

Minutes Approved

As Circulated May 2, 2022

5/14/2022 Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on Monday May 2, 2022 at 7:09 P.M. by President Stewart. President Stewart opened the meeting with a moment of reflection and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Corbin..

Virtual Council meeting. The recording of this meeting is available on City of Elyria Channel on YouTube. (Zoom meeting)

2. ROLL CALL--COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Callahan, Cerra, Corbin, Davis, Lipian, Mitchell, Oswald, Schneider, Simmons, Stewart, Tollett

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: SSD Brubaker, Law Director Deery, Clerk Lotko, Asst. Finance Dir. Farrell, Police Chief Pelko, Fire Chief Pronesti, Engineer McKillips, Superintendent Korzan, ASSD Calvert, ASSD Williams, Building Official Farkas

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Cerra moved, seconded by Mr. Schneider that the Meeting Minutes of the April 4th and 18th, 2022 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Council President Stewart: None

Mayor Whitfield:

Mayor Whitfield shared that he wanted to start a resident spotlight. The first resident spotlight featured, Aaron Battle, a fan of the Elyria High School Pioneer Marching Band. Mr. Battle was a member of a virtual band last summer, he completed a season with the Cincinnati Tradition Competitive Drum and Bugle Corps. Mr. Battle auditioned and was accepted into a matrix A drum corps group along with other high school peers and college students. The matrix performing arts is a non-profit performing arts education organization located in Akron, Ohio. April 21, 2022, The Matrix won first place in a competition and was awarded the winter guard international independent world series. Mr. Battle is an instructor at the Grafton Center of Musical Arts. He is proficient in all percussion instruments. He is a senior at Midview High School and will graduate in June. He is a member of the Midview Marching Blue Concert band and Jazz band. He will attend the conservatory at Baldwin Wallace University in the fall of 2022, majoring in music education and percussion performance.

The other item of "good news" shared, was the State of Ohio awarded two grants for Elyria projects. One of the grants totaled two hundred thousand dollars in support of the Elyria Police

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: CONTINUED

Department to help with crime prevention. The other grant totaled six hundred thousand dollars to help towards the eSports arena initiative with downtown Elyria site clean-up.

Upcoming plans for Pride and Service Day scheduled for Saturday May 21, 2022, as well as planning for the Memorial Day Parade. If interested in participating, call the Mayor's office and look for a link on the City of Elyria website for registration. Wednesday May 4, the City of Elyria will be hosting the president of Jobs Ohio.

Mr. Oswald inquired if there was an update to the Skill City initiative with Lorain County Community College. Mayor Whitfield responded that plans are to provide an update along with a renewal request for next year, to be referred at the next council meeting.

Safety Service Director Brubaker:

SSD Brubaker shared a couple of reminders to tenured council members as well as an update to new council members regarding departmental workflow processes within the City. If requests can be submitted through Safety Service it would be helpful for prioritizing them through the system. In the event that a request is submitted for the Street Department, but their queue is full, the Water Distribution team can be sent to complete the task. Department heads are attempting to complete projects for both Safety Service and council members, one direct line of communication is being requested. However, if emails and phone calls are submitted, the expectation is to respond promptly. Issues with potholes falls into different category, and the request is to continue to contact the Street department directly, the Street department can dispatch workers immediately to the areas of concern. SSD Brubaker introduced Nick Katsaras of First Energy to provide program details for residents regarding electric bills in the event financial assistance is needed now that the moratorium has been lifted for shut-offs.

Nick Katsaras, First Energy- 6326 Lake Ave., Elyria, OH 44035.

Mr. Katsaras reiterated the utility memorandum for shutoff ended April 15, 2022. Mr. Katsaras wanted to remind all council members to reach out to their constituents to provide them with information regarding payment assistance programs that are available to residents. Mr. Katsaras explained that First Energy understands the unforeseen circumstances of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, they would like resident to call for assistance opposed to not paying their bill.

Customers can apply for assistance through www.firstenergycorp.com/billassist and click "Search Assistance Programs" to see available programs based on income and household size. Or call Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 1-800-633-4766. The most common program is PIPP, Percentage of Income Payment Plan. Residents pay a percentage of their income and not their actual balance through the PIPP program. Another program available is HEAP, Home Energy Assistance Program, summer heat program, and winter heat program. To apply for PIPP and HEAP call 1-800-282-0880 or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov 211 is an additional resource for assistance, for additional information dial 211, text your ZIP code to 898211 or visit the 211 website. Ohio Edison Project Reach is an emergency hardship fund provided by Ohio Edison customers and employees. The funds are distributed by Salvation Army offices throughout Ohio Edison's service area. To find an agency, visit www.firstenergycorp.com/ReachAgencies. All of these resources are shared as every effort to

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: CONTINUED

avoid disconnection of services. SSD Brubaker shared that Mr. Martin from the Chronicle Telegram has a copy of the resources and the resources will also be placed on the City of Elyria website.

Mr. Oswald asked how would residents that are not computer savvy contact First Energy. Mr. Katsaras provided the 1-800-633-4766 number.

Asst. Finance Director Farrell: No Report

Law Director Deery: No report

Chief Pelko:

Chief Pelko reported that three new police officers were hired on April 25, 2022. Two of the three officers will go through the Police Academy. The other officer will begin employment right away through the FTO program. Chief Pelko provided an update regarding no left turn issue at Northwood School, some signs have been placed in the area by both the Engineering and Street Departments. Verbal warnings have been given to residents for over a week, however EPD will start issuing citations. Elyria Police Department was awarded one hundred ninety-three thousand dollars by Governor DeWine for an ARPA reduction in Violent Crime grant. The grant will provide additional patrols in the southwest and south central areas of the city, in particular Wilkes Villa, West Way Gardens and Midview Crossings. Cameras will be installed, additional technology, extra patrols, block watches and community engagement.

Mr. Oswald asked if there is any possibility that cameras for the downtown area can be funded from some of the awarded grant dollars. Chief Pelko stated there will be discussion with Mayor Whitfield to confirm how the monies can be distributed to include the downtown area.

Mrs. Mitchell asked about additional enforcement for residents that run traffic lights and stop signs. Chief Pelko, explained the Police force is understaffed. He is doing his best.

President Stewart congratulated Chief Pelko on the grant.

Fire Chief Pronesti: No Report

ASSD Calvert: No Report

ASSD Williams: No Report

Eng. McKillips:

Ms. McKillips updated council on the Water main replacement project on 2nd St. and Cedar St. will begin as early as May 9, 2022. The roadway will be open to through traffic, however residents are being asked to pay attention to signage. The second project will be Oberlin-Elyria Road water line, more information will be provided regarding the schedule. Burns Rd. will not begin until Lorain County Community College is out of school for the semester. Concrete streets bids will open the week of May 9th. The citywide signalized traffic monitoring system for

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: CONTINUED

intersections is implemented, the servers built, the software is installed, however the department is waiting on equipment delivery, which is seven to eight months delayed, due to supply chain issues. President Stewart inquired if designated intersections have been determined for the new traffic monitoring system. Ms. McKillips responded that all the intersections on State route 57, some intersections in the downtown area, and a significant number of intersections throughout the city. Mr. Cerra asked how will the residents on Wurst Ct. be informed of accessibility issues with the water main project. Ms. McKillips explained access will need to be provided to residents. The contractor will provide additional information. Mr. Cerra inquired if there was a known time-frame for the Cleveland St. water main project. Ms. Mckillips stated the bid will take place in the summer, however the project will take place sometime during the winter season. Mrs. Mitchell inquired about a time-frame for the phase one of the street resurfacing. No time frame has been determined yet. Mr. Oswald inquired on the project start for Broad St. Mayor Whitfield shared that Engineer McKillips compiles a project summary list that can be distributed to everyone opposed to her reviewing every project. Mr. Tollett stated that he received a project summary six months ago that was very helpful and the summary provides the stage of every project that engineering has in progress.

Superintendent Korzan: No Report

BO Farkas: No Report

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES:

**Matter is completed or partially completed*

1. The matter of denied moral claim for damage submitted by Larry Balls.

REFERRED BY: Safety Service Director Brubaker

REFERRED TO: Finance

2. The matter of denied moral claim for damage submitted by Thomas Barnette.

REFERRED BY: Safety Service Director Brubaker

REFERRED TO: Finance

3. The matter of denied moral claim for damage submitted by Sarah Barnes.

REFERRED BY: Safety Service Director Brubaker

REFERRED TO: Finance

4. The matter of denied moral claim for damage submitted by Justin Masaitis.

REFERRED BY: Safety Service Director Brubaker

REFERRED TO: Finance

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES: CONTINUED

5. The matter of renewing the Finwood apartment lease for Inez James.

REFERRED BY: Director Reardon

REFERRED TO: Community Development / Finance

6. The matter of a request for a conditional use permit for a Salon at 1000 Lowel St.

REFERRED BY: Ernest Pickens

REFERRED TO: Planning Commission/ Community Development

7. The matter of the official appointment of Kionna McIntosh-Pharms to the Lorain County Public Health Board for a term expiring on 3/31/2027.

REFERRED BY: ASSD Williams

REFERRED TO: Rules

8. The matter of allowing Invest Elyria to hold their Famer's Market events in Ely Square for one year.

REFERRED BY: Director Reardon

REFERRED TO: Utilities

9-10 Received and Placed on file in the clerk's office

9. Denied Claim for Damage: Thomas Barnette.

10. SLFRF Compliance April 30 2022 Report/ American Rescue Plan Act.

7. PETITIONS - LOBBY: None

8. PETITIONS - COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

10. RESOLUTIONS – FIRST READING:

Sponsored by: **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12**

Finance: A RESOLUTION FINDING THE CITY HAS UNFIT FOR
V. Stewart III MUNICIPAL USE CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY.

P. Tollett

B. Davis

C. Schneider

J. Cerra

10. RESOLUTIONS – FIRST READING: CONTINUED

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:		PASSAGE:	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

13. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING:

(Companion Ordinance to Res. ITEM #1)

Sponsored by: ORDINANCE NO. 2022-79
Finance: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY SERVICE TO DISPOSE OF, BY THE BEST MEANS POSSIBLE, CITY PROPERTY THAT IS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE.
V. Stewart III
P. Tollett
B. Davis
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

Tollett moved, Cerra seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:		PASSAGE:	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

Sponsored by: ORDINANCE NO. 2022-80
Finance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-45, KNOWN AS THE “2022 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE,” TO CHANGE FUNDS IN VARIOUS ACCOUNTS.
V. Stewart III
P. Tollett
B. Davis
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

13. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING: CONTINUED

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:	PASSAGE:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by: **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-81**
Finance: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FINANCE
 V. Stewart III DIRECTOR TO CREATE A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT
 P. Tollett FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
 B. Davis
 C. Schneider
 J. Cerra

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules and declared an emergency.

SUSPENSION:	PASSAGE:	EMERGENCY:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by: **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-82**
Finance: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS
 V. Stewart III OF ELYRIA CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 109.13,
 P. Tollett BUILDING DEPARTMENT, EFFECTIVE JULY 01, 2022.
 B. Davis
 C. Schneider
 J. Cerra

Tollett moved, Cerra seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:	PASSAGE:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

13. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING: CONTINUED

Sponsored by: **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-83**
Community AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE ISSUANCE AND
Development: SALE OF \$350,000 OF NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE
T. Callahan ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF
A. Lipian ACQUIRING A TRUCK FOR COLLECTION AND
C. Schneider TRANSPORTATION OF SOLID WASTE AND
D. Mitchell APPURTENANT EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE CITY
K. Oswald SANITATION DEPARTMENT.

Callahan moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules.

SUSPENSION:		PASSAGE:	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

Sponsored by: **ORDINANCE NO. 2022-84**
Utilities: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
D. Mitchell ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A
B. Davis CONTRACT FOR THE CLEVELAND STREET WATER
D. Simmons MAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN
M. Corbin EMERGENCY.
K. Oswald
Finance:
V. Stewart III
P. Tollett
B. Davis
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

Mitchell moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION:		PASSAGE:		EMERGENCY:	
AYE:	11	AYE:	11	AYE:	11
NAY:	0	NAY:	0	NAY:	0
ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0	ABSENT:	0
MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED		MOTION CARRIED	

13. ORDINANCES – FIRST READING: CONTINUED

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-85

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ELYRIA CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 932.04: SPECIFIC POLLUTANT LIMITATIONS: GREASE, OIL AND SAND TRAPS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mitchell moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance without benefit of committee report. Mitchell moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of the rules and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION:	PASSAGE:	EMERGENCY:
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

14. ORDINANCES–SECOND READING: None

15. ORDINANCES–THIRD READING: None

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 05/09/2022 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.
VIRTUAL/ZOOM

FINANCE 05/09/2022 Following CD All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor, Fin. Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer
VIRTUAL/ZOOM

UTILITIES, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT 05/11/2022 6:00 P.M. All Referred items w/ Law Director, SSD, Engineer

STRATEGIC PLANNING 05/16/2022 Immediately following Council All Referred Items Council Chambers w/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Dir., Law Director, Engineer

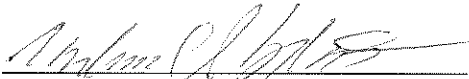
17. MISC AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

President Stewart inquired about the status of the old Gas USA building. Building Official Farkas responded that the development is near completion. The project has been slow in progress. Mrs. Mitchell inquired about the status of the laundromat on the corner of Furnace St. and Lake Ave. Mr. Farkas explained the project is also near completion and has been slow in progress as well.

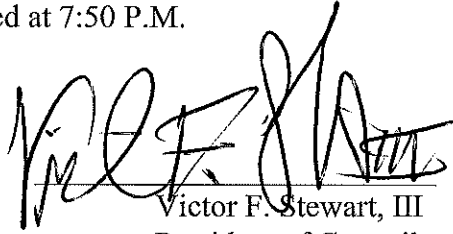
18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitchell motion to adjourn, Cerra seconded at 7:50 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED



Michael J. Lotko, III
Clerk of Council



Victor F. Stewart, III
President of Council

RLP/

The FirstEnergy logo is positioned in the top left corner of the advertisement. It features the word "FirstEnergy" in a white, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right. A white, curved underline is positioned beneath the letters "y" and "e". The background of the entire advertisement is a dark, monochromatic photograph of a high-voltage electrical transmission tower and its associated power lines, set against a hazy, overcast sky.

FirstEnergy[®]

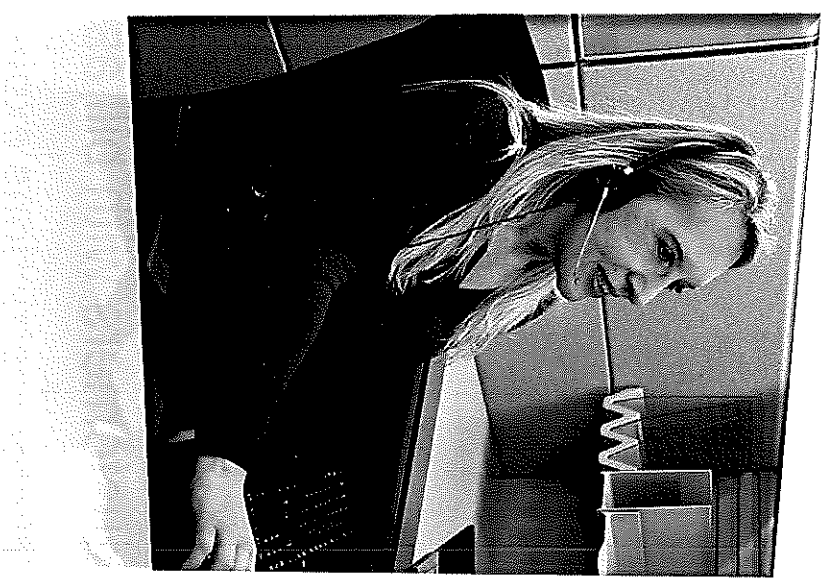
Focused on Our Future

**Connecting eligible FirstEnergy utility
customers with bill assistance**

Winter restrictions expire April 15 in Ohio

Take control of your electric bill

- **FirstEnergy's Ohio electric companies – including Ohio Edison – are encouraging customers experiencing financial hardship to contact their utility as soon as possible to establish affordable payment arrangements or obtain assistance.**
 - Shut-offs for nonpayment resume without winter season restrictions beginning April 15.
 - Many of our customers have difficulty paying their full electric bill due to unforeseen circumstances, like the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.
 - The last thing we want to do is apply a late fee or issue a service disconnection notice to a customer when it can be avoided by contacting our customer service team to see what help is available.



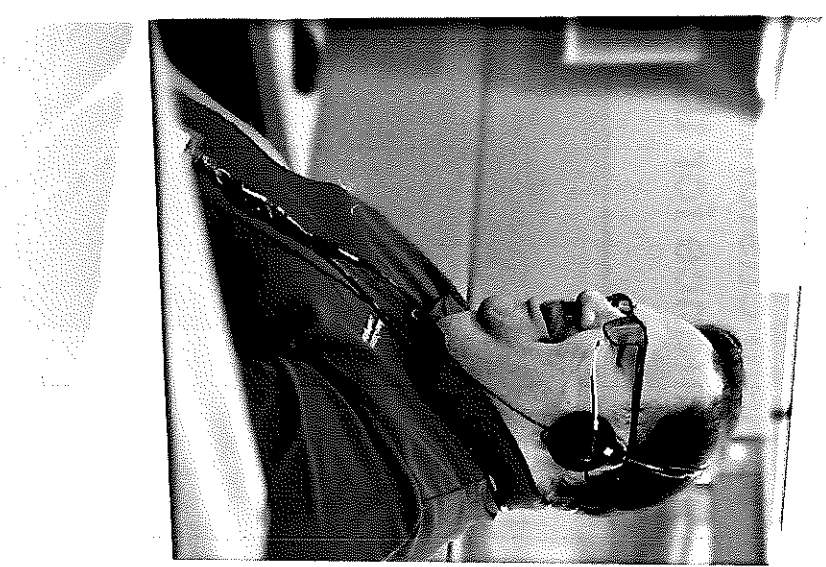
We're Customers Just Like You

- In a heartfelt message to customers, FirstEnergy employees are speaking out about personal experiences that fuel their passion to help customers who may find themselves seeking financial assistance for the first time.



Help is available

- Individuals interested in learning more about utility assistance programs can do so in several ways:
 - Visit our newly-designed Bill Assistance web page at www.firstenergycorp.com/billassist and click “**Search Assistance Programs**” to see available programs based on income and household size.
 - Fill out a form on the website to contact a customer service representative with any questions or concerns.
 - Contact our dedicated customer service team Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 1-800-633-4766.



Programs available in Ohio

■ **The Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP):**

- Allows customers to pay a set percentage of their income toward their electric bill, regardless of the balance.
- Customers who pay on time and in full each month can have their outstanding balance eliminated in 24 months.
- To be eligible, customers must have a household gross yearly income at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines and must meet other criteria.
- To apply, call 1-800-282-0880 or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.

■ **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):**

- Provides eligible customers with cash grants for home heating bills and emergencies through HEAP, which is available year-round, and Emergency HEAP Winter Crisis Program, which is available through March 31, 2022.
- Customers must have gross income below 175% of federal poverty guidelines. Call the Ohio Development Service Agency at 1-800-282-0880 or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov for more information.

Programs available in Ohio

■ 2-1-1 Helpline

- This nationwide resource and information helpline identifies locally available programs that may assist customers with utility bills or other needs.
- For more information, dial 211, text your ZIP code to 898211 or visit the [211 website](#).

■ Ohio Edison Project Reach

- An emergency hardship fund designed to help residential customers restore or maintain electric service.
- The program funding is provided by Ohio Edison customers and employees, and the distribution of funds is administered by Salvation Army offices located throughout Ohio Edison's service area.
- To find an agency, please visit www.firstenergycorp.com/ReachAgencies.

Spread the word in your community

- **Post our video on your website or social media pages**
 - Link: <https://bit.ly/FEBillAssistVideo>
- **Share our news release about the various bill assistance programs on your website, newsletters and social media pages.**
 - Link: <https://bit.ly/FEBillAssistanceOhio>
- **Encourage residents to visit our website, firstenergycorp.com/billassist, and use our “Search Assistance Program” tool to get started.**





Focused on Our Future

Thank You

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