

**UTILITY LIEN INTEREST AMNESTY PROGRAM
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
CREATED MAY 2013**

INTRODUCTION:

The Public Service Division of the City of Sunrise Finance Department (“Public Service”) issues utility bills to customers in Sunrise, Davie, Southwest Ranches, Lauderhill, Tamarac, and the Bonaventure section of Weston. Those utility bills, generally issued monthly, include rates, fees and charges for various services including (but not limited to) water, wastewater, natural gas, stormwater, garbage, and recycling. Payment for charges is due 21 days after utility bill issuance. Public Service engages in a variety of methods to collect delinquent utility bills (with late fees and other charges), including the filing of liens on real property for unpaid charges (“outstanding utility charges”). Once filed, a municipal lien will be satisfied by the payment of the unpaid principal (adjusted periodically for new billed charges), the accrued interest, and the lien satisfaction fee.

The City currently has more than 380 utility liens outstanding, representing approximately \$630,000 in principal as well as accrued interest. In an effort to encourage customers to bring their utility accounts current and to reduce delinquent receivables, the City has developed the “Utility Lien Interest Amnesty Program,” whereby customers can have utility liens satisfied by paying the outstanding utility charges and lien satisfaction fee. For those customers that meet the requirements of this program, the City will eliminate the accrued lien interest.

ELIGIBILITY:

In order to be eligible for assistance under this Program, Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- ❑ The subject property is located inside the City’s service territory, is not part of the Indian Trace developed section of Weston, and has an outstanding municipal utility lien filed by Sunrise against the property.
- ❑ All outstanding utility charges (including charges for water, sewer, natural gas, sanitation, and stormwater services, as well as service charges) and a \$100.00 lien satisfaction charge must be paid in full prior to the dismissal of lien interest under this program.
- ❑ The Applicant must be the owner of record for the property up through and including the date the lien is satisfied. The source for verification of ownership is the Broward County Property Appraiser (BCPA) records. In the event that an otherwise qualified person believes they should be determined an owner for purposes of participation in this Program, they may submit documentation for eligibility consideration.
- ❑ The Applicant has no other interest or ownership in other properties with existing Sunrise utility liens or outstanding delinquent utility balances located inside the City’s service territory, unless the liens and/or delinquency on those properties are being satisfied prior to or concurrent with the lien on the property that is the subject of this Program application.
- ❑ Applicants will be required to provide valid government-issued identification and any other documentation the City may request to determine that all eligibility criteria for participation in the Program are met. Failure to provide any requested information may result in a delay or determination of ineligibility.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES:

Applications must be received or postmarked, and all outstanding utility charges and lien satisfaction fees must be paid, by May 31, 2014. The City will not satisfy the lien or dismiss the lien interest until required payments are received and cleared. The City may, at its discretion, require specific forms of payment to ensure the immediate availability of funds.

AUTHORITY:

The Finance Director or designee is authorized to develop, implement and interpret policies, including eligibility, related to this program.