

Introduced: 04-13-21
Adopted: 04-27-21
Effective: 05-05-21

ORDINANCE NO. 1499
ORDINANCE PROHIBITING RESIDENTIAL WATER SHUT-OFFS

The City of East Lansing Ordains:

Section 1. Findings.

The City of East Lansing determines as follows:

- A. Residents of the City of East Lansing are continuing to experience illness, death, and financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- B. Shutting off water service to East Lansing residents poses an imminent threat to public health, which may include water-borne diseases, upper respiratory infections, and other diseases such as flus and viruses that can be avoided by frequent hand washing; and
- C. In light of the above circumstances, an ordinance is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City's residents.

Section 2. Moratorium

- A. A moratorium is imposed to prohibit the City of East Lansing from acting either directly or indirectly to shut off water service to a residential customer on the basis of non-payment for water services.
- B. The City of East Lansing may continue to shut off water services to a residential customer for reasons other than non-payment.

Section 3. Financial Obligations

- A. This ordinance does not abrogate the obligation of a resident to pay for water services, prevent the City of East Lansing from charging any customer for water service, prevent the City of East Lansing from charging late fees for delayed payment for water services, or reduce the amount a resident may owe to the City of East Lansing for water services.
- B. This ordinance does not amend or interfere with the City of East Lansing's ability to add any amounts past due for water services to a property owner's tax bill.

Section 4. Option to Extend

Before the moratorium expires, the City may, by resolution, extend the moratorium as appropriate to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents. If such an extension is adopted, then the City will publish a notice of extension in a newspaper of general circulation following adoption of that resolution.

Section 5. Duration

This Ordinance remains in effect through July 1, 2021.

Section 6. Effective Date

This Ordinance is effective upon publication.

April 29, 2021

Jennifer Shuster, City Clerk