

Residential Air Purifier Filtration and HVAC Filter Rebate Program



Paramount City Council Meeting
July 17, 2018

Request

- Request to establish the Residential Air Purifier Filtration and HVAC Filter Rebate Program to assist in obtaining air purifier units or HVAC filters
- At its April 3, 2018 meeting, the City Council approved the Home Security Rebate Program
 - The Council directed staff to explore the possibility of providing residents with rebates for air purifier units

Request (Continued)

- The program would provide financial assistance through a rebate
- For FY 2019, the City Council made a place holder in the budget for \$10,000 from the General Fund for the Air Purifier Rebate Program

Background

- At its October 17, 2017 meeting, the City Council directed staff to explore grant funding opportunities that would provide indoor filtration units for residents
- City retained the services of a Certified Industrial Hygienist with Pacific EH & S Services (Pacific)
 - Pacific analyzed air quality data

Background (Continued)

- Pacific confirmed DPH sampling analysis that there was not a specific hazard
- Pacific did not recommend air purifiers/filters as a necessity but could be used as a matter of preference
- Stated that HEPA air purifier units are the most effective way to reduce unhealthful air particles

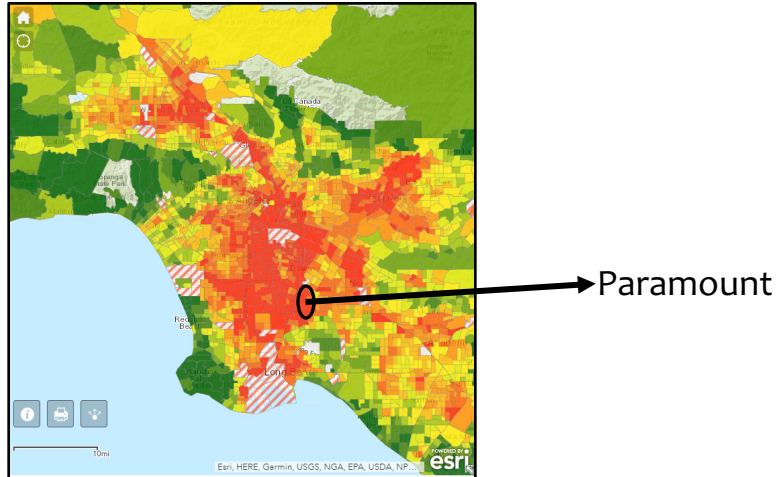
Justification

- Pollution has been measured by a number of different tools
 - Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) developed the CalEnviroScreen tool
 - Tool is used to measure a number of pollution indicators as a means for determining and designating disadvantaged communities

CalEnvironScreen Maps

Higher CalEnviroScreen scores (81% to 100%)
are represented as darker red colors

Los Angeles County (and surrounding)



Justification

- Paramount is ringed by freeways
- Heavy load of diesel trucks on the 710 Freeway from the ports
 - These factors contribute to pollution in the City

Justification

- U.S. EPA designated greater Los Angeles as extreme nonattainment area for ground-level ozone
 - Ozone created from exhaust from cars, trucks, and buses
- U.S. EPA has also designated greater Los Angeles as extreme nonattainment area for airborne particulate matter such as dirt, dust, and smoke from industry and vehicles

Air Purifier Units

- Rebate program would allow for the purchase of a “True HEPA” air purifier
 - HEPA filters capture up to 99.97% of particles of 0.3 microns or larger
 - Can also filter detectible odors

Air Purifier Units

- Room-based air purifier units meeting the performance criteria referenced above can cost between \$150 to \$250 per unit
- Units are easily available for purchase online and in many department and hardware stores

“True HEPA” Air Purifier Examples



HVAC Filters

- Household HVAC filters are also recommended to be included in the program as they also effectively capture unhealthful air particles
- HVAC air filters should have a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) of 13 on a scale of 1 to 16 to be effective
- Average cost of \$50

HVAC Filter Examples



Proposed Rebate Program

- Staff recommends the following rebate amounts:
 - Up to \$100 for the cost of a home air purifier unit;
or
 - Up to \$50 for the purchase of HVAC filters

Eligibility Guidelines

- Must be a Paramount resident
- A one-time rebate is available per household for either an air purifier unit or HVAC filters
- An online application must be submitted with a copy of the receipt within sixty days of the purchase date
- Rebates will be issued on a “first-come, first served” basis until funding is exhausted

How to Apply

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS

1. Complete the online application
2. Upload required documentation (receipt/picture)
3. Review by Community Development Department personnel
4. Issue the rebate/reimbursement to the Paramount resident

Recommended Action

It recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager or designee to implement the Residential Air Purifier Filtration and HVAC Filter Rebate Program

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