

## **SULTAN CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

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ITEM #: Discussion 1

DATE: February 26, 2009

SUBJECT: Donation Program for Utility Payments

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Koenig, City Clerk/Deputy Finance Director

**ISSUE:**

The issue before the Council is the establishment of a donation fund to assist residents with City of Sultan Utility Payments.

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

The City has increasing number of residents that are subject to disconnection of City utility services. The average monthly bill is \$108. Accounts are subject to disconnect when there is two months of charges due and with the additional of disconnect fees, the balance due is over \$300.

Staff met with Dave Wood from Volunteers of America to discuss the establishment of a fund to accept donations for payments of City utility bills. VOA has a program and screening process in place to provide assistance to low income families. They are willing to administer the program for the City. The City would set up a separate account at the bank to allow residents to make direct donations to the account or they can make a donation with their monthly utility payment.

The Council will need to establish criteria for payment; authorize the account and approve a memorandum of understanding between the City and VOA to administer the account.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Direct staff to work with the Sub Committees to develop criteria for payment of City of Sultan utility payments from a "Good Samaritan Fund".