



City of Rialto

Legislation Text

File #: UC-20-0163, **Version:** 1

Previous Discussion Updates

- Question from the December Commission Meeting: Regarding utility bills and an “urgency ordinance” that was released by the state in the 1990s that stated landlords could not be held responsible for a tenant’s unpaid utility bill?
 - This was referred to the City Attorney’s office for research and the following response was provided:

“Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 10009.6, a municipal corporation owning or operating a public utility furnishing services for residential use:

Cannot recover unpaid charges from any subsequent tenant or the property owner due to the previous tenant’s nonpayment; or

1. Refuse to serve a new tenant due to a former tenant’s failure to pay; or

2. Require that utility service to subsequent tenants be furnished on the account of the property owner unless the property owner voluntarily agrees to that requirement.

A “public utility” “means the supply of a municipal corporation...with water, light, heat, power, sewage collection, treatment, or disposal for sanitary or drainage purposes...”(Pub. Util. Code § 10001)”

Staff has begun researching policies and municipal code sections that may authorize such practice to correct the reference and ensure compliance with the law.