

AN ORDINANCE to amend The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, by adding thereto a new chapter numbered 27A entitled RENT RELIEF FOR ELDERLY PERSONS; which new Chapter 27A relates to and provides RENT RELIEF FOR ELDERLY PERSONS, and also provides for ADMINISTRATION, prescribes REGULATIONS, and establishes PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1963, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding thereto a new chapter numbered 27A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 27A

RENT RELIEF FOR ELDERLY PERSONS

Sec. 27A-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively, ascribed to them by this section:

Applicant. Tenant seeking a grant under the provisions of this chapter.

City. The City of Alexandria, Virginia.

City Manager. The city manager of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, or any of his duly authorized deputies or agents.

Dwelling. The full-time residence of the applicant.

Grant. A financial assistance payment made to an applicant meeting the requirements of this chapter.

Grant year. The calendar year for which an applicant seeks rent relief.

Rent. The monetary consideration paid for occupancy of a dwelling, including amounts paid, either directly or to the landlord, for water, electricity, gas, heating and cooking fuels, refrigeration, trash and garbage collection, and sewage disposal, but not for telephones, and also including the monetary stipend paid to a cooperative housing association by its residents.

Tenant. The head of a household who pays rent to live in a dwelling.

Total combined financial worth. All assets, including equitable interest, of the applicant and of the applicant's relatives living in the dwelling for which rent relief is claimed.

Total combined income. Income from all sources of the applicant and of all relatives of the applicant who live in the dwelling for which rent relief is claimed.

Sec. 27A-2. Grants authorized.

Grants in varying amounts according to section 27A-6 of this chapter are hereby authorized for tenants over the age of sixty-five years who are residents of the city and are otherwise eligible for such grants according to the terms of this chapter. Persons who qualify for grants under the provisions of this chapter are deemed to bear an extraordinary burden of rent costs in relation to their income and net worth. Such persons thus qualify for General Relief under Section 63.1-106 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

Sec. 27A-3. Eligibility for grants.

Grants will be made to applicants subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

(a) The applicant shall have paid rent for a dwelling in the city during the grant year and have been a resident of the city on December 31 of the calendar year preceding the grant year.

(b) The applicant shall be sixty-five years of age or older on December 31 of the calendar year preceding the grant year.

(c) The gross combined income shall not exceed \$7,500.00 for the calendar year immediately preceding the grant year.

(d) The total combined financial worth shall not exceed \$20,000.00 as of December 31 of the calendar year preceding the grant year.

(e) The applicant, or his spouse if they live together, shall not be the recipient of any other financial assistance under the provisions of the Virginia State Welfare Act and its implementing regulations.

(f) If the applicant has been a resident of the city for less than the full grant year, his grant shall be decreased in proportion to the part of the grant year that he resided elsewhere.

(g) No grant shall be made for any part of the grant year when the applicant was a tenant in a non-profit elderly facility located in the city, if as of July 1 of the grant year the facility was exempt from real estate taxes under the provisions of section 58-12 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, or if the dwelling in which the tenant resides is for any reason exempted from real estate taxes.

Sec. 27A-4. Administration.

Grants for rent relief shall be administered by the city manager according to the provisions of this chapter. The city manager is hereby authorized and empowered to prescribe, adopt, promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations in conformance with the provisions of this chapter, including the requirement of answers under oath, as may be reasonably necessary to determine an applicant's eligibility for a grant. The city manager may require the production of rent receipts or cancelled checks for the purpose of determining eligibility, and may also require the production of certified tax returns and appraisal reports to establish income or financial worth.

Sec. 27A-5. Procedure for claiming grant.

(a) Annually, but not later than June 1, 1973 and May 1 of subsequent calendar years following the grant year, the applicant shall file with the city manager a Rental Grant Affidavit and any other information required according to procedures established by the city manager.

(b) The Rental Grant Affidavit shall set forth, in a manner prescribed by the City Manager, the names of the persons sharing the dwelling with the applicant, their relationship to him, their gross combined income, and their total combined financial worth.

(c) If after audit and investigation, the city manager determines that the applicant is entitled to a grant, he shall so certify to the finance director of the City of Alexandria who shall pay to the applicant the amount of the grant as determined by section 27A-6.

Sec. 27A-6. Amount of grant.

The amount of grant shall be the difference between the real estate tax attributable to the applicant's dwelling for the grant year as determined from official city assessment records and the sum of the following:

Three per centum for the amount of total combined income not exceeding one thousand dollars; and

Four per centum of the amount of such income in excess of one thousand dollars, but not in excess of two thousand dollars; and

Five per centum of the amount of such income in excess of two thousand dollars, but not in excess of three thousand dollars; and

Six per centum of the amount of such income in excess of three thousand dollars, but not in excess of four thousand dollars; and

Seven per centum of the amount of such income in excess of four thousand dollars, but not in excess of five thousand dollars; and

Eight per centum of the amount of such income in excess of five thousand dollars, but not in excess of seven thousand five hundred dollars.

Provided, however, that the maximum amount of grant for rent relief shall in no event exceed four hundred seventy dollars for any grant year.

Sec. 27A-7. Penalty for violation of chapter.

Any person falsely claiming a grant hereunder shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$500.00 for each offense.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the city not later than five days following its introduction together with a notice containing the time and place for a public hearing. The clerk of the council shall note the date of introduction and first reading, the date of publication, the date of the public hearing, and the date of the second reading and final passage in the minutes of the meeting. This ordinance shall become effective the date of its final passage.

Charles E. Beatley, Jr.
Mayor

FINAL PASSAGE: APRIL 24, 1973