

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 - \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 201.08 (RATES AND CHARGES) OF CHAPTER 201 (COUNTY WATER AND SEWER SERVICES) OF THE CODE OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY; ESTABLISHING AN AMNESTY PROGRAM RELATING TO DELINQUENCY CHARGES ON CERTAIN UTILITY SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGES; MAKING FINDINGS AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, sections 201.08(B) and (C) of the Code of Indian River County (the “Code”) requires that service availability charges be imposed on the owner of each water and sewer Equivalent Residential Unit (“ERU”) which is reserved for future use (“Service Availability Charges”); and

**WHEREAS**, section 201.08(J)(4) of the Code provides that the County shall charge delinquency charges on all outstanding balances, including outstanding balances of Service Availability Charges; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently a significant outstanding balance of Service Availability Charges upon which delinquency charges are accruing – namely, those which are based upon ERUs reserved for future use, but for which there has been no past or present use or consumption of water or sewer services (“Reserved ERU Service Availability Charges”); and

**WHEREAS**, payment of Reserved ERU Service Availability Charges is important to the financial well-being of the County’s water and sewer system, because such charges reimburse the County for its expense in maintaining the infrastructure built to provide capacity for reserved ERUs; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of an amnesty program which, for a limited period of time, waives delinquency charges upon the payment in full of outstanding Reserved ERU Service Availability Charges will serve the public interest by encouraging the payment of such charges,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**Section 1. Enactment Authority.**

Article VIII, section 1 of the Florida Constitution and chapter 125, Florida Statutes vest broad home rule powers in counties to enact ordinances, not inconsistent with general or special law, for the purpose of promoting the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the county. The Board specifically determines that the enactment of this ordinance is not inconsistent

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 - \_\_\_\_\_

with general or special law, and is necessary and appropriate to promote the health, safety and welfare of the residents of Indian River County.

**Section 2. Findings.**

The Board finds that the above “Whereas” clauses are true and correct, and hereby incorporates such clauses as findings of the Board.

**Section 3. Amendment of Section 201.08(J)(4) of the Code.**

Section 201.08(J)(4) of the Code of Indian River County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows (new language indicated by underline, and deleted language indicated by ~~strikethrough~~):

“(4) *Delinquency charge.* County shall charge an additional two dollars (\$2.00) plus one and one-half (1 1/2) percent interest monthly (collectively “delinquency charges”) on all outstanding balances including assessments, fees, charges, and other fees due (collectively “underlying charges”) if payment is not made in full by each payment deadline date; provided, however, that the Utilities Director may waive some or all delinquency charges in connection with the reactivation of service of an existing account, where (i) payment in full of all underlying charges and delinquency charges would work a hardship to the customer, and such waiver is determined to be in the best interests of the County, and (ii) such waiver results in the immediate payment in full of all underlying charges and any delinquency charges which are not waived.

With respect to service availability charges which (i) are based on the ownership of one or more ERUs which are reserved for future use but for which there has been no past or present use or consumption of services, and (ii) are unpaid as of ~~July 24, 2015~~ December 18, 2018, such delinquency charges shall be waived if the unpaid service availability charges are paid in full at any time between ~~July 24, 2015~~ December 18, 2018 and ~~October 31, 2015~~ March 18, 2019. Such waiver shall not be eligible for those property owners who have received prior waivers under this section.”

**Section 4. Severability.**

If any part of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected by such holding and shall remain in full force and effect.

ORDINANCE NO. 2018 - \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 5. Codification.**

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made part of the Indian River County Code, and that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered and the word ordinance may be changed to section, article or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intention.

**Section 6. Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall become effective upon enactment by the Board of County Commissioners and filing with the Department of State.

This ordinance was advertised in the Indian River Press Journal, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018, for a public hearing to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018, at which time it was moved for adoption by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and adopted by the following vote:

Chairman Bob Solari	_____
Vice Chairman Susan Adams	_____
Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher	_____
Commissioner Tim Zorc	_____
Commissioner Peter D. O'Bryan	_____

The Chairman thereupon declared the ordinance duly passed and adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Solari, Chairman

**ATTEST:** Jeffrey R. Smith, Clerk of Court  
And Comptroller

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney

EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance was filed with the Department of State on the \_\_\_\_ day of December, 2018.