



**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

DATE: NOVEMBER 22, 2019

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR, CHAIRPERSON AND CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: JONATHAN E. EVANS, CITY MANAGER, MPA, MBA, ICMA-CM

FROM: RANDY M. SHERMAN, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

CC: DEIRDRE JACOBS, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In October 2009, the Utility District approved an increase in both water and sewer rates. This was the first rate increase approved by the Board since the creation of the Utility Special District in 2004. In coordination with the 2009 adopted rate increase, the Board created the Senior Utility Assistance Program (SUAP) to financially assist low-income seniors with paying their utility bills. The assistance level was set at \$10/month, the estimated impact of the approved rate increase.

In 2015, the Utility District again approved rate increases to both water and sewer rates. As a subsequent action, the Board expanded the assistance program to include low-income disabled veterans and disabled residents. The monthly financial assistance was increased to an amount the stand-by-fee. The program was renamed the Utility Assistance Program (UAP). Currently 168 utility customers take advantage of the program receiving annual credits of \$415.68. The full amount is posted to the customer's account at the time of approval. The Utility District is not permitted to provide discounts to customers, therefore, the program is funded by through the City's General Fund. For the 168 accounts, the total cost is \$69,834.24.

	Senior Citizen	Disabled	Disabled Senior Veteran	Senior and Disabled	Total
Oct 2019	33	1		14	48
Sept 2019	6	1		2	9
Aug 2019	7	2		1	10
Jul 2019	10	3		2	15
Jun 2019		1		2	3
May 2019	3				3
Apr 2019	9				9
Mar 2019	4			2	6
Feb 2019	8	1		5	14
Jan 2019					0
Dec 2018	17		2	5	24
Nov 2018	20	1		6	27
TOTALS	117	10	2	39	168

Attached herein is a copy of Resolution 14-15U, and a copy of the UAP application.

RMS/sde
Enclosure