

RESOLUTION #2020-239

BY COUNCIL MEMBER BETZ

RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has jeopardized the health and safety of Lansing residents, with 10,000 cases in Ingham County alone; and

WHEREAS the pandemic has created an economic crisis, with many in our city out of work and facing severe financial hardship; and

WHEREAS Ingham County and the City of Lansing have issued states of emergency pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the federal government has failed to provide any additional stimulus funds to assist residents in paying for their basic needs; and

WHEREAS the state of Michigan has failed to put in place a utility shut off moratorium, unlike other states including Wyoming, New York, California, and Washington, who have shut off moratoriums lasting into 2021; and

WHEREAS The Lansing Board of Water and Light (BWL) paused utility shutoffs in the spring of 2020 during the initial wave of COVID-19 to protect the health and safety of Lansing residents; and

WHEREAS BWL has since resumed utility shut offs since the summer of 2020, shutting off service to approximately 2,400 residents since the beginning of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS water and electricity are essential to the health and safety of Lansing residents, particularly while spending more time at home during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS the City of Lansing's mission includes promoting a vibrant, safe, healthy, and inclusive community; and

WHEREAS the Lansing City Charter Section 5-201 states that BWL is responsible to the Mayor and the City Council for the provision of utility services in a manner consistent with the best practices; and

WHEREAS ending shut offs and restoring utility service would greatly improve the safety, health, and quality of life of Lansing residents.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Lansing City Council calls upon the Lansing Board of Water and Light to take the following steps to provide relief for Lansing residents:

1. Restore utility services to all residents whose utilities have been shut off since March 15th, 2020.
2. Suspend all utility shut offs through the duration of the county and city states of emergency.