



City of Chicago



F2023-93

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Date:

5/12/2023

Sponsor(s):

Lightfoot (Mayor)

Type:

Communication

Title:

Executive Order No. 2023-4 (Recommendation
Memorandum on Extension, Amendment and Continuity of
Clear Path Relief Program and Administrative Debt Relief
Program)

Committee(s) Assignment:



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO**

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2023-4

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago is continuously striving to be a city where residents from all backgrounds can afford to live; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that debt can be a barrier for many Chicagoans looking for jobs, apartments, and various other necessities for a prosperous life; and

WHEREAS, the City has implemented many programs to help keep residents from being overwhelmed with debt; and

WHEREAS, as of April 13, 2023, over 21,000 eligible households have received relief totaling \$36 million on water and sewer bills through the Utility Billing Relief program; and

WHEREAS, as of April 17, 2023, over 60,000 motorists have received relief totaling \$31.6 million for vehicle-related debt through the Clear Path Relief and Fix-It Defense programs; and

WHEREAS, struggling Chicagoans saw \$11.5 million of their debt forgiven through the 2019 City Sticker Debt Relief program; and

WHEREAS, the City implemented an affordable \$25 down payment plan on Administrative Hearings-related debt, creating a pathway to compliance so people do not fall further behind; and

WHEREAS, approximately \$129 million in vehicle impoundment storage fees were forgiven in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the City has significantly reduced and capped vehicle impoundment fines; and

WHEREAS, the City has eliminated fines at Chicago Public Libraries, giving more people the ability to access the wealth of knowledge available; and

WHEREAS, the City ended all debt-based Driver's License suspensions, making it easier for people to legally drive to their jobs and other places; and

WHEREAS, the City discontinued the practice of water shutoffs due to water bill non-payment, ensuring that Chicago families can still access basic necessities in a crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City reformed the debt check process for new City of Chicago hires and businesses seeking licenses, including promoting access to pre-hire or pre-licensure payment plans; and

WHEREAS, in the two months since the Administrative Debt Relief Program was launched in 2023, more than \$8.1 million in relief has been granted on over 28,000 dockets; and

WHEREAS, the Utility Billing Relief program, which makes water and sewer bills more affordable for qualifying Chicago residents, began in April 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Clear Path Relief program, which reduces or eliminates certain kinds of vehicle-related debt for income-qualifying residents, was established by ordinance in October 2021; and

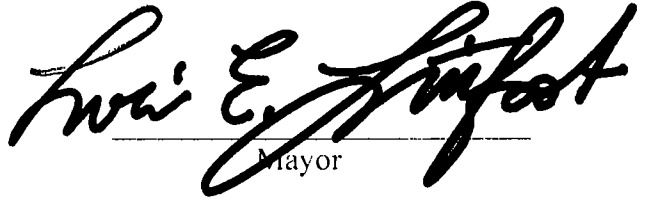
WHEREAS, the Administrative Debt Relief program, which allows income-qualifying residents to have interest, costs, and fees from Administrative Hearings debt waived by paying 50% of the fine amount or enrolling in a payment plan, was launched in 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Clear Path Relief program and the Administrative Debt Relief program are set to expire in January of 2024; now, therefore

I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do hereby order as follows:

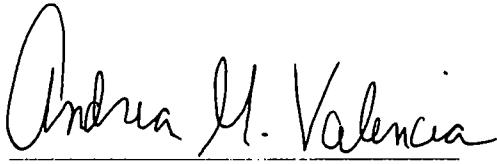
1. On or before June 1, 2023, the Comptroller, in consultation with the Office of Budget and Management and any other relevant department as determined by the Comptroller, shall prepare a recommendation memorandum to present to the Mayor and the Committee on Finance on the extension, amendment and continuity of the Clear Path Relief program and the Administrative Debt Relief program.
2. On or before August 1, 2023, the Comptroller, in consultation with the Office of Budget and Management, the Office of Climate and Environmental Equity, the Department of Water Management and any other relevant department as determined by the Comptroller, shall prepare a recommendation memorandum to present to the Mayor and the City Council Committee on Finance on the expansion and improvement of the Utility Billing Relief program. The memo will include the 2022 Annual Water Report information required within Section 11-12-486 of the Municipal Code.

This Executive Order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the City Clerk.



Mayor

Received and filed



City Clerk

Chicago City Clerk - Council Div.
2023 MAY 12 AM 9:44

10/10/10