ORDINANCE NO. 19129

AN ORDINANCE introduced by Councilmember John Alcala, amending City of Topeka Code § 146-17 concerning the utility franchise fee refund program and specifically repealing said original section.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS:

Section 1. That section 146-17, Utility franchise fee refund program, of The Code of the City of Topeka, Kansas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Utility franchise fee refund program.

(a) Established. There is hereby established a utility franchise fee refund program in the City of Topeka. Subject to the terms and conditions established herein, eligible gas and electric utility ratepayers in the City of Topeka may receive a refund of gas and electric franchise fees paid by the ratepayer for property located within the city.

(b) Eligibility. Commencing for the tax year of 2006 only those ratepayers who fit the income, age, dependents and other requirements of the State of Kansas Homestead Property Tax Refund law, as amended from time to time, and actually receive a refund from the State of Kansas Homestead Property Tax Refund program, as provided in K.S.A. § 79-4501 et seq., (as amended), may receive franchise fee refunds as provided herein.

(c) Refund procedure. Franchise fee refunds shall be issued pursuant to the following procedure:

(1) Application for a franchise fee refund shall be processed if received by the city on or before September 5 for refunds of franchise fees paid for the preceding calendar year made by July 15 of 2006 and of each subsequent year for the preceding calendar year paid franchise fees.
(2) Applications shall be made on a form approved by the City of Topeka Director of Administrative and Financial Services and shall be accompanied by the following documents and information:

a. Copy of the ratepayer's homestead property tax refund claim form or verification obtained by the City of Topeka Director of Administrative and Financial Services for the preceding calendar year for the residence for which gas and electric utility franchise fees have been paid.

b. Proof of payment or approval of a homestead property tax refund for the preceding calendar year for the residence for which gas and electric utility franchise fees have been paid.

c. Proof in a form acceptable to the City of Topeka Director of Administrative and Financial Services that franchise fees in the claimed amount have been paid by the ratepayer for the identified residence.

(3) Upon receipt of the required application, documents and information, the City of Topeka Director of Administrative and Financial Services shall, within 30 days, either issue a refund of the claimed franchise fees to the ratepayer or, if the refund application is rejected for any reason, notify the ratepayer of the reason for the rejection.

(4) A ratepayer whose application is rejected may appeal the rejection to the City of Topeka City Manager whose decision on the matter shall be deemed final and unappealable.

Section 2. That original section 146-17 of The Code of the City of Topeka, Kansas, is hereby specifically repealed.
Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage, approval and publication in the official City newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council July 15, 2008.

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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William W. Bunten, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk