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ORDINANCE NO. 14-14

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA
REVISING CHAPTER 9 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE TO
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND
DISABLED CITIZENS ELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN INCOME
BASED UTILITY USERS TAX REFUNDS AND/OR SERVICES
DISCOUNTS.**

WHEREAS, Ordinance Number 03-13 was passed, approved and adopted by the Inglewood City Council on September 9, 2003, adding Article 9 to Chapter 9 of the Inglewood Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, that ordinance allowed senior citizens and disabled citizens to be eligible for certain utility users tax refunds and/or monthly service fee discounts if their gross annual income did not exceed sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000); and

WHEREAS, the gross annual income limit set in 2003 has not been increased to account for changes in cost of living or inflation for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens and disabled citizens who have low income are ineligible for the aforementioned refunds and/or discounts unless the gross annual income limit is increased;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Inglewood Municipal Code sections 9-88.0, 9-88.1, 9-88.2, 9-88.3, 9-88.4, 9-88.5, 9-88.6 and 9-88.7 are hereby deleted in their entirety and replaced as follows:

“Section 9-88. Utility Users Tax Refund for Low Income Senior Citizens.

The Utility Users Tax imposed by this Article on charges made for telephone, electricity, gas, water and video services to the personal residence of a senior citizen

1 may be subject to refund following payment, provided that the gross annual income of
2 the senior citizen's household does not exceed the maximum amount set by resolution
3 of the City Council.

4 A. Definition.

5 As used in this section, the term "senior citizen" shall mean any person whose
6 residence is located in the City of Inglewood and who is sixty-two years of age or older
7 on or before December 31st of the calendar year for which the tax refund is claimed.

8 B. Application Procedure.

9 Eligible senior citizens may apply for a refund of taxes paid during a particular
10 calendar year by duly completing an application form provided by the Finance
11 Department. Each application shall contain a declaration under penalty of perjury as to
12 the truthfulness of the following:

13 (a) Name and address of the applicant and all other adults residing with the
14 applicant during the entire period subject to the Utility Users Tax;

15 (b) Birth date of the applicant establishing senior citizen status;

16 (c) Amount of utility users taxes paid each month of the calendar year period;

17 (d) The source and amount of all income received by applicant and all other
18 adults living with the applicant during the entire period for which the refund is claimed;
19 and

20 (e) Such other information or data (including income tax returns) as may be
21 required by the Finance Director.

22 C. Filing Period.

23 Applications for a tax refund shall be submitted to the Finance Director from
24 January 1st to December 31st of calendar year immediately following the calendar year
25 for which the refund is claimed.

26 D. Determination of Application.

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1 The Finance Director shall within 60 days after receipt of an application grant,
2 grant in part, or deny the application based upon the eligibility requirements set forth in
3 this section.

4 **Section 9-88.1. Refuse Collection and Water Services Fee Discount For**
5 **Senior Citizens and Disabled Citizens.**

6 The monthly service fee for refuse collection and water services shall be reduced
7 by ten percent (10%) for senior citizens and disabled citizens, provided that such
8 citizen's household does not exceed the gross annual income limit set by resolution of
9 the City Council. The discount may be effective for all or part of a fiscal year
10 beginning on July 1st and ending on 30th of the following year.

11 In the event one or more person's in a household are eligible for this discount,
12 that person's household shall be limited to a ten percent (10%) discount of the monthly
13 service fee.

14 A. Definitions.

15 (a) As used in this section, the term "senior citizen" shall mean any person
16 whose residence is located in the City of Inglewood and who is sixty-two years of age
17 or older when the person submits an application for a discount.

18 (b) As used in this section, the term "disabled citizen" shall mean any adult
19 residing in the City of Inglewood who is suffering from any of the following conditions
20 or disorders for a period of not less than twelve (12) months at the time the application
21 for a discount is submitted: (1) An orthopedic disability impairing physical mobility;
22 (2) A physical disability which requires a person to have special care or facilities at
23 home; or (3) A developmental or mental disorder which affects a person's ability to
24 obtain employment.

25 B. Application Procedure.

26 Applications shall be submitted on forms provided by the Finance Director.
27 Each application shall contain a declaration under penalty of perjury as to the
28 truthfulness of the following:

- 1 (a) Name and address of the applicant claiming the discount;
2 (b) Birth date of the applicant;
3 (c) Verification of disability, which may include the completion of a form by
4 the applicant's physician certifying to the applicant's disability;
5 (d) The source and amount of all income received by applicant and all other
6 adults living with the applicant or expected to live with the applicant during the fiscal
7 year for which the discount is claimed;
8 (e) Such other information (including income tax returns) as may be required
9 by the Finance Director.

10 C. Filing Period and Effective Date of Discount.

11 Applications for a discount for a particular fiscal year may be filed no earlier
12 than June 1 of the preceding fiscal year. The discount shall become effective the first
13 full month following approval of the application and each succeeding month of the
14 fiscal year for which the discount is granted. All discounts granted shall expire on June
15 30th of the fiscal year, subject to re-application for the following fiscal year pursuant to
16 the procedures set forth in this section.

17 D. Determination of Application.

18 The Finance Director shall within 60 days after receipt of an application either
19 grant or deny the application based upon the eligibility requirements set forth in this
20 section."

21 **SECTION 2.** Inglewood Municipal Code section 9-344 is hereby deleted in its
22 entirety and replaced as follows:

23 **"Section 9-344. Communication Users' Tax Refund for Low Income Senior**
24 **Citizens.**

25 The Communication Users' Tax imposed by this Article on charges made for
26 such services to the personal residence of a senior citizen shall be subject to a refund
27 following payment, provided that the gross annual income of the senior citizen's
28 household does not exceed the maximum amount set by resolution of the City Council.

1 The tax refund authorized by this section is subject to all of the eligibility
2 requirements and application procedures set forth in section 9-88, Utility Users Tax
3 Refund For Low Income Senior Citizens.”

4 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, subsection, subdivision,
5 paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance, or its application to any person
6 or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity or
7 unenforceability shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining sections,
8 subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases of this ordinance,
9 or its application to any other person or circumstance. The City of Inglewood hereby
10 declares that it would have adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph,
11 sentence, clause or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the
12 sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases hereof be
13 declared invalid or unenforceable.

14 **SECTION 4.** The City Clerk shall certify to the approval, passage and adoption
15 of this Ordinance by the City Council and shall cause the same to be published in
16 accordance with the City Charter; and thirty days from the final passage and adoption,
17 this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect.

18 **PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 14th day of
19 October, 2014.

20 **JAMES T. BUTTS, JR**

21
22 _____
James T. Butts, Jr., Mayor

23
24 ATTEST:

25 **YVONNE HORTON**

26 _____
27 Yvonne Horton, City Clerk

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