



## REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

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| Agenda Date Requested: <u>July 22, 2024</u>  |
| Requested By: <u>Mayor Helton, Councilperson Lunsford<br/>And Councilperson McCaulley</u>                |
| Department: <u>City Council</u>  |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Report <input type="radio"/> Resolution <input type="radio"/> Ordinance |

| Appropriation     |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Source of Funds:  | <u>Fund 015 –<br/>0158080-552</u>                             |
| Account Number:   | <u>PR0025</u>   |
| Amount Budgeted:  | <u>N/A</u>  |
| Amount Requested: | <u>\$186,372</u>  |
| Budgeted Item:    | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No |

**Exhibits:** Generator Grant Policy and Application

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### SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

The City of La Porte's Residential Generator Grant Program represents a proactive and innovative approach to ensuring community resilience and continuity in the face of natural disasters and emergencies. La Porte recognizes the vulnerability of its infrastructure to severe weather events, such as hurricanes and tropical storms, which often lead to prolonged power outages. Hurricane Beryl has shown the need to proactively assist our residents with the cost of generators. Moreover, the utilization of generators diminishes the likelihood of residents needing assistance from municipal resources such as Fire, Police, EMS, or Public Works.

This grant opportunity extends to all residential units associated with a water meter account, providing reimbursement for the installation of a newly manufactured natural gas whole-house generator with automatic transfer switch, or a generator tap box. Eligible equipment must not be used, refurbished, or remanufactured, and cannot be connected to ancillary residential structures.

The City will share costs on a 50-50 basis, with contributions capped at \$7,500.00 for whole home generators and \$500.00 for generator tap boxes. Interested homeowners must submit a completed application along with a contractor's quote covering installation, including electrical and plumbing components. Maintenance responsibilities for the generator and tap box will fall to the homeowner.

The Community Fencing Capital Improvement Project currently holds a balance of \$186,372.00. While six neighborhoods have benefited from new fences under this initiative, no new applications have been received in the fiscal year 2024. Staff proposes reallocating the remaining funds from the Community Fencing CIP to bolster the Residential Generator Grant Program.

Staff seeks Council's guidance on finalizing the Residential Generator Grant Program Guidelines and Application, along with the proposed reallocation of funds from the Community Fences Project. Specifically, \$50,000.00 is earmarked for generator tap boxes, with \$136,372.00 designated for whole home generators under the revised Capital Improvement Plan.

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**STRATEGIC PLAN STRATEGY AND GOAL**

Updates to the Community Cooperation Grant will improve the City's processes and increase efficiency. This program provides assistance to Homeowners Associations that will improve the look of our neighborhoods and community.

**1.0 Governance:** The City of La Porte is governed in a transparent, efficient, accountable, and responsive manner on behalf of its citizens that actively promotes citizen involvement.

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**ACTION REQUIRED BY CITY COUNCIL**

**Presentation, discussion, and possible action to approve the Residential Generator Grant Program Policy & Application and to authorize the re-allocation of previously budgeted amount of \$186,372.00 from the Community Fences (PR0025) to the Residential Generator Grant Program.**

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**Approved for the City Council meeting agenda**

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**Corby D. Alexander, City Manager**

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**Date**