

# City of Cincinnati

ALA

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## An Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2022

**MODIFYING** Section 401-96, "Leakages," of Chapter 401, "Water Works," of the Cincinnati Municipal Code to allow adjustments to water charges made in accordance with the Greater Cincinnati Water Works' Leak Adjustment Program as an exception to the prohibition against reducing water charges due to leaks.

WHEREAS, each year it is estimated that several hundred Greater Cincinnati Water Works ("GCWW") customers experience a private water service line leak between the outdoor water meter and building ("Metered Service Line Leak"), which may go undetected until the monthly water meter reading reveals unexpectedly high water usage and water charges; and

WHEREAS, the property owner is responsible for hiring a certified plumber to repair a Metered Service Line Leak, which in some cases may cost over \$1000; and

WHEREAS, due to the unexpected nature of these leaks, customers often have difficulty both keeping current on high metered charges from the leak and paying leak repair costs, which may result in delinquent accounts and water shutoff; and

WHEREAS, GCWW desires to implement a Leak Adjustment Program to incentivize timely repair of Metered Service Line Leaks, to help qualified customers overcome the financial impact of these leaks and to decrease the number of account delinquencies associated with high water bills related to such leaks; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed Leak Adjustment Program, customers who complete repair of a Metered Service Line Leak according to GCWW standards within 30 days of the first elevated utility bill would be eligible for an adjustment of their metered water charges to their average monthly water bill over the previous 12 months; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati Municipal Code Section 401-96 currently prohibits the reduction of water charges for leaks and must be amended to allow for the adjustment of charges under the Leak Adjustment Program; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Section 401-96, "Leakages," of Chapter 401, "Water Works," of the Cincinnati Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 401-96 Adjustment of Charges for Leaks~~Leakages~~.

No reduction in water charges shall be made for ~~leakage~~leaks except for those water charges resulting from leaks which meet the criteria of the leak adjustment program as set forth by the director and approved by the city manager.

Section 2. That existing Section 401-96, "Leakages," of Chapter 401, "Water Works," is hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force on and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
New language underscored. Deleted language indicated by strikethrough