

RESOLUTION

NO. R-20-380

CITY HALL: November 5, 2020

BY: COUNCILMEMBER MORENO

SECONDED BY:

**RESOLUTION AND ORDER EXTENDING THE CITY COUNCIL CARES ELECTRIC
AND GAS UTILITY BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Louisiana and the Home Rule Charter of the City of New Orleans (“Charter”), the Council of the City of New Orleans (“Council”) is the governmental body with the power of supervision, regulation and control over public utilities providing service within the City of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its powers of supervision, regulation and control over public utilities, the Council is responsible for fixing and changing rates and charges of public utilities and making all necessary rules and regulations to govern applications for the fixing and changing of rates and charges of public utilities; and

WHEREAS, Entergy New Orleans, LLC (“ENO”) is a public utility providing electric and natural gas service to all of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, ENO is a wholly owned operating company subsidiary of Entergy Corporation. The other four operating companies are Entergy Arkansas, LLC, Entergy Louisiana, LLC, Entergy Mississippi, LLC, and Entergy Texas, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, since March 2020, New Orleans has been dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic including unprecedented disruptions to economic activity and climbing unemployment rates; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that large numbers of ENO customers would not be able to pay their bills and faced loss of electric and gas service, the Council directed ENO to suspended service disconnects for non-payment until August 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2020, the Council approved Resolution R-20-146 establishing the City Council Cares program, which provides up to \$400 in bill assistance for unemployed ENO customers; and

WHEREAS, since the program's inception, more than 7,778 customers have been enrolled and there are still thousands of customers in need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that it is in the public interest to extend the City Council Cares program through the end of the year; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That City Council Cares Program will continue to accept applications until the earlier of (1) December 31, 2020, or (2) until the funds as described in Exhibit A to Council Resolution No. R-20-146 are fully allocated. An eligible customer who is approved for participation in the program may continue to have credits applied to their account after the program application period has terminated, subject to the monthly and total individual customer credits and the availability of funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That ENO is directed to do the following:

- A. Submit reports to CURO and the Advisors which detail the total number of applicants, the number of ratepayers receiving assistance, the total amount of funds expended by cost category, and the current balance of both the 2018 Off-System Sales Refund fund

and Original Storm Reserve Fund on November 16, December 7, December 31, and January 15, 2021.

- B. Within thirty (30) days after the last ratepayer credit resulting from the Program, ENO shall submit a Final Report to the Council detailing the results of the Program and a full accounting of how the funds were utilized, transferred, and accounted.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.