RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A WATER UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM TO EXPAND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, ALLEVIATE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, AND ENSURE ACCESS TO AN ESSENTIAL WATER UTILITY SERVICE FOR LOW-INCOME MEMPHIS RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, the Memphis City Council recognizes that rising utility costs and ongoing economic challenges continue to place significant financial burdens on low-income households, creating a need for additional resources to help residents maintain essential utility services; and

WHEREAS, the existing MLGW Share the Pennies Program provides weatherization assistance to qualifying low-income homeowners but does not provide direct financial assistance for water utilities; and

WHEREAS, Councilwoman Jerri Green proposes the establishment of a $4,000,000 **(Four Million Dollar) Water Utility Assistance Program,** in which program funding is to be allocated over a three fiscal-year period; and

WHEREAS, an annual investment from the City of Memphis will be required in the form of fiscal support from FY2027-FY2029 to fulfill the desired funding threshold; and

WHEREAS; the FY2027 programming contribution of $1,333,000 (One Million, Three Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars) will originate from a surplus in forecasted revenues for Local Sales Tax and Gross Receipts Business Tax in the following amounts:

Local Sales Tax - $666,500

Gross Receipts Business Tax - $666,500

WHEREAS, the proposed initiative will provide financial relief for and water bills, thus helping vulnerable households maintain essential services and avoid utility disconnection; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Memphis City Council hereby authorizes the establishment of a **Water Utility Assistance Program** to assist eligible low-income Memphis residents with water expenses with the appropriation of surplus forecasted revenues in the amount of $1,333,000 (One Million, Three Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars) along with a subsequent increase in grant expenditures for MLGW Citizen's Assistance in FY2027;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administration, in coordination with MLGW and the appropriate City divisions, shall establish program eligibility guidelines, identify an administrative process, and ensure proper oversight and accountability in the distribution of funds.

Local Sales Tax (Revenue) - $666,500

Gross Receipts Business Tax (Revenue) - $666,500

MLGW Citizen's Assistance (Expenditures) - $1,333,000