/13/2020  
**Enactment date:**      **Enactment #:** 20-336

**Title:** Water Accountability and Equity Act  
For the purpose of increasing the availability or affordability of basic water and wastewater service to low-income consumers and assuring a fair process for all consumers before the City exercises its authority to cut off water services, impose liens, or take similar action; establishing for these purposes a Water-for-All Discount Program, an Office of Water-Customer Advocacy and Appeals, and a Committee for Office Oversight; establishing the eligibility requirements for the Water-for-All Discount Program and its grant of an annual billing credit, and providing for the credit's administration, computation, distribution, and recertification requirements and for the effect of midyear ineligibility, program arrears, and related matters; excepting recipients in the Water-for-All Discount Program from certain penalties imposed on certain delinquent service charges; providing for the operational independence of the Office of Water-Customer Advocacy and Appeals as a neutral intermediary authorized to conduct problem-solving investigations of water and wastewater billing and related disputes and authorized, subject to certain limitations and the right to seek administrative and judicial appeals, to implement solutions to those disputes; specifying the personnel of the Office of Water-Customer Advocacy and Appeals who are required to file financial disclosure statements under the City Ethics Code; providing for the Committee for Office Oversight's composition, officers, meetings, and oversight duties; providing that the non-payment of water and wastewater charges subject to a pending request for Office investigation, review, or appeal, or for judicial or appellate review, may not serve as cause for a service cut-off, the imposition of a lien against property, or a property's inclusion in certain tax sales; requiring certain notices before, and imposing certain restrictions and limitations on, service cut-offs for delinquency of payments; requiring that persons who have been issued a cut-off notice be offered the opportunity to enter into an installment payment agreement, subject to certain terms and conditions; reducing the interest rate applicable to redemptions from tax sale of properties designated by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation as the owner's principal residence; defining various terms; clarifying and conforming related provisions; and providing for special effective dates.

**Sponsors:** President Young, Bill Henry, Robert Stokes, Sr., Brandon M. Scott, Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Leon F. Pinkett, III, Zeke Cohen, Shannon Sneed, Sharon Green Middleton, John T. Bullock, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Mary Pat Clarke, Ryan Dorsey, Edward Reisinger

**Indexes:** Equity, Water Accountability

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:** 1. 18-0307~1st Reader, 2. Health 18-0307, 3. Finance 18-0307, 4. MOHS 18-0307, 5. DPW 18-0307, 6. Law 18-0307, 7. HCD 18-0307, 8. 2nd Reader Committee Amendments 18-0307, 9. 18-0307~3rd Reader - Enrolled, 10. 18-0307 Complete Bill File

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/27/2020	0	Mayor	Signed by Mayor	
11/18/2019	0	City Council	Approved and Sent to the Mayor	
11/4/2019	0	City Council	3rd Reader, Enrolled for Final Passage	
10/28/2019	0	City Council	3rd Reader, for final passage	
10/28/2019	0	Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee	Recommended Favorably with Amendment	

9/26/2019	0	Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee	Recommended Favorably with Amendment	Pass
8/19/2019	0	Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee	Worksession	
7/25/2019	0	Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee	Worksession	
6/17/2019	0	Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee	Worksession	
5/16/2019	0	Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee	Worksession	
4/15/2019	0	Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee	Scheduled for a Public Hearing	
12/6/2018	0	The City Council	Refer to Inspector General	
12/6/2018	0	The City Council	Refer to Dept. of Finance	
12/6/2018	0	The City Council	Refer to Dept. of Public Works	
12/6/2018	0	The City Council	Refer to Dept. of Health	
12/6/2018	0	The City Council	Refer to Mayor's Office of Human Services	
12/6/2018	0	The City Council	Refer to Dept. of Housing and Community Development	
12/6/2018	0	The City Council	Refer to City Solicitor	
12/3/2018	0	City Council	Assigned	
12/3/2018	0	City Council	Introduced	