



# CITY OF LAS VEGAS

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## **CITY OF LAS VEGAS ANNOUNCES COST OF GAS COMPONENT INCREASE**

LAS VEGAS, NM – City of Las Vegas Gas Utility announces the increase in the cost of gas to our customers took effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The cost of gas component as determined by a city ordinance calls for an increase to our customers whenever the cost of gas delivered to the City increases. The new rates will help offset the increases of the cost of gas acquired by and delivered to the City's gas utility system.

"We have already reduced administrative and other fees," Mayor Tony E. Marquez Jr. said. "Unfortunately, the rising cost to the city by our supplier has forced us to increase the natural gas cost to our customers."

The following demonstrates an average gas cost:

- The average cost of gas for a typical family of three (3) is currently \$191.40.
- After Increase: The average cost of gas for a typical family of three (3) will be \$209.20. Total average increase: \$17.80.

"Natural gas rates are not connected to the cost of price of oil," Marquez said. "The cost of natural gas to the city continues to rise from our supplier. Therefore, we are following a city ordinance and the increase will be reflected on residents' bills. I encourage residents to participate in the various plans we have available."

Utility customer service plans options include:

1. *LIHEAP – Gas only*

- To apply for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), customers should contact the New Mexico Human Services Department. In Las Vegas, the office is located at 3112 Hot Springs Blvd., 425-6741. The LIHEAP program provides a one-time payment for heating bills only (not water or sanitation). The LIHEAP program also protects the customer from having their gas shut-off.
2. *WARM – Gas only*
    - Customers that do not qualify for LIHEAP may apply through the Utilities Department for the Winter Assistance Repayment Method program for heating bills. The WARM program also offers protection from gas shut-off.
  3. *BUDGET BILLING - Utilities*
    - Customers who do not qualify for either the LIHEAP or the WARM programs may apply for Budget Billing. Customers must have a good credit history with the Utilities department in order to qualify. Budget billing allows customers to spread out their utility payments to a year-round arrangement so that their winter gas bill is lowered, and the payments are made up throughout the rest of the year.
  4. *PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS - Utilities*
    - Customers who may not qualify for any of the other programs or who need to make payment arrangements periodically must come in person to 905 12th Street and speak with a Customer Service Representative for payment arrangements.
  5. *OVER-THE-PHONE PAYMENTS - Utilities*
    - Over-the-phone payments may be made between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. only.

Marquez continued, "I have directed city staff to work closely with residents to ensure that every home remains warm throughout the winter."

For information on billing, please contact the Utility Department at 454-3832.

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