

CITY OF VINELAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-28

ORDINANCE PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO
VINELAND MILITARY PERSONNEL DURING
DEPLOYMENT IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICE TO
OUR COUNTRY

WHEREAS, our military personnel keep this Country, State and Community free and safe so its citizens may enjoy the rights and privileges bestowed upon them through the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey ; and

WHEREAS, this responsibility undertaken by our military personnel comes with a heavy burden and sacrifice which also affects their families and personal life; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council recognize the sacrifices of the men and women in our military and find it necessary to provide a benefit to assist those serving our Country during their deployment to relieve some of their burdens of protecting our country and providing for the needs of their families in their absence; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City and its citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Vineland that during a period of deployment as defined hereafter and subject to the conditions Set forth herein, each City resident deployed to serve in the military shall receive a reduction of 5% of the monthly electric bill and 5% of the monthly water bill for service to their primary residence.

I. DEFINITIONS

A. Deployment shall mean written military orders directed at military personnel requiring that person report for active duty to be served outside of the United States and its territories to attain a task or mission for a period in excess of 30 days. Deployment shall not mean pre-deployment post-deployment or training. Deployment shall commence upon physical relocation outside of the United States or its territories.

B. Primary Residence shall mean a person's legal residence for purposes of income tax, driver's licenses, voter registration among other criteria. A person shall not have more than one Primary Residence. Other determining factors are one's mailing address and time spent at the residence per year.

C. Vineland Resident shall mean a person who maintains the City of Vineland as his/her Primary Residence.

D. Utility Bills shall mean those electric and water utility bills incurred at the Primary Residence of the deployed military personnel.

II. REDUCTION IN ELECTRIC AND WATER BILLS DURING DEPLOYMENT

All members of the military who are deployed as defined herein, shall be entitled to a reduction of 5% on their electric bill and 5% on their water bill from the date of physical deployment on a per month basis for their Primary Residence only (Utilities Reduction). Should there be more than one Deployed military personnel residing at the same Primary Residence, the Utilities Reduction shall not be cumulative.

III. QUALIFICATION FOR UTILITY REDUCTION

A. In order to qualify for the Utilities Reduction, the Vineland military personnel resident must provide proof that (1) the City of Vineland is his/her Primary Residence and (2) he/she must provide copies of documentation indicating date of deployment and proof that deployment is outside of the United States or its territories. Upon providing adequate proof in the sole discretion of the Director of Municipal Utilities, the military personnel so deployed shall receive a reduction of his/her electric and water bills, prorated from the date of physical deployment for an initial period of not more than 60 days.

B. The military personnel so deployed shall further execute a certification in the form provided by the City of Vineland that he/she meets the qualifications as set forth herein for said Utilities Reduction.

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- C. At the expiration of the 60 day period set forth in paragraph A above, the Utilities Reduction shall discontinue and full billing shall resume, prorated. The Utilities Reduction may continue thereafter on a monthly basis provided the military personnel so deployed or a member of his/her immediate family with whom he/she resides executes a certification of continued Deployment as defined herein for each month thereafter until the military personnel returns from Deployment.
- D. The Utilities Reduction shall discontinue in the event the electric or water billing payment is more than 30 days delinquent and no repayment agreement has been reached between the Director of the municipal utilities and the military personnel or his/her immediate family member with whom he/she reside.

IV. SUSPENSION OF COLLECTION PRACTICES

- A. In the event the electric and/or water billing remains unpaid for the Primary Residence of the deployed military personnel and during the time of Deployment, the City of Vineland shall suspend any and all collection practices as well as any interest charge on the unpaid accounts until the military personnel returns to the United States from deployment.
- B. The military personnel so deployed shall repay the unpaid utility bills incurred during Deployment within one year of returning from Deployment. In the event unpaid utility bills incurred during Deployment are not paid within one year, then all collection practices shall be reinstated including interest charge on the unpaid utility bills commencing one year from the return from Deployment to the United States.
- C. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the City of Vineland reserves the right to secure the payment of outstanding utility bills by municipal liens.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that any Ordinance or portions thereof that are inconsistent herewith shall be deleted and void to the extent of such inconsistencies and the terms of this Ordinance shall supersede the same.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication according to Law.

Passed First Reading:

Passed Final Reading:

President of Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk