

Information for Everyday Living – For a Comfortable Living Environment

生活情報—住みよい環境のために

6-1

Starting a New Life

生活を始める準備

Renting a Home 家を借りる

(1) Finding a Place to Live

To rent a home, some people use magazines that contain listings of rental housing and the Internet to find out background information and prices of places, but it is usual to go through local real estate agents to look at the actual property.

Generally, room space is expressed in units of tatami mats, with two tatami mats equal to 3.3m². *Yon-jo* or four tatami mats would be 6.6m². The number of rooms and types of rooms are expressed with the letters “L” “D” and “K” – the “L” being for “living room,” “D” for “dining room” and “K” for “kitchen.”

(2) Money Needed to Finalize a Rental Contract

Reikin (Gift Money): About one to two months’ rent that is paid to the landlord and not returned even if the contract is canceled.

Shikikin (Deposit): About one or two months’ rent is deposited with the landlord and is returned when you vacate the premises. In some cases, however, fees to cover repairs to the interior or tatami mats may be deducted.

Chukai-Ryokin (Agent’s Fee): This is paid to the real estate agent who introduced you to the landlord. The amount is legally determined to be within one month’s rent.

Ya-chin (Rent): Rent is paid in advance by the end of the month for the following month.

(3) Other

- The rental contract is usually for two years.
- If you plan to cancel the contract, you must notify the landlord at least one month in advance. (Specific conditions and terms are written in the contract.)
- When finalizing a contract, ask the real estate agent to explain anything that is not clear to you, and make sure you agree with everything before signing.

Housing Consultation 住居探しの相談

(1) Chiba Housing Advisory Service for Foreign Residents

Among the real estate agencies within Chiba Prefecture, the following offer consultation services in Kashiwa for foreign residents who are looking for housing. Please call the particular agent directly.

Name	Address	Telephone No. Fax No.
Kaburaki Shoji Co., Ltd.	401 Toyofuta Kashiwa 277-0872	04-7134-1321 04-7140-8817
Kousei Jutaku Inc.	2-9-13 Kashiwa Kashiwa City 277-0005	04-7164-0103 04-7164-0106
Orchid Co. Ltd.	2-1-29 Akebono Kashiwa City 277-0841	04-7141-1111 04-7147-1499
East Grow Housing Co. Ltd.	508-13 Toyoshiki Kashiwa City 277-0861	04-7175-9741 04-7175-9746
Hodaka Chintai Center Co. Ltd.	5-21 Chuocho Kashiwa City 277-0021	04-7167-5666 04-7167-5668
Success Home Co., Ltd.	294-49 Wakashiba Kashiwa City 277-0871	04-7133-0025 04-7133-3450
House Partner Kashiwa East Exit Branch	Orion Bldg. 2F, 2-2-6 Kashiwa, Kashiwa City 277-0005	04-7162-0011 04-7133-0268
Najic Gakusei Mansion Jouhou	Odayama No. 3 Bldg. 3F, 1-1-9 Asahicho Kashiwa City 277-0852	0120-749-286

(2) Prefectural Housing

Inquiries: Chiba Housing Public Corporation, Available Housing Division, Prefectural Housing Management Department; **Tel:** 043-22-9200
Housing Division; **Tel:** 7167-1147

Applications are accepted four times a year – in April, July, October and January – between the 1st and 15th of each application month. Application forms and information on vacancies are sent to the Construction Housing Division from the Prefectural Government Office at the end of the month prior to the application month. For more information, please call the Chiba Housing Public Corporation listed above.

(3) UR Rental Housing

Inquiries: Matsudo Center, Urban Renaissance Agency; **Tel:** 047-367-5221

Please ask for advice if you are interested in UR Rental Housing.

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (closed on Wednesdays and national holidays)

Location: 7-10 Honcho (Matsudo Chiba Bank Bldg. 8F), Matsudo City

Electricity 電気

When using electricity for the first time in your new home, complete the application postcard that is attached to the circuit breaker and mail the completed form.

* When Using Electricity: Up to 15 amperes can be used from one circuit or outlet. When purchasing a large household appliance, you may need to have special wiring installed. In addition, to prevent accidents stemming from short circuiting, be sure to attach the grounding wire for appliances such as the washing machine, air conditioner and refrigerator.

Gas ガス

If you would like to use gas when you move into your new home, you must notify the gas company in advance. You must also give advance notice to the gas company when you move out.

The only gas supplied in Kashiwa City is through Keiyo Gas Company. Metropolitan gas may not be available depending on the area where you live, so please consult with a propane gas company. When you buy a gas appliance, be sure to check that it uses the kind of gas supplied to your home.

*If You Smell Gas

If there is a gas leak, ventilators or turning on the electricity may cause an explosion due to electrical sparks. Do not turn on the electricity.

City Gas: First of all, close the gas valve. Open the doors and windows to ventilate the room. Since city gas is lighter than air, the gas will diffuse in the air.

Propane Gas: Since propane gas is heavier than air, it tends to remain in low places. Open your windows and doors and sweep out the gas.

Water Services 水道

Inquiries: Waterworks Bureau (1-2-32 Chiyoda), **Tel:** 7166-2191

(1) Potable Water

The water supply is operated by the city. When you wish to start using water or terminate water services because you are moving in or out, you must submit an Application for Starting/Terminating Water Services. Notify the Kashiwa Water Service Bureau. If there is any damage that requires repair, the city will introduce you to designated water service engineering companies. Water can be drunk straight from the tap.

Please Conserve Water during the summer

Due to the temperature or accidents, your water may become muddied, or water use restrictions may be put into effect. Please cooperate by not using water excessively to prevent water shortages during the summer.

(2) Public Sewers

Inquiries: Sewer Management Division Tel: 7167-1111 (Switchboard)

Used water from kitchens, baths and toilets in districts covered by public sewer facilities is drained together with sewage, processed at a water sanitation facility and purified and disposed of in rivers.

You must pay for public sewer services. When you apply to start water service, you will be applying to use the public sewer at the same time. You will be billed at the same time for both services. If you use well water, you must contact the Sewer Management Division.

Postal Services 郵便

Inquires: Kashiwa Post Office (6-29 Azumakami-cho Kashiwa City) Tel: 7164-2361

(1) Post Offices

You can find a post office by looking for the (〒) logo. Red mail boxes have two openings, the one on the left side as you face the mail box is for regular mail (letters and postcards), while the one on the right side is for other types of mail, such as express or international mail.

(2) Domestic Mail

The postcards sold at the post office do not need postage stamps. Other postcards require a ¥ 50 stamp for domestic mail.

(3) Delivery When No One Is Home

If a letter or parcel requiring your signature or name seal arrives when you are not at home, a “Notice of Delivery in Absence” is left in your mailbox. To pick up your mail, go to the post office listed on the notice. Bring the notice and a document which proves your identity, such as a foreign resident registration card and your name seal if you have one when you pick up the item.

(4) International Mail

Post offices sell international airmail postcards for ¥ 70 each, or aerogrammes for ¥ 90 each. In addition, there are various ways to send mail overseas: airmail, sea mail, SAL (surface air-limited, which is less expensive than airmail and faster than sea mail) and international business EMS (express mail service). The rates and the delivery dates vary with each type of delivery.

Telephone 電話

Inquiries: NTT East Japan Tokatsu Branch Office (1-31 Izumicho); Tel: 7162-4630

(1) Telephone Installation

When applying for a telephone, you must have some form of personal identification (such as a foreign resident registration card or driver's license). For inquiries, dial 11 6, an area code is not necessary. For inquiries concerning telephone companies other than NTT East Japan, please call the particular company.

Telephone rates also vary depending on the telephone company. In addition, you must sign up in advance to receive service.

(2) Making Calls

The area code for Kashiwa City is 04. When calling a telephone number within the city, it is not necessary to dial the area code. However, when dialing a telephone number in another area, you must dial the proper area code along with the telephone number.

(3) International Telephone Calls

There are a number of international telephone companies in Japan. Rates vary according to each company and according to the country or area you are calling. For further information, direct your inquiries to each international phone company directly.

***How to Make an International Telephone Call:**

Telephone Company Code → 010 → Country Code of the Party You are Calling → Telephone No. of the Party You are Calling

Financial Institutions 金融

(1) Bank and Post Office Accounts

Both banks and post offices offer financial services. To open a bank or post office account, you will need some form of identification which verifies your name and address, such as your foreign resident registration card, as well as your name seal. You can also apply for a cash card when you open an account, which can be

used at automated teller machines (ATM) and cash dispensers (CD).

Automatic Bank Transfer for Public Utility Bills

Automatic account transfer services are available for paying your utility bills – electricity, gas, water and telephone. To apply for this service at your financial institution, bring the appropriate receipts/invoices, your account book and your name seal (if you have one).

(2) Sending Money Overseas

To send money overseas from a bank, you must use a bank that has been approved to handle foreign currency exchange. Remittances can be sent in three ways – by bank check, wire transfer, or by postal remittance. To send money overseas from a post office, you must go to the post office counter that handles collection and delivery. Postal money order remittances can be wired or sent by regular mail.

(3) ATMs and CDs

Most financial account transactions can be conducted at ATMs, such as withdrawals, deposits, checking on your balance note, updating your bankbook and bank transfer payments. At CDs, you can check your balance note and make withdrawals. These machines operate for longer hours than banks and post offices, and some, in some areas, even operate on Saturdays and Sundays.

6-2 Neighborhood Associations

町会

Neighborhood associations are independent civic groups that conduct local activities. They publicize information from City Hall, improve local areas and promote mutual understanding among council members.

As a rule, membership is voluntary. However, it is best to join to smooth relationships with your neighbors. Although a fee may be required to join, this fee is used to maintain the local area, print local bulletins, promote fire prevention and disaster preparedness activities, improve sanitation, organize children's activities and so on.

6-3 Motor Vehicles

自動車

Driver's Licenses

(1) Switching to a Japanese Driver's License

Inquiries: Chiba Driver's License Center (Chiba-Ken, Mihama-Ku, Hamada 2-1) **Tel:** 043-274-2000

Inquiries: Nagareyama Driver's License Center (217 Maegasaki, Nagareyama City); **Tel:** 7147-2000

To drive a car in Japan, you must have either a Japanese driver's license or an international driver's license. An international driver's license is valid for the period before the expiration date or for one year from the date of entry into Japan, whichever period is shorter. If you drive beyond this period, you must convert your license to a Japanese driver's license. Please complete the necessary procedures on a weekday at the Chiba Prefecture Driver's License Center (Tel: 043-274-2000). The procedure cannot be done at the Nagareyama Driver's License Center.

(2) Renewing Your License

Inquiries: Nagareyama Driver's License Center (217 Maegasaki, Nagareyama City); **Tel:** 7147-2000

Kashiwa Police Station (722-1 Matsugasaki); Tel: 7148-0110

You can complete the procedures for renewing your driver's license at the driver's license center or the Kashiwa Police Station anytime within one month before or after your birthday in the year that your license expires. (*Kashiwa Police Station does not handle licenses with training course categories other than *yuryo* (excellent) or *ippan* (general).)

(Hours)

Nagareyama Driver and Vehicle Licensing Center (DVLC)

Mondays – Fridays 8:30 – 10:00 / 13:00 – 15:00

*Applications are not accepted on Saturdays, Sundays, National Holidays, Substitute Holidays, and yearend/New Year Holidays (12/29 - 1/3)

Sundays (only for best drivers) 8:30 – 11:00 / 13:00 – 15:00

Police Station: Mondays – Fridays 8:30 – 16:00

*Applications are not accepted on Saturdays, Sundays, National Holidays, Substitute Holidays, and yearend/New Year Holidays (12/29 - 1/3)

(Fee)

Renewal fee.....¥2,550	Lesson fee:(Best driver lesson) ¥700
General driver’s lesson¥1,050	Offense driver’s lesson ¥1,700
Initial renewal lesson¥1,700	

(3) Motor Vehicle Inspection

Inquiries: Noda Automobile Inspection and Registration Office, Chiba District Land Transport Bureau (207-22 Kami-Sangao, Noda City); Tel: 7121-0111
Noda Branch City Office, Chiba Office, Light Motor Vehicle Inspection Organization (207-26 Kami-Sangao, Noda City); Tel: 7120-2020

Cars and motorcycles (250cc or more) must undergo a regular inspection and owners must be issued a valid motor vehicle inspection certificate.

6-4 Bicycle Parking Lots

駐輪場

Inquiries: Traffic Facilities Division; Tel: 7167-1304

The areas around the stations in Kashiwa City are designated as no-parking areas for bicycles and other vehicles. Bicycles parked on the street, and in no-parking areas will be removed, and it will be necessary to pay a fine to reclaim them. If you ride your bicycle to the station for work, school or shopping, please use a bicycle parking lot.

To use a bicycle parking lot, if you are a regular (one-year) user, you must complete a registration form at a bicycle parking lot or City Hall and obtain a one-year permit. If you are a one-time user, or if you would like to rent-a-cycle, you must complete the designated procedures at bicycle parking lots which offer these services.

You can check on the locations of the parking lots and other details on the home page of the City. Please call for further information when necessary.

6-5 Proper Disposal of Garbage

ごみは決められた方法で

In Kashiwa City, the method of garbage disposal may differ depending on where you live.

	Address
Shonan Machi Areas	Oi, Iwai, Midoridai, Wakashiraga, Gojoya, Minowa, Washinoya, Teganomori, Fuse, Izumi, Tega, Katayama, Yanado, Somei-iri Shinden, Kaneyama, Fujigaya, Konandai, Takayanagi Shinden, Shiinokidai, Oshimata, Ootsugaoka, Tsukazaki, Fujigaya Shinden, Kazahaya, Takayanagi, Minami-Takayanagi
Kashiwa City Areas	All areas other than those mentioned above

Kashiwa City Areas 柏市域

Inquiries: Environmental Services Section; Tel: 7167-1139

Please separate your garbage into combustible garbage, non-combustible garbage, plastic wrapping/containers, recyclable items and dangerous garbage. Collection is conducted twice a week for combustible garbage, every Wednesday for plastic wrapping/containers, and twice a month for non-combustible garbage, dangerous garbage and recyclable items.

(1) Combustible Garbage

Kitchen garbage	Kitchen scraps, leftovers, fruit peels, used tea leaves, clam shells, etc.
Plastic wrapping/containers that are difficult to clean, recording tape	Instant “retort” pouches, soy sauce/mustard packets, used food wrapping, video and cassette recording tape, etc.

Non-recyclable paper	Paper scraps, disposable diapers, heat-sensitive paper, gold/aluminum foil, photographs, non-recyclable paper such as plastic-coated paper, desiccants, coolants, etc.
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* Disposal method: Please use the designated garbage bags that are available in stores to dispose of your garbage.

(2) Non-combustible Garbage

Small household items	Wooden furniture less than 1.2-m in length, mirror stands, stereos, vacuum cleaners, hot water pots, skis, spring less mattresses, carpets, electric fans, legless chairs, etc.
Plastic items	Plastic buckets, clothes cases, polyurethane tanks, planters, wash basins, toothbrushes, Tupperware, floppy discs, etc.
Leather items, Cloth other than clothes	Schoolbags, handbags, shoes, stuffed toys, pillows, etc.
Glass/ceramic items	Glass panes, glass cups, cosmetic bottles, glass tanks, special glass such as heat-resistant glass, mirrors, tea cups, plates, plant pots, etc.
Tree branches/grass	Branches 5cm or less in thickness, grass from home gardens, fallen leaves, etc.

*Disposal method: If the items are small, place them in a plastic bag. For small household items, dispose of them as is.

(3) Hazardous Garbage

Dry-cell batteries, thermometers, fluorescent lights, empty lighters, etc.

*Disposal method: Separate items according to type (batteries, fluorescent lights, thermometers) and place them in a plastic shopping bag. Please make sure that the plastic bag is transparent so that the contents are visible.

(4) Plastic wrapping/containers



Plastic containers with the identifying mark ( used for food, etc.) and wrapping, egg cartons, confection/ frozen food bags, cup noodle/shampoo containers, etc.

*Disposal method: Rinse out the plastic, and then place the items in the designated garbage bags that are sold commercially.

(5) Recyclable Items

Old paper	Newspapers, cardboard (please tie these with string before disposal), magazines, miscellaneous paper (please tie with a string or put into a paper bag before disposal), milk/juice cartons (Please rinse, cut open and dry before disposal. Do not dispose of items on rainy days.)
Old clothes/ cloth	Clothes, curtains, sheets, blankets, small towel, sweaters, stockings, etc. (Please neatly fold, stack, and tie with string before disposal. If it is raining that day, please do not dispose of these items.)
Plastic PET bottles	PET bottles for beverages, soy sauce, etc.
Empty bottles	Bottles for beverages and food (dispose of cosmetic bottles with non-combustible garbage)

Empty cans	Cans, gas cassettes for tabletop stoves, spray cans, etc. (Be sure that spray cans are completely empty and pierce a hole in the can in a well-ventilated area before disposal.)
Metal items	Aluminum foil, gas tables, frying pans, pots, metal lids, wires, petroleum stoves, fan heaters (empty of fuel), umbrella frames, blades (wrap the sharp point), items made mostly of metal such as bicycles (less than 30-kg and 3-m)

*Disposal method: Please separate according to type (bottles, cans, plastic PET bottles, metal items, newspapers, magazines, cardboard, milk/juice cartons, clothes) before disposal.

(6) Oversized Garbage

Regardless of size, the following items are classified as oversized garbage.

- Beds, spring mattresses, study desks, sofas, piano/organs, futons, zabutons (for sitting on) etc.

If the length of the pieces of furniture is over 1.2 meters, the following items are classified as oversized garbage.

- Chest of drawers, side boards, kitchen tables, kitchen cupboards, bookshelves, and other wooden furniture.

*Disposal method:

1. Call Yamamoto Sangyo Co., Ltd. (Tel: 7132-1878) to request collection. The office will set a date for collection at that time.
2. Purchase a *Shori-ken* Handling Coupon (¥ 1,050) at a dealer. When you make a reservation for pick up, the office will direct you to the nearest dealer.
3. Write your name on the Handling Coupon, attach it to your oversized garbage, and leave the item at your front entrance or another location on the designated collection day.

(7) Garbage Collection Days

Garbage is collected in the morning on the specified collection day. Recyclable items should be put out for collection from 7am to 8:30am. Please put other garbage out from sunrise to 8:30am. Also, the garbage collection days are determined by area. Please refer to the “Garbage Disposal Calendar” which is distributed by the city hall. Garbage pick-up locations are decided by the community. For more information, please ask a neighbor, or a member of your local neighborhood association.

*The city does not collect large amounts of garbage resulting from a move, nor does it collect items such as refrigerators, TVs, laundry machines, air conditioners and personal computers. For more information, please call the Environmental Services Section.

Shonan Areas 沼南地域

Inquiries: Environmental Services Section; Tel: 7167-1139
Clean Center “Shirasagi”; Tel: 7193-5389

Please separate your garbage into garbage that can be burned, plastic garbage, plastic PET bottles, garbage that cannot be burned, dangerous/hazardous garbage and recyclable items. Collection is conducted three times a week for burnable garbage, once a week for plastic items and recyclable items, twice a month for plastic PET bottles and non-burnable garbage, and once a month for dangerous/hazardous garbage.

(1) Garbage that can be burned

Kitchen garbage	Kitchen scraps, leftovers, fruit peels, egg shells, disposable wooden chopsticks, clam shells, etc. Dispose of used cooking oil using a solidifying agent or absorbent paper.
Plastic waste with hard-to-clean stains	Plastic bags for retort food, small bags for soy sauce or mustard, used wraps, video tapes, cassette tapes, etc.

Tree branches, leaves/grass	Fallen leaves, grass (place in the designated bag), tree branches (2-cm or less in thickness and 50-cm in length), wooden planks (20-cm in width, 50-cm in length and no more than 2-cm in thickness)
Paper items	Paper that cannot be recycled, paper scraps, photographs, gold/aluminum foil, plastic-coated paper, gummed tape, carbon paper, disposable diapers (flush waste down the toilet), sanitary napkins

* Disposal method: Please use the designated garbage bags that are available in stores. However, please bundle tree branches and planks by tying them the string.

(2) Plastic Garbage (Containers and plastic packaging)



This symbol is used to indicate recyclable plastic items. It can be found on plastic containers and wrap for food items, egg containers, snack and frozen food bags, cup noodle containers and shampoo bottles, etc.

* Disposal method: Please rinse out the wrap or containers first, and then place them in designated garbage bags that are available in stores.

(3) Plastic PET Bottles

* Disposal method: Remove the caps and labels from plastic PET bottles, rinse the inside, crush them and place them in the specific collection net. Dispose of plastic bottles that are not considered PET bottles, as well as caps and labels with plastic garbage.

(4) Garbage that is not burned

Leather/rubber items	Shoes, briefcases, hoses, etc.
Large or hard plastic items	Video tapes, planters, polyurethane tanks, buckets, etc.
Glass/ceramic items	Cups, mirrors, cosmetic bottles, plates, tea cups, plant pots, heat-resistant glass etc.
Other	Carpets (less than six-tatami mats in size), aluminum foil, stuffed toys, disposable pocket warmers, coolants, photo albums, telephones, etc.

* Disposal method: Place items in a bag such as supermarket *Regi* shopping bags through which the contents can be seen.

(5) Dangerous/Hazardous Garbage

Disposable lighters, blades (wrap the sharp point, label the contents), dry-cell batteries, thermometers, fluorescent lights, etc.

* Disposal method: Place items in a bag, such as plastic supermarket shopping bags through which the contents can be seen.

(6) Recyclable Garbage

Empty cans	Cans for beverage/food, spray cans (pierce a hole in the can and empty contents completely), etc.
Empty bottles	Bottles for beverages/food, etc. (remove lids)
Metal items (Over 50% made of metal)	Pans, pots, frying pans, irons, umbrellas, toasters, wire hangers, air pumps, small electric appliances, etc.
Cloth items	Old clothes (dresses, shirts, suits, slacks, sweaters, jackets, underwear, etc.), sheets/blankets, curtains, zabuton cushions (cover items so they do not get wet on rainy days)

Paper items	Newspapers, magazines, cardboard, miscellaneous paper, milk/juice cartons (open and wash)
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* Disposal method: Place empty cans, bottles and metal items in a bag such as supermarket *Regi* shopping bags through which the contents can be seen. Separate paper items by type and bind them with string. Please dispose of blankets and comforters by binding them with string.

(7) Oversized Garbage

As a rule, items with a height, width and depth totaling 100cm or more.

* Disposal method:

1. Call the Clean Center “Shirasagi” to request collection. The office will set a date for collection at that time.
2. Purchase a *Shori-ken* Handling Coupon (¥ ¥840) at a dealer. When you make a reservation for pick up, the office will direct you to the nearest dealer.
3. Write your name on the Handling Coupon, attach it to your oversized garbage, and leave the item at your front entrance or another location on the designated collection day. Do not take items to the regular garbage collection station.

(8) Garbage Collection Days

Garbage is collected in the morning on the specified collection day. Garbage should be put out for collection by 8:00 am. The garbage collection days are determined by area. Please refer to the “Garbage Disposal Calendar” which is distributed by the city hall. Garbage pick-up locations are decided by the community. For more information, please ask a neighbor, or a member of your local neighborhood association.

*The city does not collect large amounts of garbage resulting from a move, nor does it collect items such as refrigerators, TVs, laundry machines, air conditioners and personal computers. For more information, please call the Environmental Services Section.

7-1 About Pets

ペットに関すること

Inquiries: Kashiwa City Health Center Life Sanitation Division Tel:04-7167-1259

If and when your dog or cat gets lost, please contact the Health Center immediately!!

When a dog is taken in to prevent any possible harm or an injured dog or cat is put under the care of the City, the

City gives public notice about them for two days. If you have found that your dog or cat is missing, please contact the Kashiwa Health Center. (During nighttime or Holidays, please make contact during the office hours of the immediately following business day.)

Precaution

Public notices are updated in principle on the day following the day when a pet is taken in or put under the care of the City (except Saturdays, Sundays, National Holidays and yearend/New Year Holidays).

Information about the pets that have passed the predetermined protected period or those which have been returned to their owners, are deleted when updated. To help find missing pets, their photographs are shown. Depending on the condition for photographing, their pictures may not so clear. So please check whether the missing pet is yours or not from its literal information as well as from its photograph. Please understand that in case taking photographs put extra burden on the pets (that may be injured or exited), it may be difficult to show their photographs. Besides the information carried in the public notices, information received from individuals who are looking after the missing pets. So please contact the Health Center for such information even if you cannot find relevant information in the public notices.

Return of Protected Pets

The following items are required when requesting the return of a missing dog under the care of the City.