



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES REVISED ORDINANCE GOVERNING WATER RATES FOR NON-PROFIT INSTITUTIONS

Scaled Payment System Ensures Smallest Churches and Non-Profit Institutions Can Provide Critical Services to Residents While Taxpayer Interests are Protected

City Council approved a revised ordinance on Wednesday that provides for a four-tiered system that will govern how much non-profit institutions pay for their water.

"This compromise will allow our smallest churches and non-profits to continue to provide critical services while ensuring that everyone pays their fair share," said Mayor Emanuel. "This proposal came together after extensive conversations with Aldermen, faith leaders, community organizations and residents, and is a fair compromise for all."

The final proposal divides non-profits into four groups, based on the size of their assets.

- * Group 1: NFPs with net assets less than \$1M will be eligible for a 100% exemption from water payments.
- * Group 2: NFPs with net assets between \$1M and \$10M will be eligible for a 60% exemption from water payments.
- * Group 3: NFPs with net assets between \$10M and \$250M will be eligible for a 25% exemption from water payments.
- * No exemption from water payments for those not-for-profits with net assets in excess of \$250M.

"I am pleased that we have been able to come to a fair agreement with our city's faith and not-for-profit community, said Alderman Carrie Austin, 34th Ward. "From our smallest neighborhood churches and organizations to the largest institutions that have a city-wide reach, we have found our way to a common ground."

Additionally, Disproportionate Share Hospitals' water exemption will be based on their net asset levels with a minimum exemption of 25%. The public museums' water exemption will remain at 20% regardless of net asset level.

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Finally, all water accounts must be controlled by a meter, and the City will work with all the institutions to make sure that meters are installed appropriately, and will help them get a meter installed in the event that there are costs associated with the installations.

The agreement will be retroactive to the beginning of 2013.

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