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CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION  
PUBLIC HEARING

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016

START TIME: 8:30 A.M.

END TIME: 10:05 A.M.

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LOCATION:

PHILADELPHIA CITY HALL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 4TH FLOOR  
1401 JOHN F. KENNEDY BOULEVARD  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19107

REPORTED BY:

SHEILA KLOS, REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER

HELD BEFORE:

NANCY BROCKWAY, HEARING OFFICER  
SONNY POPOWSKY, BOARD MEMBER  
BERNARD BRUNWASSER: CHAIRMAN  
LEE WONG, BOARD MEMBER

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P R O C E E D I N G S.

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HEARING OFFICER: GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS  
NANCY BROCKWAY. I'M THE HEARING OFFICER APPOINTED  
BY THE PHILADELPHIA WATER SEWER AND STORMWATER RATE  
BOARD TO CONDUCT HEARINGS FOR THEM AND TO GATHER  
THE RECORD TOGETHER. THIS MORNING WE ARE HAVING A  
PUBLIC HEARING. THANKS TO THE GRACIOUSNESS OF  
COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ AND THE CITY COUNCIL, THEY  
HAVE ALLOWED US TO HAVE OUR PUBLIC HEARING IN THEIR  
VERY ILLUSTRIOUS CHAMBERS.

THE WAY THESE THINGS GO IS WE ARE GOING TO  
HAVE A SHORT PRESENTATION FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE WATER DEPARTMENT WHO IS ASKING FOR THE RATE  
INCREASE. AND AFTER SHE HAS COMPLETED HER  
PRESENTATION ABOUT WHY THE WATER DEPARTMENT WANTS  
THE RATE INCREASE, WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A SHORT  
PRESENTATION FROM ROBERT BALLENGER WHO IS THE  
PUBLIC ADVOCATE APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC.

HERE AT THE BENCH, TO MY FAR LEFT IS LEE  
WONG AND TO MY LEFT IS SONNY POPOWSKY AND THE CHAIR  
OF OUR BOARD, BERNIE BROCKWAY IS HERE. WE  
UNDERSTAND THAT COUNCIL MEMBERS MAY BE COMING IN

1 AND GOING OUT.

2 THE OTHER THING I WANT TO MENTION IS WE  
3 HAVE A SIGN-UP SHEET. AND DO WE HAVE A PERSON WHO  
4 HAS BEEN TAKING THE ROLE? THE THING IS, I HAVE  
5 FOUR NAMES HERE. I KNOW THERE IS ANOTHER PERSON  
6 WHO WANTED TO SPEAK. SO LET ME JUST SAY THIS. WE  
7 HAVE A LIST. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WANT TO  
8 SPEAK, IF YOU SIGN IT JUST SO I KNOW IN WHAT ORDER  
9 TO GO IN. WE HAVE TO BE OUT OF HERE TEN OF 10:00,  
10 FIVE OF 10:00. THE COUNCIL STARTS AT 10:00 AND WE  
11 ALSO HAVE A HEARING ON TECHNICAL MATTERS IN ANOTHER  
12 BUILDING.

13 AS IT STANDS NOW, WE WILL PROBABLY BE OKAY  
14 IF WE HAVE THESE FOUR PEOPLE. AND IF ANYBODY ELSE  
15 COMES IN AND YOU SEE SOMEBODY WHO MIGHT WANT TO  
16 SPEAK, YOU MIGHT MENTION TO THEM, LAURA COPELAND,  
17 SHE CAN SIGN YOU IN. IF YOU DON'T APPEAR ON THE  
18 LIST, I'M NOT GOING TO CALL YOUR NAME. BUT IT'S  
19 PRETTY EASY TO GET ON THE LIST.

20 IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?

21 WHAT WE FIRST DO IS WE GIVE THE DEPARTMENT  
22 AND THEN THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE A BRIEF CHANCE TO  
23 EXPLAIN THEIR POSITIONS ON THIS PROPOSED RATE  
24 INCREASE. LET'S TURN IT OVER TO JOANNE DAHME.

1 MS. DAHME: THANK YOU, NANCY. GOOD  
2 MORNING, EVERYBODY. THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS  
3 MORNING. GOOD MORNING, COUNCILMEN. THE PURPOSE OF  
4 THIS MORNING'S PRESENTATION, AS NANCY MENTIONED, IS  
5 JUST TO GIVE YOU A BRIEF OVERVIEW ABOUT THE  
6 PROPOSED RATE INCREASE BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT. WE  
7 WANTED TO GIVE A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND. THIS IS  
8 A NEW RATE PROCESS FOR US. IN 2012, CITIZENS VOTED  
9 TO CREATE A NEW INDEPENDENT WATER STORMWATER SEWER  
10 RATE BOARD. THIS INDEPENDENT RATE-MAKING BODY SETS  
11 AND REGULATES OUR RATES. THIS PROCESS IS A VERY  
12 RIGOROUS PROCESS. AND I ALSO SHOULD MENTION THIS  
13 IS THE FIRST TIME THIS RATE BOARD HAS SAT DOWN TO  
14 REVIEW A PROPOSED RATE INCREASE BY THE PHILADELPHIA  
15 WATER DEPARTMENT.

16 THE RATE INCREASE IS VERY MUCH BASED ON  
17 COST OF SERVICE. THE WATER DEPARTMENT IS A  
18 NONPROFIT OR A CITY DEPARTMENT. SO THE GOOD NEWS  
19 IS WE DON'T HAVE TO PUT ANY INCREASES RELATED TO AN  
20 INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITY WHERE WE HAVE TO MAKE A  
21 PROFIT. IT'S ALL BASED ON A COST OF SERVICE.

22 WHEN WE PROPOSE THE RATE INCREASE, WE  
23 PROVIDE RIGOROUS FINANCIAL INFORMATION. WE PROVIDE  
24 DOCUMENTATION AND EVIDENCE AS TO WHY WE NEED A RATE

1 INCREASE, WHERE THOSE INCREASES ARE NECESSARY IN  
2 PARTS OF OUR OPERATIONS AND SERVICES. THE PROCESS  
3 HAS A CONFIRMED TIME. SO WE WENT THROUGH A PUBLIC  
4 HEARING PROCESS. WE HAVE HAD FIVE PUBLIC HEARINGS  
5 TO DATE. THIS IS OUR SIXTH PUBLIC HEARING WHERE  
6 IT'S THE BEGINNING OF A TECHNICAL REVIEW PROCESS.  
7 SO IT'S A MUCH MORE FORMAL PROCESS WHERE PEOPLE  
8 FORMALLY REGISTER TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY, TO  
9 PROVIDENCE FOR OR AGAINST OUR PROPOSED RATE  
10 PROCESS. THAT TIME PERIOD LASTS ABOUT 120 DAYS, SO  
11 WE SHOULD BE WRAPPING IT UP SOMETIME IN MAY.

12 IT THEN GOES TO THE HEARING OFFICER AND THE  
13 WATER RATE BOARD WHO TAKE A LOOK AT ALL OF THE  
14 EVIDENCE PROVIDED. THEY LOOK AT THE COST OF  
15 SERVICES PROVIDED. THEY LOOK AT TESTIMONY. ALL OF  
16 THE EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED. AND AT THE END,  
17 THE RATE BOARD REVIEWS THAT REPORT THAT IS PROVIDED  
18 BY THE HEARING OFFICER AND DECIDES WHETHER OR NOT  
19 THE RATE INCREASE SHOULD BE APPROVED AS PROVIDED OR  
20 IF IT NEEDS TO BE MODIFIED.

21 THE RATE BOARD, THERE IS FIVE MEMBERS OF  
22 THE RATE BOARD. YOU WERE INTRODUCED TO A NUMBER OF  
23 THEM TODAY. THEY ARE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR AND  
24 APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL.

1                   BUT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT WE HAVE THE PUBLIC.  
2                   SO IT'S GREAT TO SEE THERE ARE SOME PUBLIC CITIZENS  
3                   HERE THIS MORNING. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO HEAR  
4                   BACK FROM THE PUBLIC AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THE  
5                   PUBLIC UNDERSTANDS WHAT THEY ARE PAYING FOR AND WHY  
6                   WE NEED INCREASES. THE PEOPLE VALUE THE WATER  
7                   STORMWATER SERVICES AND, OF COURSE, THEY WEREN'T  
8                   HAPPY TO SEE THE PROPOSED INCREASE. SO WE FELT IT  
9                   WOULD BENEFIT HEARING ALL THE COMMENTS AND GETTING  
10                  THE INFORMATION TO YOU.

11                  ALSO AS PART OF THE RECORD, AS I NOTED PART  
12                  OF THE REPORT, EVERY TIME THERE IS A PUBLIC  
13                  COMMENT, IT COULD BE BY LETTER, BY E-MAIL, BY  
14                  TESTIFYING IN A PUBLIC SETTING, THAT INFORMATION  
15                  GOES ONTO THE RECORD. SO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT  
16                  YOU ARE HERE AND WE'LL BE REGISTERING ON THAT.

17                  THERE IS A MAILING ADDRESS AT THE BOTTOM OF  
18                  THIS SLIDE. THERE IS ALSO A VERY ROBUST WEBSITE  
19                  WHERE THE WATER RATE BOARD HAS ALL KIND OF  
20                  DOCUMENTATION, 5000 PAGES OF INFORMATION, PUBLIC  
21                  COMMENTS THAT EXIST TODAY. SO IF YOU HAVE A LOT OF  
22                  TIME AND ARE REALLY INTERESTED, IT'S REALLY WORTH  
23                  GOING THROUGH THAT.

24                  SO WHAT DOES THE PHILADELPHIA WATER

1 DEPARTMENT PROPOSE TO DO? THIS IS A BRIEF OVERVIEW  
2 ON THE URBAN WATER CYCLE FOR DRINKING WATER, WASTE  
3 WATER AND STORMWATER UTILITY. WE START AT THE  
4 RIVERS. WE DRAW OUR DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES FROM  
5 THE DELAWARE AND SCHUYLKILL RIVER. THAT IS PUMPED  
6 UP TO ONE OF OUR THREE WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES.  
7 THOSE PLANTS THEN TREAT THAT WATER AND MAKE IT  
8 TOP-QUALITY DRINKING WATER. WE SEND THAT THROUGH  
9 3000 MILES OF WATER MAIN TO CUSTOMERS' PROPERTIES.  
10 AS A COMPONENT OF THAT, WE ARE MONITORING AND  
11 REGULATING THAT WATER 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A  
12 WEEK. WE WANT TO ENSURE IT'S TOP QUALITY.

13 AFTER IT'S USED BY BUSINESSES AND  
14 CUSTOMERS, IT GOES DOWN THE DRAIN. IT GOES THROUGH  
15 A SEWER SYSTEM ABOUT 3700 MILES LONG. IT GOES TO  
16 ONE OF OUR THREE WASTE TREATMENT FACILITIES WHERE  
17 THAT WATER IS TREATED AND CLEANED AND SENT BACK TO  
18 THE DELAWARE RIVER IN A QUALITY THAT IS CLEANER  
19 THAN WHAT WE HAD TAKEN TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING  
20 WATER.

21 WE ALSO DO STORMWATER. SO THE OTHER  
22 COMPONENT OF THE UTILITY IS DRAINAGE ON STREETS.  
23 WE MAINTAIN OVER 80,000 STORMWATER INLETS. THERE  
24 IS A STORMWATER PIPING SYSTEM THAT GOES ALONG WITH

1 THAT. THE STORMWATER FEED ALSO INCLUDES PROGRAMS  
2 AND OTHER PROJECTS THAT WE HAVE THAT ARE TARGETED  
3 TO ENSURING THAT OUR WATERWAYS IN OUR CREEKS, OUR  
4 STREAMS, OUR RIVERS ARE KEPT IN PRISTINE AND GOOD  
5 QUALITY CONDITION. THE RIVERS ARE OUR DRINKING  
6 WATER SUPPLIES.

7 ALONG WITH OF ALL OF THAT INFRASTRUCTURE,  
8 WE HAVE TO DO A LOT OF REHABILITATION AND  
9 PLACEMENT. EVERY TIME YOU HAVE A FACILITY MEANS  
10 YOU HAVE TO UPGRADE AND REPLACE THEM. THERE IS  
11 ALSO A DAILY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COMPONENT TO  
12 ALL OF THOSE FACILITIES AND TO ALL OF THAT  
13 INFRASTRUCTURE.

14 SO WHY DO WE NEED A RATE INCREASE? THAT'S  
15 WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY. THE MAJOR FACTORS. NUMBER  
16 ONE, WE NEED TO REINVEST IN AN AGING  
17 INFRASTRUCTURE. AS EVERY OLDER CITY IN THE EAST  
18 AND WEST COAST, WE HAVE, AS I MENTIONED, OVER 6000  
19 MILES OF WATER MAIN AND SEWER. THAT INFRASTRUCTURE  
20 NEEDS TO BE REPLACED. WE ARE LOOKING TO INCREASE  
21 THE AMOUNT OF MILES WE ARE DOING IN OUR WATER MAIN  
22 INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM. WE WERE CURRENTLY DOING  
23 ABOUT 22 MILES. WE ARE LOOKING TO BOOST THAT TO  
24 ENSURE WE HAVE MORE RELIABILITY AND TOP QUALITY



1 SERVICES FOR OUR CUSTOMERS.

2 THERE IS ALSO AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF  
3 REPLACEMENT WE HAVE TO DO WITH THE FACILITIES. SIX  
4 MAJOR FACILITIES, PUMPING STATIONS, ALL SORTS OF  
5 ANCILLARY COMPONENTS LIKE VALVES AND FIRE HYDRANTS  
6 AND THAT SORT OF THING THAT WE HAVE TO KEEP IN GOOD  
7 CONDITION.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, THAT IS HUGE.  
9 WE HAVE A LARGE \$2.4 BILLION PROGRAM, WHICH IS  
10 UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT. THAT PROGRAM IS  
11 TARGETED TO MAKE SURE WE ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH  
12 OVERFLOWS AND ALSO THAT WE AGAIN PRESERVE AND  
13 PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS.

14 UNFUNDED MANDATES IS SOMETHING WE DON'T  
15 DISAGREE WITH, BUT IT'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO ABIDE  
16 BY FOR ALL OF OUR RATE PERIODS. CHANGE IN WATER  
17 USE AND REDUCE CONSUMPTION. ONE OF THE MAJOR  
18 FACTORS IS WE DID LOSE A WHOLESALE CUSTOMER THIS  
19 PAST YEAR. IT IS GOOD FOR US TO HAVE WHOLESALE  
20 CUSTOMERS IN ADDITION TO RETAIL CUSTOMERS BECAUSE  
21 THAT HELPS SPREAD THE COST OF EVERYTHING WE DO. WE  
22 ALSO HAVE SEEN OVER THE PAST DECADE REDUCTION IN  
23 TAP WATER WHERE PEOPLE ARE USING BOTTLED WATER. WE  
24 DON'T FEEL IT'S NECESSARY, BUT THAT'S THEIR

1 PERSONAL CHOICE. AND APPLIANCES ARE MORE  
2 EFFICIENT.

3 WE ALSO HAVE SEEN, YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER  
4 THAT OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND OUR FACILITIES WERE  
5 BUILT TO ACCOMMODATE A POPULATION OF OVER 2 MILLION  
6 PEOPLE. THAT WAS ABOUT IN 1950. BUT ALSO HIGH  
7 INDUSTRIAL USAGES. THAT USAGE HAS GONE DOWN. AND  
8 YOU STILL HAVE AN INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES  
9 THAT ARE BUILT TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO THAT LARGE  
10 POPULATION AND LARGE NEEDS. SO YOU ARE STILL  
11 SPREADING THOSE COSTS OVER A LARGE USAGE BASE.

12 WE ALSO HAVE A NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO ARE  
13 ON ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THERE ARE A FEW OTHER  
14 SLIDES, I CAN GO INTO THIS A LITTLE BIT MORE. BUT  
15 THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT PROGRAMS THAT SUPPLY  
16 DISCOUNTS TO SOME CUSTOMERS AND SOME GRANTS TO SOME  
17 CUSTOMERS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT TO THE BEST OF OUR  
18 ABILITY, WATER NEEDS TO BE MADE AFFORDABLE FOR  
19 EVERYBODY AND EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO THAT.

20 GENERAL INFLATION. SO LIKE ANY BUSINESS,  
21 ANY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER, WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH  
22 ANNUAL INFLATION RATES. WE SEE OUR UTILITY COSTS  
23 GOING UP. CHEMICALS WHICH ARE HUGE IN THE WATER  
24 TREATMENT INDUSTRY IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO HAVE.

1 CHEMICAL COSTS GO UP EVERY YEAR. AND GOODS AND  
2 SERVICES. LIKE ANY BUSINESS, WE SEE AN ANNUAL  
3 INFLATIONARY COST TO GOODS AND SERVICES THAT WE  
4 NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE MAINTAIN AND OPERATE ON A  
5 REGULAR BASIS.

6 SO AGING INFRASTRUCTURE, THAT'S SORT OF THE  
7 MAJOR COMPONENT OF THIS. WE ARE AN OLDER CITY.  
8 THE AVERAGE AGE OF OUR WATER MAIN INFRASTRUCTURE IS  
9 ABOUT 70 YEARS OLD. IN FISCAL YEAR 15, WE HAVE HAD  
10 OVER 900 WATER MAIN BREAKS AROUND THE CITY,  
11 SOMETHING THAT IS HARD TO PREDICT AND SOMETHING  
12 THAT IS HARD TO, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT THAT  
13 FROM HAPPENING. SOME OF THAT IS AGE-RELATED. SOME  
14 OF THAT IS TEMPERATURE RELATED. BUT IT'S CERTAINLY  
15 A TREND WE DON'T WANT TO SEE. WE ARE NOT THE WORST  
16 IN THE COUNTRY, ACTUALLY WE ARE ONE OF THE BETTER  
17 ONES IN THE COUNTRY. BUT WE ARE LOOKING TO MAKE  
18 SURE WE REDUCE THAT.

19 THE ASSOCIATION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS HAS  
20 PROVIDED A GRADE TO UTILITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY,  
21 GIVING LIKE A D+ TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE  
22 NATIONALLY. WE DON'T WANT TO BE THERE. WE WOULD  
23 LIKE TO BE A B OR AN A+, BUT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE  
24 THAT IT IS AFFORDABLE.

1 WE ARE LOOKING TO STEP UP HOW MANY MILES OF  
2 WATER MAINS, FROM 22 TO 28 MILES. IT IS ROUGHLY A  
3 COST OF \$1.5 MILLION A MILE. SO IT'S NOT A CHEAP  
4 COMPOSITION. IT'S EXPENSIVE TO DO THAT, BUT WE  
5 RECOGNIZE IT'S VERY NECESSARY.

6 AGAIN, THE ENVIRONMENT REGULATIONS. THESE  
7 ARE REALLY IMPORTANT. WE DON'T QUIBBLE WITH ANY OF  
8 THE REQUIREMENTS BEHIND THEM. BUT AGAIN, THEY ARE  
9 NOT FUNDED BY ANYONE EXCEPT OUR RATE PAYERS. UNDER  
10 THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT, WE HAVE A NUMBER OF  
11 PROGRAMS WHERE WE HAVE TO COMPLY. BUT WE ARE ALSO  
12 ON A DAILY BASIS MONITORING AND REGULATING OVER 100  
13 CONTAMINANTS TO ENSURE THAT OUR DRINKING WATER IS  
14 TOP QUALITY. BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS NEW, UNREGULATED  
15 CONTAMINANTS ON THE HORIZON. WE NEED TO KEEP AN  
16 EYE OUT TO MAKE SURE WE ARE READY TO ADDRESS THAT  
17 AND ARE DOING CONSTANT RESEARCH SO THAT WE ARE  
18 READY TO ADDRESS THAT.

19 I MENTIONED UNDER THE CLEAN WATER ACT, WE  
20 DO HAVE THAT \$2.4 BILLION PROGRAM. SO THAT PROGRAM  
21 ENTAILS A LOT OF GREEN STORM INFRASTRUCTURE AROUND  
22 THE CITY. WE SEE RAIN GARDENS AND TREE TRENCHES  
23 AND GREEN ROOFS. THAT IS ALL PART OF THE PROGRAM  
24 THAT IS BEING DONE PUBLICLY UNDER OUR DOLLARS AND

1 ALSO PRIVATELY.

2 BUT THERE IS ALSO THE COMPONENT OF  
3 UPGRADING OUR CURRENT TREATMENT FACILITIES SO THAT  
4 WE CAN MANAGE AND TREAT MORE STORMWATER FUNNEL  
5 DURING RAIN STORMS. WE ARE ALSO REFINING OUR  
6 INTERCEPTIVE SEWERS ALONG COBBS AND TOOKANY CREEK  
7 SO WE DON'T HAVE ANY LEAKAGE INTO THOSE SYSTEMS.  
8 AND THE ULTIMATE GOAL IS REALLY TO REDUCE, COMBINE  
9 SORT OF OVERFLOWS. WE DON'T WANT SEWAGE GOING INTO  
10 OUR CREEKS AND RIVERS WHEN IT'S RAINING. I DON'T  
11 THINK ANYONE WANTS TO SEE THAT. THIS IS A MANDATED  
12 REQUIREMENT THAT WE ENSURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN. WE  
13 ARE LIMITING THAT; TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY.

14 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE VERY IMPORTANT. WE  
15 HAVE ALWAYS HAD A NUMBER OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.  
16 SENIOR CITIZENS' DISCOUNTS FOR THOSE WHO ARE  
17 ELIGIBLE. WE HAVE DISCOUNTS TO CHILD  
18 ORGANIZATIONS, GRANT PROGRAMS FOR LOW INCOME  
19 CUSTOMERS. SO MANY OTHER PROGRAMS.

20 WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH COUNCILWOMAN  
21 SANCHEZ AND COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES ON ITS  
22 AFFORDABLE RATES PROGRAM. THAT IS A COMPONENT OF  
23 THIS CURRENT PROPOSED RATE INCREASE. WE AGREE IT  
24 IS A MUCH BETTER PROGRAM THAN WE HAVE IN PLACE

1           TODAY. IT'S PROACTIVE. IT HELPS ENSURE THAT  
2           CUSTOMERS DO NOT HAVE TO BECOME DELINQUENT BEFORE  
3           THEY HAVE ACCESS TO ASSISTANCE. SO WE ARE HAPPY TO  
4           SEE THOSE PROGRAMS MOVE FORWARD, BUT THERE ARE COST  
5           IMPACTS FOR THOSE PROGRAMS.

6                       WHAT PEOPLE REALLY WANT TO KNOW IS HOW THE  
7           RATE INCREASE WILL IMPACT THEIR WATER BILLS. THIS  
8           PROPOSED INCREASE IS 11.7 PERCENT OVER THE NEXT FEW  
9           YEARS BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 17 WHICH IS JULY 1ST  
10          AND FINISHING IN FISCAL YEAR 18 WHICH IS JULY 1,  
11          2017.

12                      THE FIRST COMPONENT OF THAT RATE INCREASE  
13          AS PROPOSED TODAY IS A 6.2 INCREASE THAT WOULD  
14          HAPPEN JULY 1. THAT INCREASE IS ABOUT A \$4.20  
15          INCREASE ON THE AVERAGE MONTHLY BILL WHICH WOULD  
16          TAKE YOU TO \$71.60. THIS IS FOR THE TYPICAL  
17          RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WHO USES ABOUT 600 CUBIC FEET  
18          OF WATER. JULY 1, 2017, YOU WILL SEE A 5.5 PERCENT  
19          INCREASE ON THAT MONTHLY BILL WHICH IS ABOUT  
20          \$3.90. FOR ELIGIBLE SENIOR CITIZENS, THAT INCREASE  
21          AMOUNT WILL BE THE SAME IN BOTH OF THOSE FISCAL  
22          YEARS BUT THE 25 PERCENT DISCOUNT WILL BE OF THAT  
23          TOTAL BILL. THEY WOULD SEE A \$3.10 INCREASE IN  
24          JULY, 2016 AND \$3 IN 2017 JULY 1. ALTOGETHER, A

1 LITTLE OVER A \$6 INCREASE.

2 WE ALSO LOOK TO SEE WHAT OUR PEER UTILITIES  
3 ARE DOING REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY. WHEN YOU LOOK  
4 AT US REGIONALLY, THIS ON THE LEFT-HAND CHART, THE  
5 WATER RATES FROM THE LEFT-HAND SIDE IS SEWER  
6 RATES. WE ARE SORT OF TOWARDS THE LOWER END OF THE  
7 SPECTRUM ON THE WATER SIDE AND ON THE LOWEST END OF  
8 SPECTRUM ON THE SEWER SIDE. SO AGAIN, WE ARE NOT,  
9 WE ARE A CITY DEPARTMENT. WE ARE NONPROFIT, SO WE  
10 DON'T HAVE THE PRESSURE THAT INVESTOR-OWNED  
11 UTILITIES LIKE IN PENNSYLVANIA, OUR NEIGHBOR  
12 UTILITIES ARE. OUR GOAL IS ALWAYS TO KEEP OUR  
13 RATES AS LOW AS POSSIBLE AND AS AFFORDABLE AS  
14 POSSIBLE. EVEN WITHIN THAT PROPOSED INCREASE WHICH  
15 IS THIS LITTLE GREEN MARK AT THE TOP OF THAT, YOU  
16 SEE WE ARE STILL AT THE LOW END OF THAT SPECTRUM.

17 ALSO NATIONALLY, WE ARE NOT IN THE MIDDLE  
18 OF THE PACKET. WE ARE MORE TOWARDS THE LOWER END  
19 OF THE PACKET. ALL OF THESE CITIES, AND THIS IS A  
20 SNAPSHOT OF TIME. THIS IS REPRESENTING CITIES THAT  
21 ARE SEEING STORMWATER INCREASE. THEY HAVE THE SAME  
22 REGULATORY MANDATES WE HAVE AND ARE FEELING THE  
23 SAME PRESSURES. EVERYONE IS CURRENTLY GOING  
24 THROUGH A PROPOSED RATE PROCESS. WE ARE STILL AT

1 THE LOWER END OF THAT SPECTRUM. THAT'S SOMETHING  
2 WE STRIVE TO DO. WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE TO BALANCE  
3 THE NEED TO REPLACE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE NEED  
4 TO MEET OUR ENVIRONMENTAL MANDATES WITH THE NEED TO  
5 KEEP OUR RATES AFFORDABLE.

6 SO WHAT WILL THE TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL BILL  
7 WILL PAY FOR? SO THE \$71.60 A MONTH. \$25 OF THAT  
8 IS TOWARDS THE WATER SIDE OF YOUR BILL. IT'S  
9 EVERYTHING WE TALKED ABOUT. THE TREATMENT, THE  
10 DISTRIBUTION FOR MAINS, ENSURING ALL OF THE THINGS  
11 TO ENSURE THAT THAT DRINKING WATER IS TOP QUALITY.  
12 THAT IS WHAT THAT IS PAYING FOR.

13 SEWER SIDE \$18. THAT'S THE WATER THAT GOES  
14 DOWN THE DRAIN. THERE IS A SEWER SYSTEM,  
15 WASTEWATER DRINKING FACILITY. YOU ARE PAYING FOR  
16 THAT. THE STORMWATER FEE PAYS FOR STREET  
17 MANAGEMENT, PAYS FOR PROPERTY RUNOFF, PAYS FOR THE  
18 PROGRAMS, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS TO ENSURE OUR  
19 RIVERS ARE BEING PROTECTED BECAUSE WE ARE MAINLY  
20 STORMWATER WELL. WE ARE MAKING SURE THAT THE  
21 POLLUTANTS ARE REMOVED IN THAT STORMWATER. AND THE  
22 SERVICE CHARGE IS RELATES TO THE BILLING COMPONENTS  
23 OF THE UTILITY.

24 WHAT DOES A CUSTOMER GET FROM THE



1 PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT? SO IN THE END, WE  
2 LOOK AT THE PROPOSED RATES. OUR CUSTOMERS WILL BE  
3 PAYING \$2.40 TODAY FOR ALL OF THOSE SERVICES. SO  
4 YOU ARE GETTING 150 GALLONS A DAY AT \$2.40 A DAY.  
5 THAT'S LESS THAN, ONE GALLON OF WATER IS LESS THAN  
6 A PENNY.

7 WE SEE THAT AS CERTAINLY A REALLY GOOD  
8 INVESTMENTS, AN INVESTMENT OF A LIFE-SUSTAINING  
9 UTILITY. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CHART,  
10 THREE SHOWERS, TEN TOILET FLUSHES, 16 GLASSES OF  
11 WATER, DISHWASHER LOADS, COMPARING THAT TO \$2.40 IS  
12 WHAT YOU GET AT STARBUCKS FOR ONE CUP OF COFFEE A  
13 DAY. SO IT IS A REALLY GOOD INVESTMENT WE FEEL FOR  
14 SOMETHING THAT IS ESSENTIAL. AND THAT IS IT. SO I  
15 THINK I HAND THIS OFF TO ROB.

16 MR. BALLENGER: GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS  
17 ROBERT BALLENGER. I'M THE ATTORNEY FOR THE  
18 COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF PHILADELPHIA. WE HAVE  
19 BEEN APPOINTED AS THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE TO REPRESENT  
20 RESIDENTIAL WATER CUSTOMERS AND OTHER SMALL USERS  
21 IN THIS CASE. I WORK IN THE ENERGY UNIT WITH OTHER  
22 ATTORNEYS, A FEW OF WHOM ARE HERE TODAY. IF ANY  
23 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I THINK  
24 WE'D BE HAPPY TO TRY TO FIELD THEM OUT THROUGH THE

1 HEARING. BUT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING  
2 FROM AS MANY OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH US  
3 TODAY.

4 I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO THANK THE MEMBERS OF  
5 THE CITY COUNCIL AND THEIR STAFF FOR ARRANGING FOR  
6 US TO HAVE THIS HEARING HERE TODAY. WE ARE PLEASED  
7 TO BE HEARING FURTHERANCE OF WHAT THE OBLIGATIONS  
8 ARE TO WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE LARGE PUBLIC TO WHAT  
9 IT WILL TAKE TO OBTAIN THAT.

10 THIS IS A MATTER OF SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC  
11 IMPORTANCE. AND I THINK IT'S REALLY APPROPRIATE  
12 THAT WE HEAR FROM THE PUBLIC WHEN WE CONSIDER A  
13 MATTER SUCH AS THESE AND ALL OF THOSE WHO MAY HAVE  
14 CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THEIR WATER  
15 BILLS.

16 AS MS. DAHME MENTIONED, WE ARE DOING THINGS  
17 A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENTLY THIS TIME AROUND. WE HAVE  
18 A NEW RATE-MAKING BODY, THE PHILADELPHIA WATER  
19 SEWER AND STORMWATER RATE BOARD. THEY ARE GOING TO  
20 HEAR EVERYONE'S PERSPECTIVES AND MAKE A DECISION  
21 ULTIMATELY WHETHER AND HOW MUCH THE BILLS SHOULD  
22 INCREASE.

23 THIS CASE IS NOT ABOUT JUST A SINGLE FIVE  
24 OR SIX PERCENT RATE INCREASE. THIS IS ACTUALLY A

1           REQUEST FOR A TWO-STEP INCREASE.  SO IF APPROVED,  
2           YOUR BILL IS GOING TO GO UP APPROXIMATELY FIVE  
3           AND-A-HALF TO SIX PERCENT EACH OF THE NEXT TWO  
4           JULYS STARTING JULY, 2016, A VERY SHORT PERIOD FROM  
5           NOW AND GOING UP AGAIN IN JULY, 2017.

6                         IN TOTAL, THE AVERAGE CUSTOMER'S WATER BILL  
7           WILL GO UP ABOUT \$100 PER YEAR BY THE END OF THIS  
8           RATE PERIOD IF THE RATE REQUEST IS GRANTED IN THE  
9           FALL.  THIS IS A 12 PERCENT INCREASE FROM YOUR  
10          BILLS RIGHT NOW.  I THINK FROM A LOT OF PEOPLE, A  
11          LOT OF PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVES, ONE OF THE QUESTIONS  
12          IS ALWAYS, HOW MUCH WILL YOUR DISPOSABLE INCOME GO  
13          UP?  WILL IT ACTUALLY GO UP BY 12 PERCENT TO  
14          ACCOMMODATE THAT INCREASE?

15                        SO THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE CLS IS WORKING WITH  
16          A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO EXAMINE THE ASSUMPTIONS  
17          UNDERLYING THE WATER DEPARTMENT'S REQUESTS HERE.  
18          WE ARE ALSO INVESTIGATING A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE OF  
19          AFFORDABILITY UNDER A NEW PROGRAM THAT CITY COUNCIL  
20          IS MANDATING.

21                        THIS IS A MASSIVE UNDERTAKING BOTH FROM THE  
22          PERSPECTIVE OF THE TECHNICAL ANALYSIS INVOLVED AND  
23          THE REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC INPUT IS  
24          ACCURATELY RECEIVED.  THE FILING ALONE WAS OVER

1 5000 PAGES CONSISTENT OF VERY COMPLICATED FINANCIAL  
2 PROJECTIONS THAT REQUIRES OUR EXAMINATION OF OUR  
3 EXPERTS AND PROVOKED A LOT OF QUESTIONS. AND WE  
4 ARE IN THE PROCESS OF GOING THROUGH TECHNICAL  
5 HEARINGS. AS OUR HEARING OFFICER MENTIONED, WE'LL  
6 BE DOING THAT IMMEDIATELY AFTER TODAY.

7 ANECDOTALLY, I SPOKE WITH A COLLEAGUE JUST  
8 YESTERDAY EVENING WHO WAS TRYING TO ASSIST A  
9 NEIGHBOR WITH A PROBLEM WITH A BILLING-RELATED  
10 ISSUE. AND FRANKLY, I WAS NOT SURPRISED THAT HE  
11 HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT THE RATE INCREASE AND THE FACT  
12 WE ARE HAVING A HEARING HERE TODAY. I THINK IT'S  
13 VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE SURE THAT ALL MEMBERS  
14 OF THE PUBLIC ARE AWARE OF WHAT'S GOING ON AND HAVE  
15 AN OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH IN. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE  
16 GOING AT A VERY FAST PACE, I THINK THAT'S OUR  
17 OBLIGATION.

18 SO WHILE I WELCOME COMMENTS HERE TODAY, I  
19 WANT TO REMIND ANYONE LISTENING IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE  
20 TO MAKE COMMENTS HERE TODAY, YOU CAN PROVIDE  
21 COMMENTS IN WRITING. THERE IS AN E-MAIL ADDRESS  
22 THAT'S AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO WRITE  
23 IN AND YOU CAN ALSO WRITE IN BY WAY OF LETTER. AND  
24 WE CAN PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO DO THAT

1 AFTER THE HEARING IF SOMEONE WOULD LIKE TO DO  
2 THAT.

3 WE ARE TRYING TO GET THROUGH SOMETHING VERY  
4 SIGNIFICANT IN A VERY COMPRESSED PERIOD OF TIME.  
5 IT'S \$105 MILLION RATE INCREASE AND WE ARE TRYING  
6 TO GET THROUGH IT IN 120 DAYS. AND THAT PACE IS  
7 MUCH, MUCH SHORTER THAN THE PACE THAT'S REQUIRED  
8 FOR OTHER UTILITIES IN PENNSYLVANIA LIKE PECO AND  
9 PGW.

10 IN THIS CASE, THE RATE INCREASE SHOULD ONLY  
11 BE GRANTED IF THE WATER DEPARTMENT CAN MEET THE  
12 CONSTITUTIONAL-BASED LEGAL STANDARD OF JUST AND  
13 REASONABLE RATES. THERE ARE SEVERAL FACETS TO THAT  
14 STANDARD. FIRST, WE HAVE TO ASSESS THE  
15 REASONABLENESS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PROJECTIONS AND  
16 WHETHER IT CAN SUBSTANTIATE ITS REQUEST FOR HIGHER  
17 RATES.

18 BUT WE ALSO HAVE TO LOOK AT THE OTHER  
19 SIDE. WE HAVE TO LOOK AT CUSTOMERS' NEEDS AND WHAT  
20 CUSTOMERS ARE BEING EXPECTED TO PAY BASED ON THEIR  
21 LEVEL OF SERVICE. THAT'S REALLY WHAT THIS HEARING  
22 IS ABOUT, THE LATTER, WHAT CUSTOMERS NEED AND WHAT  
23 THEY HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT.

24 SO AS I SAID BEFORE, I WANT TO HEAR AS MANY

1 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AS ARE AVAILABLE AND DESIRE  
2 TO BE HEARD BECAUSE THAT INFORMATION IS VITAL TO  
3 ALL OF US, THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE, THE WATER  
4 DEPARTMENT AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE WATER RATE  
5 BOARD. WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU.

6 SO WITH THAT, I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO TURN  
7 IT OVER AND NOT TAKE UP ANY MORE OF OUR PRECIOUS  
8 TIME THIS MORNING. THANK YOU.

9 HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU, MR.  
10 BALLENGER.

11 BEFORE WE START WITH THE LIST OF MEMBERS OF  
12 THE PUBLIC, I NOTICED THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COUNCIL  
13 PEOPLE HERE TODAY. AND I WOULD INVITE THEM, IF  
14 THEY WOULD LIKE TO, TO MAKE A STATEMENT AT THIS  
15 POINT.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I DON'T KNOW IF I AM  
17 SUPPOSED TO ASK YOU QUESTIONS. THANK YOU FOR  
18 COMING AND THANKS TO EVERYBODY IN THE AUDIENCE FOR  
19 COMING TO THE HEARING. A COUPLE QUESTIONS I WANTED  
20 TO ASK. RIGHT NOW I THINK ON THE BOOKS WE HAVE  
21 \$150 MILLION OF DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER TAX  
22 LIENS. DO WE HAVE A PLAN TO COLLECT THAT MONEY?

23 HEARING OFFICER: WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO  
24 WITH QUESTIONS LIKE THAT BECAUSE THE BOARD ISN'T IN

1 A POSITION TO ANSWER THEM, IS THERE IS A  
2 COMMISSIONER OF THE WATER DEPARTMENT HERE, DEBRA  
3 MCCARTY AND MEMBERS OF HER SENIOR STAFF. SO I  
4 WOULD INVITE THEM TO COME TO THESE MICROPHONES SO  
5 THEY COULD BE IN A POSITION TO ANSWER THESE  
6 QUESTIONS. AND IF YOU WILL JUST IDENTIFY YOURSELF  
7 WHEN YOU ANSWER A QUESTION.

8 MS. BETHEL: GOOD MORNING. I'M MICHELLE  
9 BETHEL. I'M THE DEPUTY REVENUE COMMISSIONER FOR  
10 WATER REVENUE.

11 HEARING OFFICER: DO YOU HAVE AN ANSWER TO  
12 HIS QUESTION?

13 MS. BETHEL: YES. BRIEFLY, WE ARE ALWAYS  
14 LOOKING TO COLLECT ALL OF THE DELINQUENCIES THAT  
15 ARE ON THE BOOKS FOR WATER/SEWER. AND SOME OF OUR  
16 PLANS THAT WE HAVE IN PLACE ARE DOING OUR  
17 COLLECTION AGENCY IN MUNICIPAL COURT. WE SEND  
18 LETTERS TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THAT WE ARE GETTING  
19 READY TO FILE A LIEN IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT. BUT A  
20 NEW INITIATIVE THAT WAS STARTED RECENTLY WAS TAKING  
21 PROPERTIES TO SHERIFFS SALE FOR WATER/SEWER ONLY.  
22 AND THAT HAS BEEN A VERY LUCRATIVE ENDEAVOR, I  
23 THINK BRINGING IN AROUND \$805,000. SO WE ARE  
24 LOOKING TO CONTINUE AND EXPAND ON THAT FOR THIS

1 FISCAL YEAR AND MOVING FORWARD. BUT WE AGREE WITH  
2 YOU IN REFERENCE TO BEING AGGRESSIVE IN TRYING TO  
3 REDUCE OUR DELINQUENCIES.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I WANT TO MENTION FOR THE  
5 RECORD THAT THERE IS A SIMILAR ISSUE WITH REAL  
6 ESTATE TAXES. WE ARE DOING A FEASIBILITY STUDY NOW  
7 ON THE DELINQUENT TAXES IN REAL ESTATE THAT COULD  
8 INCLUDE THE WATER/SEWER LIENS AND TAX THEM TOGETHER  
9 TO HELP YOU DO THAT COLLECTION.

10 ONE EXAMPLE, NEW YORK HAD A SIMILAR PROBLEM  
11 IN THE '90S. THEY WERE COLLECTING 85 TO 90  
12 PERCENT. USING THE METHOD WE ARE LOOKING AT, THEY  
13 COLLECT 99 PERCENT. SO IT MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNITY  
14 FOR US TO INCREASE THE COLLECTIONS AND HELP YOU  
15 WITH THE WATER/SEWER.

16 MS. BETHEL: YES. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THAT  
17 AND I THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THAT TO OUR ATTENTION.

18 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION.  
19 YOUR FINANCIALS THAT CONSIST OF PENSION OBLIGATIONS  
20 FOR 2014 TO 2015 INCREASED DRAMATICALLY. IS THERE  
21 A REASON WHY IT WENT UP LIKE \$250, \$400 MILLION?  
22 SOME HUGE NUMBER.

23 MS. LABUDA: GOOD MORNING. MELISSA LABUDA,  
24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE, PHILADELPHIA WATER



1 DEPARTMENT. THE WATER DEPARTMENT IS PART OF THE  
2 CITY'S PENSION PLAN. SO AS THE CITY ESTABLISHES  
3 ITS MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION, IT IMPACTS WHAT  
4 OUR CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE TO THE PENSION FUND. WE  
5 ARE APPROXIMATELY 9 PERCENT, AND I MIGHT BE A  
6 LITTLE BIT HIGH ON THAT NUMBER, OF THE OVERALL --

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: PLEASE MOVE YOUR  
8 MIC UP.

9 MS. LABUDA: THE WATER DEPARTMENT REPRESENTS  
10 APPROXIMATELY 9 PERCENT OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
11 PENSION FUND. SO AS THE CITY'S MMO PAYMENTS  
12 INCREASE, SO WILL OUR PROPORTIONATE SHARE.

13 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'D ALSO LIKE TO TALK  
14 ABOUT PAGE 6 OF THE INFORMATION. THE INCREASE IS  
15 DRAMATIC FOR FIVE YEARS, VERY DRAMATIC.

16 MS. LABUDA: I'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE A  
17 CONVERSATION WITH YOU.

18 COUNCILMAN DOMB: THIS IS THE LAST QUESTION.  
19 WE ARE ALL TALKING ABOUT A POTENTIAL TAX ON SUGAR  
20 DRINKS. I VIEW THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE  
21 WATER DEPARTMENT. MY QUESTION IS, HAVE YOU EVER  
22 DONE A STUDY WHAT THE AVERAGE FAMILY SPENDS PER  
23 YEAR ON DRINKS OTHER THAN WATER? AND HOW CAN YOU  
24 BUILD A MARKETING PROGRAM AROUND THAT FOR NOT JUST

1 THE COST SAVINGS, BUT THE HEALTH BENEFITS?  
2 ESPECIALLY IF WE HAVE 400,000 PEOPLE, IT WOULD BE  
3 AN EYE OPENER TO DO MARKETING TO SHOW WHAT WE CAN  
4 SAVE DRINKING WATER INSTEAD OF ALL OF THOSE OTHER  
5 DRINKS THAT COST MONEY.

6 MS. MCCARTY: GOOD MORNING, DEBRA MCCARTY,  
7 COMMISSIONER. WE HAVE NOT DONE A STUDY, BUT WE ARE  
8 ALWAYS LOOKING TO GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT WATER. WE  
9 HAVE JUST RECENTLY EQUIPPED TWO WATER KIOSKS ON  
10 KELLY DRIVE JUST TO PROMOTE NOT USING BOTTLE WATER  
11 BUT USING FRESH TAP WATER. AND WE ARE LOOKING TO  
12 SPREAD THAT INITIATIVE CITY-WIDE. PLUS, WE WORK  
13 WITH THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO PROMOTE DRINKING  
14 WATER, THAT IT'S GOOD TO DRINK THAT AS OPPOSED TO  
15 OTHER DRINKS.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: THE AVERAGE FAMILY OF FOUR  
17 SPENDS \$5 A DAY ON DRINKS. AND SWITCHING TO WATER,  
18 FIVE TIMES 365 DAYS A YEAR IS LIKE \$1800. SO THE  
19 SAVINGS IS PRETTY DRAMATIC.

20 MS. MCCARTY: A GALLON OF TAP WATER IS LESS  
21 THAN A PENNY.

22 COUNCILMAN DOMB: I'M JUST TRYING TO  
23 INCREASE OUR BUSINESS, SAVE MONEY FOR PEOPLE WITH  
24 HEALTH BENEFITS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THANK YOU.

1 MS. MCCARTY: THANK YOU.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: ON THAT QUESTION  
3 ABOUT THE MONEY WE RAISE. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A  
4 PROGRAM --

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: PLEASE SAY YOUR NAME  
6 FOR THE RECORD.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: THANK YOU. I KNOW  
8 BETTER THAN THAT, HI. JANNIE BLACKWELL. THANK  
9 YOU. BUT THE ISSUE WE NEED AN AGREEMENT FOR IS THE  
10 LOW INCOME AND YOU CAN'T PAY TAXES. DO YOU HAVE AN  
11 AGREEMENT? CAN YOU MAKE AN AGREEMENT? THE LAW IS  
12 THAT IF THE AUTHORITIES COME AND PEOPLE DON'T HAVE  
13 WATER, THEY ARE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES. WATER  
14 IS A COMMON DENOMINATOR. PEOPLE LIVE WITHOUT GAS.  
15 PEOPLE LIVE WITHOUT ELECTRIC. WATER IS, WATER IS  
16 IT. IF YOU DON'T HAVE WATER, YOU ARE HOMELESS AND  
17 YOU NEED TO GO IN A SHELTER. WE NEED PEOPLE TO  
18 HAVE AN AGREEMENT MUCH AS WE DO WITH TAXES SO THAT  
19 THEY CAN STAY IN THEIR HOMES SO THAT THEY DON'T  
20 HAVE TO ENTER SHELTERS SO THEY ARE NOT ON THE  
21 STREET. SO WHERE ARE WE ON THAT QUESTION? I  
22 BELIEVE THAT QUESTION HAS COME UP BEFORE.

23 MS. MCCARTY: DEBBIE MCCARTY. PART OF OUR  
24 REQUEST TO THE RATE BOARD IS AFFORDABLE RATES AND

1 IT'S INCOME-BASED. AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO  
2 GETTING THIS PROGRAM OFF THE GROUND REALLY. WE  
3 CURRENTLY DO HAVE A WATER REVENUE ASSISTANCE  
4 PROGRAM, BUT WE BELIEVE THIS PROGRAM, WE ARE  
5 CALLING IT WRAP, WOULD BE MUCH MORE COMPREHENSIVE  
6 AND A MUCH BETTER PROGRAM IN PROVIDING ASSISTANT  
7 THAT MANY OF OUR NEEDY CUSTOMERS DESPERATELY NEED.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: WE ALSO HAVE A  
9 FREEZE FOR SENIORS. SO WE NEED PROGRAMS FOR  
10 SENIORS. WE NEED PROGRAMS FOR THE LOW-INCOME  
11 PEOPLE. AND I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD NOT ACCEPT, I  
12 DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE ANY WATER RATE  
13 INCREASE UNTIL PROGRAMS ARE IN PLACE.

14 MS. MCCARTY: WE DO HAVE A SENIOR CITIZEN  
15 DISCOUNT. THERE IS CURRENTLY A SENIOR CITIZEN  
16 DISCOUNT.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: SO WE HAVE A SENIOR  
18 CITIZEN DISCOUNT. BUT I BELIEVE STILL WE HAVE A  
19 PROGRAM IN PLACE FOR THE LOW INCOME PEOPLE, THAT  
20 ALL OF OUR CITIZENS CAN APPLY TO THEIR LOW INCOME.  
21 I DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE THE SENIOR -- I  
22 DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE A RATE INCREASE UNTIL  
23 THESE PROGRAMS ARE IN PLACE.

24 AND JUST WHILE I'M HERE SAYING IT, I MIGHT

1 AS WELL GET ALL OF MY ISSUES OFF. I DON'T BELIEVE  
2 THAT OUR PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR LEAD IN THE  
3 WATER EITHER. OUR WATER DEPARTMENT SAYS WE ARE  
4 HAPPY TO MAKE AN AGREEMENT. WELL, THEY DIDN'T PUT  
5 THE LEAD THERE. I DON'T BELIEVE PUBLIC CITIZENS, I  
6 DON'T THINK THEY SHOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR LEAD. I  
7 WOULD FIGHT THAT IF IT COMES UP. WE ARE TALKING  
8 ABOUT WE WILL WORK WITH YOU TRYING TO HELP YOU MAKE  
9 AN AGREEMENT ON YOUR BILL. I DON'T THINK IT'S  
10 FAIR. I DON'T BELIEVE WE SHOULD VICTIMIZE THE  
11 CITIZENS OF OUR CITY.

12 AND THE THIRD ISSUE IS, I MENTION IT ALL  
13 THE TIME AND I WILL CONTINUE TO MENTION IT. I  
14 TALKED TO THE MAYOR AGAIN ABOUT THE WATER MAIN  
15 BREAK ON NORTH 52ND STREET BETWEEN WESTMINSTER AND  
16 WYOMISSING. HE SENT SOMEBODY. IT'S STILL NOT  
17 STRAIGHT, SO HE SENT ONE OF HIS PEOPLE TO MY  
18 OFFICE. AND SO OUT OF 42 CASES, 34 ARE STILL NOT  
19 RESOLVED.

20 WE HAVE MANY PEOPLE ON 52ND STREET FROM  
21 JUNE 14TH WHO STILL ARE AT LEAST, AT LEAST ABOUT  
22 EIGHT STILL HAVE MOLD. PEOPLE COMPLAIN THEY ARE  
23 SICK. THEY CAN'T BREATHE BECAUSE THERE IS STILL  
24 MOLD FROM ALL, WE ARE TALKING JUNE 14TH. NOW, I

1 KNOW THE MAYOR'S OFFICE IS WORKING ON IT. AND RISK  
2 MANAGEMENT SAID TWO WEEKS. BUT HE SAID TWO WEEKS  
3 WHEN WE HAD THE HEARINGS, WHEN WE HAD HEARINGS WHEN  
4 WE FIRST CAME BACK IN SEPTEMBER.

5 SO I JUST THINK THAT I STILL FIND IT  
6 UNBELIEVABLE THAT PEOPLE HAVE TO SUFFER IN THE CITY  
7 OF PHILADELPHIA AND WE CAN'T GET THEIR CASES  
8 STRAIGHT WHEN THE CITY'S PIPES BROKE IN THE MIDDLE  
9 OF THE STREET. AND THAT WAS FROM JUNE 14 TO NOW.

10 SO THEY ARE MY THREE ISSUES. I DON'T THEY  
11 WE SHOULD HAVE A RATE INCREASE UNTIL THERE IS SOME  
12 PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN'T PAY, NOT JUST  
13 SENIORS. I DON'T BELIEVE, I DON'T THINK MY ISSUE  
14 WITH LEAD PAINT IN THE WATER -- NOT LEAD PAINT,  
15 LEAD IN THE WATER WILL, THAT ISSUE, I DON'T BELIEVE  
16 PEOPLE SHOULD BE VICTIMIZED BY THAT. I THINK THAT  
17 THAT'S A CITY ISSUE. AND THREE, I SURE HOPE, I  
18 MEAN THERE WERE ABOUT 78 PEOPLE FROM THE BEGINNING  
19 WHO WERE AFFECTED BY THE WATER MAIN BREAK. AND THE  
20 LIST WE HAVE HERE IS 42 THAT AREN'T RESOLVED AND WE  
21 WENT THROUGH THAT. AND A LOT OF THE ONES WERE  
22 RESOLVED LIST THINGS LIKE, WE ARE GOING TO MAKE  
23 THEM AN OFFER. WE ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM  
24 SOMEBODY. JUST RIDICULOUS NONSENSE.

1                   SO I JUST BELIEVE THAT, I HOPE THAT ALL OF  
2                   YOU WILL LOOK AT THOSE ISSUES AND REALIZE SOME OF  
3                   US ARE ANGRY BECAUSE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO, WE ARE  
4                   ELECTED TO REPRESENT PEOPLE. AND PEOPLE SHOULDN'T  
5                   BE SUFFERING. AS SOON AS I HEARD A WATER RATE  
6                   INCREASE, I IMMEDIATELY DISMISSED IT. PEOPLE  
7                   SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY ANOTHER \$100 BUCKS A YEAR FOR  
8                   A PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT THAT IS NOT -- IT'S  
9                   NOT LIKE WHEN YOU WERE COMMISSIONER, I DIDN'T HAVE  
10                  THESE ISSUES. BUT PEOPLE ARE NOT BEING SERVICED  
11                  AND IT'S NOT FAIR. THANK YOU.

12                  HEARING OFFICER: I'M SURE THAT THE  
13                  DEPARTMENT WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE  
14                  INSIGHT ON ALL OF THAT, BUT THIS IS REALLY AN  
15                  OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD.  
16                  SO YOU WILL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER FORUM.

17                  AND I SEE THAT COUNSELWOMAN SANCHEZ WOULD  
18                  ALSO LIKE TO ADDRESS.

19                  COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: THANK YOU SO VERY  
20                  MUCH FOR ACCOMMODATING US AND COMING ON A THURSDAY  
21                  MORNING SO THAT COUNCIL COULD WEIGH IN.

22                  BY WAY OF HISTORY, CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED  
23                  A RATE BOARD AS AN INDEPENDENT RATE-MAKING BODY BY  
24                  AN ORDINANCE IN 2014 THAT WAS LATER APPROVED BY THE

1 VOTERS INTO THE CITY CHARTER. AND THE REASON WE  
2 DID THAT WAS THERE WAS A CONCERN ABOUT THE WATER  
3 DEPARTMENT, AND IN THIS CASE JUST THE LEADERSHIP OF  
4 THE WATER DEPARTMENT BEING ABLE TO ESTABLISH RATE  
5 PROCEEDINGS.

6 BUT THERE IS SOME AREAS OF CONCERN THAT I  
7 HAVE AND I THINK THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE  
8 PUT THEM ON THE RECORD. THE PHILADELPHIA WATER  
9 DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED A RATE STABILIZATION FUND IN  
10 1993 TO PREVENT AND TO KIND OF STABILIZE ITSELF  
11 FROM RATE INCREASES UNDER UTILIZATION OF WATER,  
12 PROJECTIONS, SO FORTH AND SO ON. AT THAT TIME, IT  
13 ESTABLISHED A GOAL, A TARGET BALANCE OF \$110  
14 MILLION. TODAY THAT FUND STANDS AT \$206 MILLION.

15 THAT IS OF CONCERN BECAUSE PREVIOUSLY WHEN  
16 THE WATER DEPARTMENT ASKED FOR A RATE INCREASE IN  
17 2013 AND '15, AT THAT POINT IT SAID IT WOULD DRAW  
18 DOWN ON THE FUND AND THE FUND WOULD END UP AT  
19 SOMEWHERE ABOUT \$74 MILLION.

20 SO THERE IS A LOT OF MONEY IN THE RATE  
21 STABILIZATION FUND THAT THE WATER DEPARTMENT RIGHT  
22 NOW COULD WORK TOWARDS, COULD WORK WITH AS IT  
23 CONTINUES TO DEVELOP MORE EFFICIENT WAYS OF DOING  
24 SOME OF THE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORK BEING



1 DONE.

2 I THINK THIS ADMINISTRATION EVEN MORE SO  
3 THAN THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION IS REALLY  
4 COMMITTING TO RAMPING UP THAT WORK, COORDINATING  
5 WITH PGW AND OTHERS BECAUSE WE ALL KNOW AS WE BUILD  
6 OUT OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, IT COULD BE, IT COULD  
7 IMPACT NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES. AND WE CAN  
8 FIND MORE EFFICIENCY AS WE BUILD THAT OUT.

9 BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, OVER THE LAST THREE  
10 YEARS, WE HAVE WORKED VERY WELL WITH THE WATER  
11 DEPARTMENT AND WATER REVENUE AS WE HAVE IMPROVED  
12 AND LEGISLATIVELY IMPROVED A MORE IMPROVED WRAP  
13 PROGRAM FOR CUSTOMERS. THE REASON WE DID THAT IS  
14 BECAUSE WE, ALONG WITH OUR ADVOCATES, IDENTIFIED  
15 THAT ONLY 20 PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS WERE  
16 BEING, HAD ACCESS TO WHAT WAS FUNDAMENTALLY WHAT WE  
17 FELT WAS A BROKEN SYSTEM.

18 WE ARE WORKING WITH THAT WITH THE SUPPORT  
19 OF THE WATER DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE HIRED NATIONAL  
20 EXPERTS TO COME IN AND WORK WITH ON WHAT IS A  
21 WATER, AN AFFORDABLE WATER RATE THAT MAKES SENSE.  
22 THROUGHOUT ALL OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, I WAS VERY  
23 CLEAR THAT A WATER AFFORDABILITY RATE SHOULD NOT BE  
24 FACTORED INTO THE INCREASE OF WATER RATE BECAUSE

1 REALLY WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT BY YOUR OWN  
2 NUMBERS WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE 300,000 CITIZENS, WHAT  
3 WE ARE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IS HELPING PEOPLE  
4 BECOME COMPLIANT.

5 SO I THINK IN THE RATE CASE PRESENTED BY  
6 THE ADMINISTRATION, THERE IS SOME FUNDAMENTAL  
7 DISAGREEMENTS THAT WE HAVE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE  
8 WORK THAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING OVER THE LAST FEW  
9 YEARS. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS ENOUGH MONEY IN  
10 THE RATE STABILIZATION FUND FOR US TO PUT TOGETHER  
11 AN AFFORDABLE RATE THAT IS FAIR, THAT TAKES INTO  
12 CONSIDERATION WHAT SOME OF US BELIEVE THAT WATER  
13 SHOULD BE A RIGHT. AND THE FACT THAT IT HAS BECOME  
14 A BUSINESS. AND EVEN IN THE BUSINESS MODEL THAT  
15 WOULD HURT POOR PEOPLE AT A TIME WHEN YOU LOOK AT  
16 ALL OF THE OTHER WAYS THAT THE CITY HAS, SOME OF US  
17 WILL SAY NICKEL AND DIME POOR PEOPLE.

18 IF WE APPRECIATE THE 57 PERCENT HOME  
19 OWNERSHIP RATE IN THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, IF WE  
20 UNDERSTAND THE DEEP POVERTY RATES THAT EXIST IN THE  
21 CITY, IF WE UNDERSTAND THAT WE WANT TO PROTECT AND  
22 STABILIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, THE WATER DEPARTMENT  
23 HAS TO BE A KEY PARTNER IN IT.

24 AND ANY RATE HIKE BEFORE, AS COUNCILWOMAN

1 BLACKWELL ALLUDED TO, WE HAVE PUT ALL OF OUR  
2 SYSTEMS IN PLACE TO GET PEOPLE COMPLIANT. THAT  
3 WHEN WE LOOK AT LIEN SALES AND EVEN SHERIFF SALES,  
4 WE ARE MAINTAINING THE GOALS OF NOT GOING AFTER  
5 HOMEOWNERS, LOW-INCOME HOMEOWNERS. THERE IS A LOT  
6 OF THINGS THAT WE NEED TO DO OVER THE NEXT COUPLE  
7 OF YEARS BEFORE WE EVEN CONSIDER A RATE HIKE,  
8 HAVING TO COME OUT OF ANOTHER RATE HIKE.

9 SO THE REASON WE PUT THE WATER BOARD IN  
10 PLACE WAS BECAUSE WE WANTED AN OPEN TRANSPARENT  
11 SYSTEM, ONE THAT RESPONDED TO THE PUBLIC. AND I  
12 HOPE THIS WATER RATE BOARD FOLLOWS THE TENEMENTS OF  
13 THAT SPIRIT AND NOT APPROVE THIS UNTIL THE  
14 DEPARTMENT CAN COME UP WITH A PLAN ABOUT HOW IT'S  
15 GOING TO PROTECT ALL OF THE FOLKS WITH A PLAN AND  
16 EVEN A REVISITING OF ITS PLAN AROUND HOW IT BUILDS  
17 OUT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

18 THIS IS ALL BASED ON A 25-YEAR PLAN. IT'S  
19 BASED ON -- IT DOESN'T, EVEN IF THE PLAN ITSELF  
20 DOES NOT ALLOW FOR EFFICIENCY, IT'S SORT OF LIKE  
21 WHATEVER EFFICIENCY YOU GET ON ONE PLACE, YOU'VE  
22 GOT TO MAKE IT UP IN ANOTHER.

23 AND I THINK GIVEN PHILADELPHIA'S POVERTY  
24 RATE, GIVEN ALL OF THE CHALLENGES THAT WE HAVE, I

1 REALLY WOULD LIKE THE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE ITSELF  
2 SOME TIME AND PARTICULARLY THIS NEW ADMINISTRATION  
3 AND THIS MAYOR WHO IS PUBLICLY VERY COMMITTED TO  
4 PROTECTING THE POOR WORKING CLASS AND PROTECTING  
5 THAT HOME OWNERSHIP RATE, THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD  
6 GIVE ITSELF MORE TIME TO FIGURE OUT AS OPPOSED TO  
7 CONTINUING THIS RATE HIKE INCREASE BECAUSE SOMEBODY  
8 ELSE CAME UP WITH IT AND IT WAS PROJECTED THAT WE  
9 WERE GOING TO DO IT, I THINK THIS IS ONE OF THOSE  
10 TIMES WHEN WE PUT ON THE PAUSE BUTTON. WE GET SOME  
11 STUFF DONE RIGHT AND THEN WE COME BACK TO THE TABLE  
12 AND SAY, WHAT KIND OF RATE HIKE CAN WE DO THAT  
13 MAKES SENSE, THAT ENSURES THAT OUR COLLECTION RATE  
14 IS BETTER AND THAT WE ARE BEING VERY DELIBERATE IN  
15 PROTECTING LOW INCOME FOLKS IN THE CITY OF  
16 PHILADELPHIA. THANK YOU.

17 HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU, COUNCILWOMAN  
18 SANCHEZ. IT'S 9:15. I DO SEE THERE ARE TWO MORE  
19 COUNCIL PEOPLE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN SPEAKING.

20 COUNCILMAN TAUBENBERGER: COUNCILMAN AL  
21 TAUBENBERGER. AND I'D JUST REALLY TAKE ONE BRIEF  
22 MOMENT TO WELCOME EVERYONE AND ALSO TO THANK  
23 PUBLICLY COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ FOR HER LEADERSHIP ON  
24 THIS ISSUE. AND I DO THANK THE COMMISSIONER FOR

1 COMING AND THE STAFF AS WELL IN EXPLAINING THE  
2 NEEDS. AND ANY PEOPLE FROM THE PUBLIC, I HOPE YOU  
3 GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND CERTAINLY WE ARE  
4 INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

5 THANK YOU ALL FOR HAVING THIS HEARING IN  
6 THIS BODY AT THIS TIME. THANK YOU.

7 HEARING OFFICER: COUNCILMAN JONES.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: GOOD MORNING. GOOD  
9 MORNING COMMISSIONER AND STAFF. I WANT TO PUBLICLY  
10 SAY ALSO THAT EVEN THOUGH WE ARE HERE ABOUT RATE  
11 INCREASES, THAT WHENEVER I'VE CALLED YOU, YOU HAVE  
12 BEEN RESPONSIVE TO ME. AND I JUST NEED TO HAVE  
13 SOME CLARIFICATION AS A MEMBER OF COUNCIL'S  
14 TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE.

15 A COUPLE OF THINGS. WE HAVE 6000 MILES OF  
16 INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER OUR FEET; IS THAT CORRECT,  
17 ACCORDING TO YOUR DATA?

18 MS. MCCARTY: YES, ABOUT, A LITTLE OVER.  
19 ACTUALLY 3700 MILES OF SEWER AND 3200 MILES OF  
20 WATER MAIN.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: FOR THAT, THE WATER LOSS  
22 EVERY YEAR, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF BREAKAGE DO WE HAVE  
23 EVERY YEAR ON AVERAGE WHEN WE HAVE THOSE WATER MAIN  
24 BREAKS, THOSE KINDS OF THINGS? IF I RECALL FROM

1 YOUR DAYS, IT WAS 23 PERCENT. IS IT STILL ABOUT 23  
2 PERCENT?

3 MS. MCCARTY: I'M NOT SURE I'M UNDERSTANDING  
4 YOUR QUESTION. SO HOW MANY BREAKS PER MILE?

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: NO. WE LOSE ABOUT 23  
6 PERCENT OF OUR FRESH WATER TO WATER MAIN BREAKS  
7 EVERY YEAR. IS THAT STILL THE AVERAGE?

8 MS. MCCARTY: OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD, I'M  
9 NOT POSITIVE. BUT WE DO HAVE, THERE ARE WATER  
10 LOSSES IN THE SYSTEM. THE WATER LOSSES RESULT FROM  
11 WATER MAIN BREAKS AND ALSO CONSUMER SERVICES THAT'S  
12 UNMETERED, THINGS LIKE THAT.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: THE REASON I RAISE THIS  
14 IS, IS THERE -- I SAW YOUR PLAN TO DO ABOUT 28  
15 MILES OF WATER MAIN REPAIR EVERY YEAR.

16 MS. MCCARTY: YES.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: MY QUESTION BECOMES AT  
18 THAT RATE AT 6000 MILES, WE WOULD BE ABOUT 60 YEARS  
19 BEFORE WE DID THE WHOLE SYSTEM. SO MY QUESTION  
20 BECOMES, HOW MUCH DOES THAT 23 PERCENT COST IF WE  
21 AGGRESSIVELY TOOK OUT OR DID SOMETHING TO INCREASE  
22 THAT PERCENTAGE TO REDUCE THAT AMOUNT OF LOSS?  
23 COULD WE SUBSTANTIALLY KEEP THE WATER RATES DOWN IS  
24 MY QUESTION?

1 MS. MCCARTY: SO IT'S ACTUALLY ABOUT 3200  
2 MILES OF WATER MAINS. SO WE HAVE A PROGRAM. WE  
3 ARE INCREASING FROM ABOUT 22 MILES YEAR TO 28 MILES  
4 REPLACEMENT. AND THAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS RATE  
5 REQUEST, CAPITAL TO DO THAT. PART OF THAT IS TO  
6 REDUCE THE NUMBER OF WATER MAIN BREAKS WE HAVE AND  
7 THE LOSS IN OUR WATER, OF COURSE. AND WE DO  
8 PURCHASE BONDS TO FUND THAT.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: SO BY THE TIME WE GO UP  
10 FOR BUDGET, I'D LIKE YOUR STAFF TO CONSIDER IF YOU  
11 INCREASE THAT, WHAT WOULD BE THE REDUCTION IN LOSS  
12 AND THEREFORE, SAVINGS COMPOUNDED? AND NOT TO  
13 MENTION THAT IF WE GET MORE PEOPLE WORKING WITHIN  
14 THAT DEPARTMENT, IT'S OUR OWN LITTLE STIMULUS  
15 PACKAGE THAT WE COULD DO A PIPELINE, LITERALLY A  
16 PLAY ON WORDS, FROM YOUNG PEOPLE THAT ARE REPAIRING  
17 THOSE LEAKS. AND SO IF YOU WOULD DO THAT KIND OF  
18 ANALYSIS, THAT WOULD HELP ME.

19 AND THEN MY LAST QUESTION IS --

20 MS. MCCARTY: I CAN TELL YOU WE CAN PROVIDE  
21 THAT. BUT OUR WATER IS ACTUALLY VERY INEXPENSIVE.  
22 SO I WOULD TELL YOU THAT LIKELY THE ANALYSIS WOULD  
23 SHOW THAT IT'S ACTUALLY MORE EXPENSIVE TO REPLACE  
24 THE MAINS THAN IT IS TO ALLOW THEM TO LEAK. THAT

1 SAID, IT'S NOT RESPONSIBLE USE OF OUR  
2 INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEAKS DO CAUSE OTHER PROBLEMS.  
3 BUT WE CAN PROVIDE THAT ANALYSIS FOR YOU.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: THE SECOND PART OF THAT  
5 IS, WHAT PERCENTAGE OF WATER DO WE PROVIDE FOR  
6 COUNTIES OUTSIDE OF PHILADELPHIA?

7 MS. MCCARTY: WE CURRENTLY ONLY HAVE ONE  
8 WHOLESALE CONSUMER. AND THAT WHOLESALE CUSTOMERS,  
9 THAT HELPS ACTUALLY TO KEEP OUR FIXED COST DOWN FOR  
10 OUR RATE PAYERS WITHIN THE CITY BOARDER.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: MONTGOMERY COUNTY?

12 MS. MCCARTY: MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

13 MS. LABUDA: MELISSA LABUDA, PHILADELPHIA  
14 WATER DEPARTMENT. GOOD MORNING, COUNCILMAN.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: GOOD MORNING.

16 MS. LABUDA: THE WHOLESALE CONTRACT IS WITH  
17 AQUA PENNSYLVANIA. AND ITS TOTAL REVENUE TO THE  
18 DEPARTMENT IS ABOUT \$3.7 MILLION FOR FISCAL YEAR  
19 15.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: IS THERE A WAY TO ADJUST  
21 OR TAKE A LOOK AT THAT PERCENTAGE OF AFFORDABLE  
22 CLEAN LOVELY WATER THAT WE PROVIDE THEM AND MAYBE  
23 LOOK AT HOW WE CHARGE OUR OUTSIDE-OF-CITY CUSTOMERS  
24 IN THAT KIND OF ANALYSIS AS WELL? SO AS YOU LOOK



1 AT --

2 MS. MCCARTY: WE ARE COST-OF-SERVICE  
3 UTILITY. AND ACTUALLY, THEIR RATES ARE GOING UP  
4 COME JULY 1ST.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: I HAVE NO CONSTITUENTS  
6 IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

7 MS. MCCARTY: THEY DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF  
8 THE RATE BOARD. THEIR RATES ARE GOING UP.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: THE OTHER THING THAT IS  
10 IN YOUR CALCULATION, ONE OF THE BIG COMPLAINTS I  
11 GET AND I UNDERSTAND WHY, IS LATERAL REPLACEMENT TO  
12 CUSTOMERS. SO A SENIOR ON FIXED INCOME LIVING IN  
13 THEIR HOUSE, ALL OF A SUDDEN THE CONNECTION FROM  
14 THE MAIN TO THEIR HOUSE BREAKS. THAT IS SOMETIMES  
15 A \$3000, \$6000 UNANTICIPATED EXPENSE. WHAT PLANS  
16 DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE IN THE FOURTH  
17 QUARTER OF THEIR LIFE ON FIXED INCOME FOR LATERAL  
18 REPLACEMENT?

19 MS. MCCARTY: WITHIN OF OUR ASSISTANCE  
20 PROGRAMS THAT WE DO PROVIDE CUSTOMERS IN  
21 UNFORTUNATE SITUATIONS LIKE THAT IS HELP THEM WITH  
22 A ZERO INTEREST LOAN. BUT PROPERTIES LEAK AND THE  
23 CUSTOMER WILL SIGN UP AND WE WILL ASSIST WITH  
24 GETTING THEM, GETTING BACK THEIR WATER SERVICE AS

1 QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: IT IS A LOAN. IT IS A  
3 LOAN. BUT I SEE THAT THAT IS SOME HELP. BUT IF WE  
4 CAN DO, TAKE A STEP FURTHER, THAT WOULD BE  
5 SOMETHING THAT I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN. THANK  
6 YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

7 HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN.

8 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: MAY I SAY ONE MORE  
9 THING AND THEN I'M FINISHED?

10 HEARING OFFICER: WE DO NEED TO TURN TO THE  
11 PUBLIC. THEY CAME HERE TO SPEAK.

12 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: THEY APPRECIATE  
13 WHAT I'M SAYING. I'M SPEAKING FOR THEM. TWO  
14 ISSUES. I JUST LEARNED THAT, I KNOW IT'S QUICKER  
15 THAT PEOPLE CAN PAY ON-LINE. BUT I JUST LEARNED  
16 THAT IF YOU WANT TO RAISE THIS RATE AVERAGE MONTHLY  
17 BILL BY \$4.20, A GENTLEMAN JUST TOLD ME YOU CHARGE  
18 \$3.95 TO PAY ON-LINE. SO IF YOU ARE RAISING IT BY  
19 \$4.20 AND YOU GOT TO PAY \$3.95 IF YOU WANT TO PAY  
20 ON-LINE, THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO CUT IT IN A POSITIVE  
21 WAY. THEN YOU HAVE TO PAY ON-LINE PLUS PAY YOUR  
22 \$3.95. SO THAT'S A DOUBLE HIT THERE.

23 AND THE LAST THING I WANT TO ASK IS ABOUT  
24 THE RATE STABILIZATION FUND. HOW MUCH IS IT AND

1 HOW DO YOU, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO USE THAT?

2 MS. MCCARTY: I CAN TOUCH ON THIS. IF YOU  
3 HAVE MORE DETAILED QUESTIONS, WE CAN REFER TO MS.  
4 LABUDA. BUT BASICALLY RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE ABOUT  
5 \$206 MILLION IN THE RATE STABILIZATION FUND.

6 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: HOW MUCH AGAIN?

7 MS. MCCARTY: \$206 MILLION. AND WE INTEND  
8 TO DRAW THAT DOWN. THERE WAS NO RATE INCREASE FOR  
9 FISCAL 16. SO JULY 1ST, 2015 WE DID NOT HAVE A  
10 RATE INCREASE. TO BALANCE OUR BOOKS, WE WILL BE  
11 DRAWING THAT DOWN THIS FISCAL YEAR. AND THE RATE  
12 INCREASE IS ACTUALLY LOWER THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN  
13 BECAUSE WE INTEND TO DRAW DOWN THE FUNDS OVER THE  
14 NEXT TWO FISCAL YEARS AS WELL. SO WE ARE TAPPING  
15 INTO THE RATE STABILIZATION FUND TO BRING IT DOWN  
16 TO THE \$110 MILLION.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: MY SENTIMENTS  
18 EXACTLY. YOU ALREADY HAVE \$206 MILLION. YET IF A  
19 PERSON IS BEHIND IN THEIR BILL AS THEY WERE IN MY  
20 WATER MAIN BREAK, WE HAD TO FIGHT TO GET A MAN ON  
21 WHO OWED A BILL FOR SOMETHING LIKE \$288. YOU HAVE  
22 \$206 MILLION THAT YOU HAVEN'T USED, AND YET YOU ARE  
23 ASKING FOR A RATE INCREASE. I WOULD RATHER YOU  
24 NEEDED IT. AT LEAST IT WOULD SEEM FAIR CONSIDERING

1 IT. BUT TO HAVE A \$206 MILLION SURPLUS JUST  
2 DOESN'T CUT IT. THANK YOU. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO  
3 SAY SO FAR, I THINK.

4 HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU, COUNCILWOMAN.

5 IT APPEARS THAT THIS IS A TIME THAT WE CAN  
6 TURN TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. I HAVE A SIGN-IN  
7 SHEET HERE WHICH HAS FIVE NAMES ON IT. I'M BEING  
8 INDICATED THAT THERE IS OTHER PEOPLE WHO WANT TO  
9 SIGN UP. LAURA COPELAND, THE LADY IN THE BACK HAS  
10 A SIGN-UP SHEET THERE. AND SO IF YOU DO WANT TO  
11 SPEAK, I WOULD ASK YOU TO SIGN UP WITH HER. BUT  
12 ALSO OTHER PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY GOT ON THE LIST.

13 MS. MCCARTY: MADAM CHAIR, SHOULD WE STAY?

14 HEARING OFFICER: IT WOULD BE FINE IF YOU  
15 STAY, PLEASE. IT'S ALMOST 9:30. WE ARE GOING TO  
16 HAVE TO ASK PEOPLE TO MOVE IT ALONG.

17 START WITH MR. MICHAEL LIGHTBODY.

18 MR. LIGHTBODY: GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS  
19 MICHAEL LIGHTBODY. I LIVE AT 5921 ARCH STREET IN  
20 PHILADELPHIA WITH MY WIFE. I APPLIED FOR WRAP IN  
21 FEBRUARY, 2016 BUT WAS GIVEN A DENIAL LETTER  
22 CLAIMING THAT SAID I DO NOT QUALIFY BECAUSE IT  
23 SEEMS AS THOUGH I DO NOT OCCUPY THE RESIDENCE. THE  
24 LETTER SAID, PER OUR SPECIAL INVESTIGATION, YOU AS

1 THE OWNER DO NOT RESIDE IN THE PROPERTY.

2 I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WATER REVENUE  
3 THINKS THIS. IT MAY BE BECAUSE I AM GETTING  
4 RENOVATIONS DONE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF MY HOUSE,  
5 BUT I AM STILL LIVING THERE WITH MY FAMILY. OUR  
6 FURNITURE AND CLOTHES ARE THERE. THERE IS FOOD IN  
7 THE REFRIGERATOR. ALSO, WHEN I APPLIED FOR WRAP, I  
8 INCLUDED DOCUMENTS THAT SHOW I LIVE THERE. I GAVE  
9 COPIES OF MY PGW BILL, MY WIFE'S PECO BILL, AND OUR  
10 LETTERS FROM FOR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WITH OUR  
11 ADDRESS ON THEM.

12 WHEN I CALLED WATER REVENUE, THEY WOULD NOT  
13 HELP. THEY COULD HAVE SCHEDULED TO HAVE A  
14 REPRESENTATIVE COME DOWN TO MY HOUSE ONCE MORE. AT  
15 THE VERY LEAST, THEY COULD HAVE TOLD ME HOW I CAN  
16 DISPUTE THE DENIAL. BUT THEY NEVER TOLD ME OF THIS  
17 OPTION AND THE DENIAL LETTER DID NOT INCLUDE THIS  
18 OPTION EITHER. IT ONLY OFFERED THE OPTION TO  
19 REQUEST A STANDARD PAYMENT AGREEMENT. WHEN I ASKED  
20 ABOUT IT, THEY SAID I WOULD NEED TO PAY \$3000 UP  
21 FRONT, BUT I CANNOT AFFORD SUCH AN AMOUNT.

22 I HEARD THAT THE DISPUTE PROCESS AND  
23 CUSTOMER SERVICE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IMPROVED AFTER  
24 THE LAST RATE CASE. I DO NOT SEE THESE

1 IMPROVEMENTS. SO THIS IS WHY I AM HERE IN FRONT OF  
2 THE WATER RATE BOARD TODAY. WATER REVENUE SHOULD  
3 NOT BE ABLE TO BRUSH OFF CUSTOMERS LIKE MYSELF WHO  
4 ARE TRYING TO JOIN THE LOW-INCOME PROGRAM. ITS  
5 REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD NOT BE GIVING ATTITUDE TO  
6 ITS CUSTOMERS DURING OFFICE VISITS.

7 SO THERE SHOULD BE NO WATER INCREASE UNTIL  
8 THERE IS EFFECTIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE AND CUSTOMERS  
9 ARE PROVIDED WITH A FAIR PROCESS TO DISPUTE WHAT WE  
10 BELIEVE ARE MISTAKEN DECISIONS BY WATER REVENUE.  
11 THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME SPEAK TODAY.

12 HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU, MR. LIGHTBODY.  
13 WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO MAKE A COPY OF YOUR  
14 STATEMENT AVAILABLE TO US? I SEE YOU HAVE A  
15 STATEMENT YOU WERE READING FROM AND IT WILL BE  
16 HELPFUL FOR THE RECORD IF WE HAD YOUR STATEMENT.

17 NEXT WE HAVE LOIS STEWART.

18 MS. MCCARTY: CAN I --

19 HEARING OFFICER: WE ARE AT A POINT TO WE  
20 ARE HAVING PUBLIC COMMENT.

21 MS. MCCARTY: HE CAN APPEAL THIS AND WE DO  
22 HAVE FOLKS OVER HERE THAT CAN ASSIST HIM.

23 HEARING OFFICER: WHAT I WOULD SUGGEST IS  
24 FOR SITUATIONS LIKE THIS, THAT THE WATER DEPARTMENT

1           APPROACH THE CUSTOMER TO OFFER THOSE SERVICES. I'M  
2           NOT SURE THAT HE HEARD IT IN THIS CASE. THANK  
3           YOU.

4                       MS. STEWART.

5                       MS. STEWART: GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS  
6           LOIS STEWART. I LIVE AT 3322 WEST ALLEGHENY  
7           AVENUE. I AM A SENIOR ON A SMALL FIXED INCOME OF  
8           SOCIAL SECURITY AND SSI. I USED TO PAY \$34 A MONTH  
9           FOR WATER ON THE WRAP PAYMENT PLAN. BUT IN JULY,  
10          2015, THE WATER REVENUE SENT ME A LETTER SAYING MY  
11          PAYMENT AGREEMENT WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE I DID NOT  
12          RESPOND TO THEIR REQUEST FOR YEARLY EVALUATIONS.

13                      WHEN I REAPPLIED FOR WRAP, WATER REVENUE  
14          SENT ME ANOTHER LETTER IN OCTOBER, 2015 APPROVING  
15          ME FOR \$66 A MONTH PLAN WHICH IS UNAFFORDABLE FOR  
16          ME. THE LETTER DID NOT EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARRIVED AT  
17          THE \$66 A MONTH AMOUNT.

18                      I TALKED ON THE PHONE WITH THE WATER REP  
19          AND I QUESTIONED THE INCREASE TO \$66. I WAS TOLD  
20          IT WAS BECAUSE MY WATER USAGE WENT UP. SHE CLAIMED  
21          MY AVERAGE WATER USE WAS 294 GALLONS A DAY. I KNOW  
22          THAT IN THE SUMMER, I WAS USING MORE WATER FOR THE  
23          GARDEN. HOWEVER, \$66 IS MUCH HIGHER THAN ANY  
24          AVERAGE BILLS FOR THE 12 MONTHS BEFORE THE OCTOBER,

1 2015 WRAP DECISION SETTING MY BILL AT \$66 A MONTH.  
2 A \$66 A MONTH WRAP PAYMENT AGREEMENT DOES NOT MAKE  
3 SENSE.

4 I WENT DOWN TO THE WATER REVENUE BUREAU  
5 OFFICE TWICE TO TRY TO TAKE CARE OF THIS ISSUE, AND  
6 BOTH TIMES I GOT NO SATISFACTION. ON ONE VISIT, I  
7 SPOKE WITH MR. WILSON WHO SAID I PROBABLY HAD A  
8 LEAK AND TOLD ME TO TROUBLESHOOT THE PROBLEM WITH A  
9 CERTIFIED PLUMBER. NO LEAK. I HAVE REQUESTED TO  
10 BE TAKEN OFF WRAP SINCE I BELIEVE MY BILL WILL BE  
11 LOWER WITHOUT THE PAYMENT AGREEMENT. HOWEVER,  
12 WATER REVENUE WILL NOT LET ME MAKE REGULAR PAYMENTS  
13 WITHOUT FIRST PAYING OFF THE LARGE BACK BALANCE  
14 FROM BEFORE I ENTERED WRAP.

15 DURING THIS ENTIRE TIME, THE WATER  
16 REVENUE'S REPRESENTATIVE AND WRAP LETTERS NEVER  
17 INFORMED ME ABOUT MY RIGHT TO DISPUTE THE \$66 WRAP  
18 PAYMENT PLAN. I THINK I DESERVE AN EXPLANATION FOR  
19 WHY I AM BEING CHARGED SO MUCH AND A CHANCE TO  
20 DISPUTE THE WRAP DECISION IF I DISAGREE WITH IT. I  
21 HEARD THAT THE DISPUTE PROCESS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE  
22 IMPROVED AFTER THE LAST RATE CASE. I DO NOT SEE  
23 THOSE IMPROVEMENTS, SO THAT IS WHY I AM HERE  
24 TODAY.



1                   THERE SHOULD BE NO WATER INCREASE UNTIL  
2 WATER CUSTOMERS ARE TREATED PROPERLY AND PROVIDED  
3 WITH A FAIR PROCESS TO DISPUTE WHAT WE BELIEVE ARE  
4 MISTAKES IN OUR WATER BILLS. THANK YOU FOR THE  
5 OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK.

6                   HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU, MS. STEWART.  
7 AGAIN, IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF YOU WOULD  
8 PROVIDE, I SEE YOU HAVE, A WRITTEN COPY OF YOUR  
9 REMARKS.

10                  MR. FALKOWSKI.

11                  AGAIN, WE ARE ABOUT, WE HAVE ABOUT 25  
12 MINUTES LEFT OR 20 MINUTES LEFT FOR THE ENTIRE  
13 PROCESS HERE. SO IF EVERYBODY MOVE ALONG. I  
14 UNDERSTAND, MR. FALKOWSKI, YOU HAVE AN EXTENSIVE  
15 WRITTEN DOCUMENT WHICH I HAVE ACTUALLY HAD THE  
16 OPPORTUNITY TO READ THIS MORNING AND SO DID  
17 CHAIRMAN BRUNWASSER, SO I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE  
18 USEFUL TO JUST REPEAT ALL OF THAT.

19                  MR. FALKOWSKI: AGREED. MEMBERS OF THE  
20 CITY COUNCIL, COMMISSIONER, MS. MCCARTY, CHAIRMAN  
21 BRUNWASSER AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WATER RATE  
22 BOARD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MY NAME IS BOB  
23 FALKOWSKI. I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN. I LIVE IN THE  
24 PORT RICHMOND SECTION OF PHILADELPHIA.

1 I TAKE THE POSITION THAT THE PROPOSED RATES  
2 ARE SIMPLY TOO HIGH. WHAT I HAVE DONE IS, THIS IS  
3 OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS I HAVE KEPT A RECORD OF THE  
4 INCREASES IN WATER CHARGES AND STORMWATER SERVICE  
5 CHARGES. THE PERCENTAGE INCREASE OVER THOSE YEARS  
6 IS ABOUT 22.4 PERCENT. MEANWHILE, I DO HAVE AN  
7 ARCHDIOCESAN PENSION. I TAUGHT AT NORTH CATHOLIC  
8 BUT THE PENSION NEVER INCREASES. I ALSO HAVE  
9 SOCIAL SECURITY DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS. IT  
10 INCREASED BY EIGHT AND-A-HALF PERCENT. SO IT'S A  
11 PRETTY GREAT DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EIGHT AND-A-HALF  
12 PERCENT AND 22.4 PERCENT.

13 SO I THINK THAT WHEN THE WATER DEPARTMENT  
14 PROPOSED RATE INCREASES, IT HAS TO CONSIDER  
15 PEOPLE'S BUDGETS. NOW, IDEALLY THE RATE INCREASE  
16 WOULD NOT BE ANY HIGHER THAN THE RATE OF INFLATION.  
17 REALISTICALLY, INSTEAD OF FIVE OR SIX PERCENT,  
18 MAYBE TWO TO THREE PERCENT WOULD BE MORE  
19 APPROPRIATE.

20 THE SECOND REASON WHICH INDICATES WHY THE  
21 RATES ARE TOO HIGH IS WITH THE DEFICIT. IN AN  
22 INQUIRER ARTICLE FROM NOVEMBER OF 2015, IT SAID  
23 THAT THE DEFICIT WAS \$259 MILLION. IT SEEMS TO ME  
24 IF THE RATES WERE LOWER, MORE PEOPLE COULD PAY

1           THEIR BILLS AND THE DEFICIT WOULD NOT BE SO HIGH  
2           AND OUR BILLS WOULD NOT BE SO HIGH.   SO THERE IS  
3           THE FIRST PART OF THIS.   I DO THINK THE REQUESTED  
4           RATES ARE TOO HIGH.

5                    THE SECOND PART OF THE STATEMENT DEALS WITH  
6           SOME REWARD PROGRAMS THAT I THINK IT WOULD BE A  
7           GOOD IDEA TO GIVE PEOPLE WHO CONSCIENTIOUSLY  
8           FAITHFULLY PAY THEIR WATER BILLS.   I DO THINK IT'S  
9           GOOD THINKING OF THE NEEDY.   I KNOW THE WATER  
10          DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN \$22 MILLION TO THE  
11          NEEDY AND I THINK IT'S GREAT.   BUT I ALSO THINK IT  
12          WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO SHOW APPRECIATION TO THE  
13          PEOPLE WHO FAITHFULLY PAY THEIR BILLS.   ONE OF MY  
14          IDEAS IS SIMPLY THIS.   IF I PAY ALL OF MY WATER  
15          BILLS IN 2016, THEN COMES 2017, I GET A TEN PERCENT  
16          DISCOUNT ON MY MONTHLY BILL.   NOW, IT WOULD JUST BE  
17          A WAY OF SHOWING APPRECIATION.

18                   I HAVE ANOTHER PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ONLY  
19          APPLY TO PEOPLE WHO DO NOT RECEIVE ANY TYPE OF  
20          CHARITABLE, ANY TYPE OF CHARITABLE DISCOUNT.   IT  
21          WOULD SIMPLY BE THIS.   EVERY YEAR THE WATER  
22          DEPARTMENT WILL SEND ME A STATEMENT INDICATING THE  
23          PERCENTAGE OF MY WATER BILL THAT WAS USED TO PAY  
24          FOR THE DISCOUNT PROGRAMS, CHARITABLE DISCOUNT

1 PROGRAMS. OF COURSE, THERE IS NO MONEY INVOLVED  
2 THERE. BUT THEN I COULD USE THAT STATEMENT FOR MY  
3 FEDERAL INCOME TAX. IF MY ITEMIZED DEDUCTION IS  
4 GREATER THAN THE STANDARD DEDUCTION, I CAN USE MY  
5 CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR THE WATER DEPARTMENT  
6 HOPEFULLY TO DECREASE MY WATER BILLS.

7 THE THIRD PART OF MY STATEMENT DEALS WITH  
8 THE LOCATION OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS. I DID A ZIP  
9 CODE ANALYSIS OF THE LOCATION OF FIVE PREVIOUS  
10 MEETINGS. ONLY ONE OF THEM OCCURRED IN THE EXTREME  
11 NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA. THE OTHER FOUR WERE  
12 BASICALLY WEST OF BROAD STREET. NOW, I LIVE IN  
13 PORT RICHMOND. WHAT THIS MEANS IS THE PEOPLE IN  
14 PLACES LIKE TORRESDALE, MAYFAIR, PORT RICHMOND,  
15 SOUTH PHILLY, QUEENS VILLAGE, ALL THE PEOPLE THAT  
16 LIVE HERE DO NOT HAVE THAT KIND OF OPPORTUNITY TO  
17 PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON THESE INCREASES IN AN EASY  
18 WAY. SO I DO THINK, HONESTLY I DO THINK THE WATER  
19 RATE BOARD SHOULD HOLD MORE MEETINGS IN THE EASTERN  
20 SECTION OF PHILADELPHIA. AND I BELIEVE THAT THAT  
21 WOULD GIVE GREATER VALIDITY, FAIRNESS, WHATEVER  
22 DECISION THE WATER BOARD MAKES.

23 FOLKS, I APPRECIATE YOUR TIME, YOUR  
24 ATTENTION AND I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A GOOD DAY.

1 HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU, MR. FALKOWSKI.  
2 AND WE DO HAVE YOUR WITNESS STATEMENT, SO THAT WILL  
3 BE MADE PART OF THE RECORD.

4 I HAVE TWO MORE NAMES HERE. I'M NOT SURE  
5 THAT'S ALL OF THE NAMES THAT HAVE BEEN SIGNED UP.  
6 MS. COPELAND, ARE THERE ANY MORE PEOPLE BESIDES  
7 THOSE SIGNED UP AT THE DOOR?

8 MS. COPELAND: NO, I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE.

9 HEARING OFFICER: SO I THINK WE CAN DO THIS.  
10 THE NEXT NAME THAT I HAVE IS LIZ CECILE. I'M SORRY  
11 IF I DON'T PRONOUNCE YOUR NAMES CORRECTLY.

12 MS. CECILE: I'LL PASS. THANK YOU.

13 HEARING OFFICER: I DIDN'T HEAR. I CAN'T  
14 HEAR YOU.

15 MS. MCCARTY: SHE WANTS TO DEFER TO OTHER  
16 PEOPLE.

17 HEARING OFFICER: WE HAVE THAT ON THE  
18 RECORD. THANK YOU, MA'AM.

19 AND I HAVE ELIZABETH SIGNIL.

20 MS. SIGNIL: MY NAME IS ELIZABETH SIGNIL. I  
21 AM A RESIDENT OF PHILADELPHIA SINCE 2004 AND I WAS  
22 A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER IN PHILADELPHIA FOR OVER 40  
23 YEARS. I AM HERE TODAY AS A DELEGATE OF THE  
24 PHILADELPHIA WOMAN BENEFIT COUNSEL, THE WBC WHICH

1 WAS ESTABLISHED 40 YEARS AGO IN PHILADELPHIA BY  
2 LOW-INCOME SERVICE WORKERS IN VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION  
3 TO PROVIDE A VOICE FOR LOW-INCOME SERVICE WORKERS  
4 AND THEIR FAMILIES.

5 WE OPPOSE THE PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT  
6 12 PERCENT WATER RATE HIKE AND WE DEMAND THE  
7 FOLLOWING. THE WBC DEMANDS THE WATER DEPARTMENT  
8 IMPOSE NO WATER RATE INCREASE AT THIS TIME. THE  
9 WBC DEMANDS THE WATER DEPARTMENT IMPOSE A  
10 YEAR-ROUND MORATORIUM ON WATER SHUTOFFS FOR ANY  
11 HOUSEHOLD AT OR BELOW 300 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL  
12 POVERTY LEVEL. THE WBC DEMANDS THE WATER  
13 DEPARTMENT RECONNECT ANY HOUSEHOLD AT OR BELOW 300  
14 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL WHICH HAS BEEN  
15 DISCONNECTED, ESTABLISH A REASONABLE PAYMENT PLAN  
16 AND CHARGE NO RECONNECTION FEES.

17 THE WBC DEMANDS THE WATER DEPARTMENT  
18 APPLIES THESE SAME PROVISIONS FOR ANY HOUSEHOLD  
19 ABOVE 300 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LEVEL WHICH HAS  
20 SUFFERED FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OWING TO ILL HEALTH,  
21 JOB LOSS, FORECLOSURE OR OTHER ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS.  
22 THE WBC DEMANDS THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA END ANY  
23 PRACTICE OF SEIZURE OR FORECLOSURE OF RESIDENCES AS  
24 A MEANS TO FORCE PAYMENT OF ARREARS WATER BILLS.

1                   LAST SEPTEMBER, ALL 193 MEMBER NATIONS OF  
2                   THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY INCLUDING THE  
3                   UNITED STATES AGREED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENDORSE THE  
4                   2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS. GOAL 6 STATES,  
5                   ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT  
6                   OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL. IN OTHER WORDS,  
7                   ALMOST EVERY GOVERNMENT ON THE PLANET ENDORSES THE  
8                   RIGHT TO WATER. AND YET IN THE WEALTHIEST AND MOST  
9                   ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL NATION IN THE WORLD, POOR  
10                  PEOPLE ARE DENIED THIS MOST BASIC HUMAN NECESSITY  
11                  DUE TO A BARBARIC PRACTICE OF SHUTTING OFF WATER  
12                  SERVICE TO THOSE WHO ARE BEHIND IN THEIR BILLS.

13                  LAST FISCAL YEAR, PWD SHUT OFF 31,049  
14                  HOUSEHOLDS. THAT IS HOUSEHOLDS, NOT INDIVIDUALS.  
15                  SO THE NUMBER OF AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS IS MUCH  
16                  HIGHER. THE PHILADELPHIA WORKERS BENEFIT COUNCIL  
17                  DENOUNCES THIS SITUATION WHICH WE FIND TO BE  
18                  TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND WE DEMAND AN END TO THE  
19                  SHUTOFFS NOW.

20                  COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES ESTIMATES THAT PWD  
21                  HAS NEARLY \$300 MILLION IN ASSETS BETWEEN ITS RATE  
22                  STABILIZATION FUND, THE RESIDUAL FUND, AND  
23                  SOMETHING CALLED THE EQUITY IN TREASURER'S  
24                  ACCOUNT. THERE IS NO NEED TO RAISE THE RATES. PWD

1 HAS COLLECTED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS  
2 BEYOND ITS COST OF OPERATIONS. WHY DO THEY  
3 CONTINUE TO DEMAND YET MORE MONEY FROM US  
4 ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO CAN LEAST AFFORD AN INCREASE  
5 IN THE FORM OF SUBSTANTIAL RATE INCREASES. COULD  
6 IT BE DUE TO THE DEMANDS OF PWD BONDHOLDERS, THOSE  
7 VULTURES OF WALL STREET WHO CAN EXERT FINANCIAL  
8 DEMANDS AT WILL UPON THOSE ENTITIES WHO BORROW FROM  
9 THEM TO MAINTAIN OR UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE?

10 WE SAY THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL OF  
11 PHILADELPHIA'S RESIDENTS COMES BEFORE THE DEMANDS  
12 BEING MADE BY WALL STREET BONDHOLDERS TO PWD, YET  
13 IT PILES UP HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF  
14 EXCESS FUNDS IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE WALL STREET'S  
15 PROFITS. STOP WATER BOARDING THE RATE PAYERS. WE  
16 ARE DROWNING IN BILLS. THANK YOU.

17 HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU, MS. SIGNIL.  
18 AGAIN, I SEE THAT YOU ARE SHARING YOUR WRITTEN  
19 COMMENT WITH US.

20 I DON'T HAVE ON MY LIST ANY OTHER MEMBERS  
21 OF THE PUBLIC WHO WOULD ASK FOR A CHANCE TO SPEAK,  
22 BUT I DO SEE THAT COUNCILMAN JOHNSON HAS HIS LIGHT  
23 ON.

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: GOOD MORNING. GOOD



1 MORNING. I WANTED TO JUST FOLLOW UP REGARDING ONE  
2 ASPECT TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION. I PROBABLY WILL  
3 REACH OUT TO THE WATER DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONER  
4 REGARDING -- HOW ARE YOU DOING? HEY, HOW ARE  
5 YOU?

6 MS. MCCARTY: GOOD MORNING, COUNCILMAN.

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I AM DOING PRETTY  
8 MUCH. I WANT TO, FOR THE RECORD, PROBABLY ONE OF  
9 THE THINGS I WANT TO PAY ATTENTION TO MOVING  
10 FORWARD AS WE TALK ABOUT MAKING SURE THAT WE ARE  
11 ADVOCATING AND MAKING SURE WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING  
12 POSSIBLE TO TAKE CARE OF OUR CUSTOMERS IS THE ISSUE  
13 OF WHEN THE METERS DON'T DO A PROPER READING AND  
14 THE PERSON IS STILL RECEIVING BILLS SAYING EITHER  
15 YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY OR THE BILL IS A DISCOUNTED  
16 AMOUNT. AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THE PERSON GETS A  
17 BILL SAYING THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO PAY A CERTAIN  
18 AMOUNT OF MONEY.

19 AND SURELY, I DON'T THINK IT'S THE  
20 CUSTOMER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THE BATTERY  
21 IS CHANGED OR A PROPER READING IS TAKEN PLACE IN  
22 TERMS OF THE ACTUAL METERS BECAUSE I THINK AS A  
23 CITY, THAT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY. I DON'T EXPECT  
24 THE CUSTOMER TO BE THAT SAVVY TO GO DOWNSTAIRS OR

1 CHECK EVERY SO OFTEN REGARDING THE READING. SO  
2 WHEN WE TALK ABOUT RATES AND MAKING SURE WE PROTECT  
3 OUR CONSTITUENTS AND ALSO MAKING SURE WE ARE DOING  
4 THE BEST THINGS POSSIBLE IN TERMS OF OUR CUSTOMERS,  
5 THAT'S SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE MORE  
6 FORWARD IS OUR WHOLE METER SYSTEM AS A WHOLE.

7 IT HAPPENED ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT TIMES. I  
8 THINK THERE WAS LIKE NEGOTIATION THAT CAME UP WHERE  
9 THE PERSON HAD TO PAY A CERTAIN AMOUNT AND THE CITY  
10 FORGAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT. BUT FOR ME AND THE  
11 CONSTITUENTS THAT I WAS DEALING WITH, I DON'T THINK  
12 IT'S THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. I THINK THAT WE SHOULD  
13 STEP UP OUR EFFORTS IN MAKING SURE THE METERS ARE  
14 WORKING PROPERLY WHEN THE WATER DEPARTMENT ARE  
15 COMING OUT AND DOING THE READING. HOW CAN WE DO A  
16 BETTER JOB AT MAKING SURE THE SYSTEM IS ACCURATE?  
17 CAN YOU ELABORATE ON WHERE WE ARE AT WITH THAT?

18 MS. MCCARTY: WHEN THERE ARE ISSUES WITH THE  
19 WATER METER, WE DO MAKE ATTEMPTS TO GET INTO  
20 PROPERTIES. SOMETIMES IT'S MORE CHALLENGING THAN  
21 OTHER TIMES. BUT WE DID SPEAK ABOUT THERE IS A  
22 PROGRAM WHERE OUR CUSTOMERS ARE RESPONSIVE AND LET  
23 US KNOW WHEN WE ARE NOT GETTING GOOD READINGS. AND  
24 IT DOES, WE WORK WITH THEM. THERE IS ALSO, AS YOU

1 POINTED OUT, THERE IS SOME FORGIVENESS ON THE WATER  
2 THAT THEY USED BECAUSE WE DO, IT IS A SHARED  
3 RESPONSIBILITY AS YOU POINTED OUT. AND I'M ALWAYS  
4 HAPPY IF THERE IS SPECIFIC ACCOUNTS, WE ARE ALWAYS  
5 HAPPY TO WORK WITH YOU, SIR.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: YES. AND I GUESS FOR  
7 ME, IT'S THAT SHARED RESPONSIBILITY PART. BECAUSE  
8 AGAIN, AND THIS IS SIMILAR TO WHEN YOU HAVE WATER  
9 MAIN BREAKS. AND THE CUSTOMER, OUR CONSTITUENTS  
10 ARE USUALLY THE ONES WHO HAVE TO PAY AS A RESULT OF  
11 NEGLIGENCE. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY ON BEHALF OF THE  
12 CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, SO WE CAN TALK OFF THE RECORD  
13 TO TRY TO SEE BECAUSE THERE ARE SOME PROPOSALS THAT  
14 I AM LOOKING AT REGARDING HOW WE UPGRADE OUR, HOW  
15 DO WE UPGRADE OUR METER SYSTEMS ACROSS THE BOARD?

16 I'LL HAVE ANOTHER CONVERSATION WITH YOU  
17 BEFORE I MOVE FORWARD, BUT IT HAS BEEN SOMETHING WE  
18 HAVE BEEN LOOKING INTO OVER THE PAST YEAR BECAUSE  
19 OF THE CONSTITUENTS WHO HAVE COME INTO OUR OFFICE  
20 AND SAYING, OUR METER HAS BEEN SAYING ONE THING BUT  
21 I GET A WATER BILL SAYING SOMETHING ELSE AND I'M ON  
22 THE HOOK. AND MY STAFF WENT DOWN TO THE REVENUE  
23 DEPARTMENT BASICALLY TO BE THE CONSTITUENT'S  
24 SUPPORT SYSTEM TO TRY TO HELP THEM OUT. SO THAT'S

1 WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW UP ON.

2 MS. MCCARTY: I'D BE HAPPY TO WORK WITH  
3 YOU.

4 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: THERE IS NEW TECHNOLOGY  
6 THAT YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE WHERE YOU CAN  
7 ELECTRONICALLY SHUT OFF WATER METERS REMOTELY. WE  
8 SHOULD LOOK AT THAT TECHNOLOGY AND MAKE THE  
9 INVESTMENT IF IT'S WORTHWHILE.

10 MS. MCCARTY: WE ARE.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: TWO IS WE MAIL OUT ROUGHLY  
12 500,000 BILLS PER MONTH WATER AND SEWER AND ABOUT  
13 SIX MILLION A YEAR WE MAIL. AND I HAVE SAID THIS  
14 EARLIER BEFORE IN MEETINGS, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD  
15 REALLY LOOK AT A COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM TO CUTS DOWN  
16 ON \$3 OR \$4 MILLION OF POSTAGE, CUTS DOWN ON THE  
17 COST OF THE ENVELOPES. AND I THINK 75 PERCENT OF  
18 OUR PEOPLE COULD PAY ELECTRONICALLY. 25 PERCENT  
19 PROBABLY STILL DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.  
20 BUT THOSE 75 PERCENT WOULD HAVE A BETTER WAY TO  
21 COLLECT THE MONEY. MAYBE THEY CAN ACCESS A THANK  
22 YOU NOTE IF YOU PAY. BILL ON THE 1ST, ON THE 15TH  
23 AND MAKE OUR COLLECTION SYSTEM MUCH MORE EFFICIENT.  
24 I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US TAKE ON THAT TASK OF TRYING

1 TO GO ELECTRONICALLY WHICH EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING  
2 IN THIS AREA.

3 MS. BETHEL: WE ARE LOOKING AT E-BILLING,  
4 SIR.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: THANK YOU.

6 HEARING OFFICER: COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL.

7 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: YES, THANK YOU. I  
8 HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION. BUT IF WE ARE PAYING FOR  
9 \$4.20 MORE, THEY ARE CHARGING \$3.59 TO SEND IT  
10 ELECTRONICALLY. SO THAT'S ANOTHER ISSUE WE NEED  
11 TO, WE ARE ASKING THE WATER COMPANY TO LOOK AT. IN  
12 ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT I WAS TOLD THAT SOMEBODY  
13 ON THE WRAP PROGRAM WHERE THE SENIOR CITIZEN  
14 DISCOUNT, WE THINK THAT THAT MONEY COMES BACK IN  
15 THE DISCOUNT TO THE NEXT OWNER. SO MAYBE SOMEBODY  
16 COULD BE A FAMILY MEMBER WHO WOULD LIVE THERE, A  
17 NEW PERSON BUYS THE PROPERTY. THEY ARE SAYING THAT  
18 THAT DISCOUNT IS ADDED BACK ON TO THAT HOMEOWNER.  
19 IS THAT TRUE?

20 MS. BETHEL: MICHELLE BETHEL, DEPUTY  
21 REVENUE COMMISSIONER. WATER BILLS STAY WITH THE  
22 PROPERTY. SO IF A NEW OWNER BUYS A PROPERTY AND  
23 THERE IS STILL WATER BILLS ASSOCIATED WITH IT, THEN  
24 THAT DELINQUENCY DOES PASS ONTO THE NEW OWNER. IF

1 I'M UNDERSTANDING YOUR QUESTION.

2 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I'M TALKING ABOUT  
3 THE WRAP PROGRAM SPECIFICALLY. YOU APPLY FOR A  
4 DISCOUNT, AND THEY ARE TELLING ME THAT DISCOUNT IS  
5 NOT A DISCOUNT. IT'S A DELAYING IT AND GIVING IT  
6 TO THE NEXT BUYER EVEN IF MAYBE IT'S SOMEONE IN  
7 THAT AREA WHO IS LOW INCOME TOO. BUT THEY ARE  
8 SAYING THAT THAT BILL COMES RIGHT BACK ON. SO IT'S  
9 NOT -- IT'S ONLY A DEFERRING. THAT THAT IS THE  
10 DEAL. IS THAT TRUE, THAT THE WRAP PROGRAM, IT  
11 COMES BACK ON?

12 MS. BETHEL: THAT IS TRUE. THERE IS A PART  
13 OF ONE OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WHERE THE  
14 ARREARAGES ARE DEFERRED. AND IF THAT IS NOT PAID  
15 AND THE PROPERTY CHANGES HANDS, THAT DELINQUENCY  
16 DOES NOT GO AWAY. SO THAT IS A PART OF ONE OF OUR  
17 PROGRAMS. IT IS A DEFERRAL PROGRAM WHERE THE  
18 CUSTOMER JUST PAYS THEIR CURRENT BILL AND THEY ARE  
19 NOT PAYING THEIR ARREARAGES.

20 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: SO THIS WRAP  
21 PROGRAM THAT YOU CALL A DISCOUNT IS NOT, IT'S NOT  
22 TRULY, IT'S NOT TRULY A DISCOUNT BECAUSE IT'S STILL  
23 ON THE PROPERTY. SO IF SOMEBODY, SO IF SOMEBODY  
24 SELLS THEIR HOUSE TO A PERSON IN THEIR FAMILY, THAT

1 BILL IS STILL THERE?

2 MS. MCCARTY: COUNCILWOMAN, THERE IS A \$500  
3 CITY GRANT.

4 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: SAY THAT AGAIN.

5 MS. MCCARTY: MY VOICE ISN'T VERY GOOD.  
6 THERE IS A \$500 CITY GRANT THAT CUSTOMERS CAN GET.  
7 BUT THE WATER REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IS NOT A  
8 DISCOUNT. IT'S ACTUALLY AN ASSISTANT PROGRAM FOR  
9 THE CUSTOMERS TO PAY THEIR BILL. SO IT'S A PAYMENT  
10 AGREEMENT. AND SO UNTIL THE OUTSTANDING BALANCE IS  
11 PAID, THE PROPERTY IS LIENED AND THE CUSTOMER IS  
12 RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BALANCE ON THE PROPERTY.

13 SO IF IT CHANGES HANDS BUT WITH ANOTHER  
14 FAMILY MEMBER, AS LONG AS IT'S IN THEIR NAME, THEY  
15 CAN ALSO GET ASSISTANCE IF THEY ARE LOW INCOME AS  
16 WELL. OUR REQUEST IN THE AFFORDABLE RATES PROGRAM,  
17 THEY WILL ADDRESS SOME OF THOSE ISSUES OF YOUR  
18 CONCERN REGARDING THAT.

19 COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL: I HEARD HALF OF  
20 WHAT YOU SAY. BUT AS WE ALL KNOW, PEOPLE DON'T  
21 WANT THEIR PROPERTY LIENED. I BET YOU THEY DON'T  
22 KNOW THAT, THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THEY  
23 ARE LIENING THEIR PROPERTY.

24 SO THE POOR PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS MADE TO FEEL

1           THEY ARE WRONG BECAUSE THEY ARE POOR.   AND THIS  
2           JUST SHOWS THAT THE FOLKS ARE GETTING THEIR MONEY,  
3           THE WATER DEPARTMENT IS GETTING THEIR ANYWAY.   BUT  
4           I HOPE THAT THE MOOD OF THINGS CHANGES BECAUSE THE  
5           WATER DEPARTMENT IS NOW THE WORST, IT'S THE WORST.  
6           SO I MENTION THE SIX ISSUES THAT I'M CONCERNED  
7           ABOUT.   THANK YOU.   THANK YOU.

8                       HEARING OFFICER:   IT'S JUST BEFORE 10:00  
9           BUT THIS IS THE COUNCIL'S ROOM.   SO WE WILL  
10          CONTINUE AS LONG AS COUNCIL WOULD LIKE US TO AND WE  
11          WILL PROCEED WITH, COUNCILMAN JOHNSON WOULD LIKE TO  
12          SPEAK.

13                      COUNCILMAN JOHNSON:   JUST ONE MORE  
14          QUESTION.   WHEN WAS THE LAST RATE HIKE?   WHEN WAS  
15          THE LAST RATE HIKE?   HOW MUCH WAS THE LAST RATE  
16          HIKE AND HOW MUCH REVENUE DID WE GENERATE AS A  
17          RESULT OF THE LAST RATE HIKE?

18                      MS. MCCARTY: WHILE MS. LABUDA IS GETTING  
19          THAT INFORMATION, I CAN TELL YOU THERE WAS NO RATE  
20          INCREASE FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR.   SO JULY 1ST, 2015  
21          THERE WAS NO RATE INCREASE.   WE PREVIOUSLY WENT FOR  
22          A FOUR-YEAR RATE INCREASE AND ENDED UP GETTING  
23          THREE YEARS AND ZERO RATE INCREASE LAST YEAR.   MS.  
24          LABUDA CAN GET YOU THAT.



1 MS. LABUDA: GOOD MORNING, COUNCILMAN.

2 MELISSA LABUDA, PHILADELPHIA WATER DEPARTMENT.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: HELLO, MELISSA.

4 MS. LABUDA: THE LAST INCREASE AS

5 COMMISSIONER MCCARTY MENTIONED, WAS A FOUR-YEAR

6 INCREASE -- I'M SORRY, A THREE-YEAR INCREASE WITH

7 NO RATE IN '16. WE GENERATED ADDITIONAL REVENUE OF

8 APPROXIMATELY \$140 MILLION. SOME OF IT WENT TO

9 EMPLOYEE COSTS, APPROXIMATELY \$31 MILLION. OTHER

10 MONEY WAS SPENT TOWARDS CRITICAL ITEMS RELATED TO

11 OUR CONSENT ORDER AND AGREEMENT. THAT WOULD BE

12 CLASS 200. THAT WAS APPROXIMATELY \$21 MILLION.

13 MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT WAS APPROXIMATELY \$3.5

14 MILLION. DEBT SERVICE TOTAL NEARLY \$9 MILLION AND

15 THE REMAINING AMOUNT WAS DEPOSITED TO THE RATE

16 STABILIZATION FUND.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: SO THE LAST RATE

18 INCREASE WAS IN 2013 OR 2012? YOU SAID A

19 FOUR-YEAR HIKE OR A THREE-YEAR HIKE?

20 MS. LABUDA: IT WAS, I APOLOGIZE. I

21 MISSPOKE EARLIER. IT WAS A THREE-YEAR INCREASE.

22 WE DID NOT ACHIEVE A FOUR-YEAR RATE INCREASE

23 LAST --

24 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: THAT WOULD BE 2013

1 JUST FOR THE RECORD?

2 MS. LABUDA: CORRECT.

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: WE RAISED \$140  
4 MILLION.

5 MS. LABUDA: APPROXIMATELY.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: SO FOR THE NEXT  
7 TWO-YEAR RATE INCREASE, HOW MUCH REVENUE, I SEE IT  
8 SAYS \$8 A MONTH. SO I'M LIKE \$8? HOW MUCH ARE WE  
9 LOOKING?

10 MS. MCCARTY: IT'S NOT 8.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: IF YOU LOOK ON YOUR  
12 PRESENTATION, THE PROPOSED INCREASE IS 11.7 PERCENT  
13 OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1ST, 2016  
14 RAISES THE TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL BILL TO \$8.

15 MS. MCCARTY: OVER THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD.  
16 SORRY.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: OVER A TWO-YEAR  
18 PERIOD. HOW MUCH REVENUE ARE YOU LOOKING TO  
19 GENERATE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS AS A WHOLE?

20 MS. LABUDA: HOLISTICALLY, THE SUM OF FISCAL  
21 17 PROPOSED RATE INCREASE AND A FISCAL YEAR 18  
22 PROPOSED RATE INCREASE, THE TOTAL IS \$105 MILLION.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: \$105 MILLION?

24 MS. LABUDA: CORRECT.

1                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: IS THIS RATE INCREASE  
2 STRICTLY JUST FOR, I GET CONFUSED WHEN I GET MY  
3 BILLS BECAUSE I GET TWO BILLS. I GET BILLED FOR  
4 REGULAR WATER I USE IN MY HOME AND I GET A  
5 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BILL. TWO DIFFERENT  
6 CATEGORIES; CORRECT?

7                   MS. MCCARTY: ON ONE BILL, THOUGH?

8                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: ONE BILL, TWO  
9 DIFFERENT CATEGORIES. I ALWAYS VIEW IT AS TWO,  
10 KIND OF A CHARGE FOR WATER USED IN MY HOME AND ALSO  
11 CHARGED FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT. THIS \$105  
12 MILLION YOU ARE LOOKING TO RAISE IS GOING TO GO  
13 TOWARD STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AS WELL?

14                   MS. MCCARTY: THAT IS PART OF IT, YES.

15                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: IT'S PART OF IT?

16                   MS. MCCARTY: YES, SIR. IT HAS TO DO WITH  
17 CONSENT ORDER AND ORDER AGREEMENT.

18                   COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I'M ASKING THE  
19 QUESTION THE WRONG WAY. IS THE RATE INCREASE GOING  
20 TO COME FROM JUST WATER USAGE OR STORMWATER  
21 MANAGEMENT AS WELL? DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M  
22 SAYING?

23                   MS. MCCARTY: YES. I THINK I GET IT. SO  
24 THE RATES FOR THE WATER, WASTE WATER AND STORMWATER

1 ARE GOING UP. IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, STORMWATER IS A  
2 COUPLE PENNIES.

3 MS. LABUDA: CORRECT.

4 MS. MCCARTY: CORRECT. SO YOU WILL SEE YOUR  
5 STORMWATER LINE ITEM GO UP A COUPLE CENTS.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: COULD YOU ELABORATE A  
7 LITTLE MORE ON THE CONSENT DECREE?

8 MS. MCCARTY: WE ARE OBLIGATED ON THE  
9 LONG-TERM FISCAL PLAN TO REDUCE THE VOLUME OF  
10 COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW THAT GOES INTO OUR  
11 WATERWAYS. SO THE 25-YEAR PLAN, MOST FOLKS HAVE  
12 HEARD, GREEN CITY CLEAN WATERS SUSTAINMENT PLAN.  
13 BUT IT'S A FEDERAL MANDATE BASICALLY IMPLEMENTED BY  
14 THE STATE OR IMPOSED, ENFORCED BY THE STATE TO  
15 REDUCE OUR OVERFLOWS. SO BETTER STORMWATER  
16 ESSENTIALLY.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: THANK YOU.

18 HEARING OFFICER: COUNCILMAN DOMB.

19 COUNCILMAN DOMB: ONE LAST COMMENT. THE  
20 WITNESS REPORT WAS VERY GOOD, VERY HELPFUL AND  
21 INSIGHTFUL. COUNSELWOMAN SANCHEZ AND MANY OF MY  
22 COLLEAGUES, WHEN YOU ARE DOING A CHART TO PREPARE  
23 THE WATER NUMBERS, IF WE COULD SEE IN FUTURE, WE  
24 ARE ONE OF THE POOREST CITIES IN THE COUNTRY. IF

1 WE COULD SEE OTHER CITIES LIKE PHILADELPHIA, NOT SO  
2 MUCH THE SUBURBS, HOW WE COMPARE TO THE TOP TEN OR  
3 TWENTY POOREST CITIES IN THE COUNTRY SO IT WOULD BE  
4 A BETTER GAGE FOR US, IT WOULD SURELY HELP.

5 MS. MCCARTY: UNDERSTOOD. ONE OF THE  
6 CHALLENGES IS COMPARING APPLES TO APPLES. NOT ALL  
7 CITIES BILL, FOR INSTANCE, STORMWATER THE WAY WE  
8 BILL STORMWATER. A LOT OF TIME IT'S IN THE TAXES.  
9 SO TRYING TO FIND PEER UTILITIES THAT BILL THE WAY  
10 WE DO. BUT YOUR POINT IS WELL TAKEN.

11 COUNCILMAN DOMB: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

12 HEARING OFFICER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'D  
13 LIKE TO CLOSE THE HEARING, I'D LIKE TO TURN THE MIC  
14 OVER TO OUR CHAIR, CHAIRMAN BRUNWASSER.

15 MR. BRUNWASSER: THANK YOU, NANCY. I JUST  
16 WANT TO TAKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THANK CITY COUNCIL  
17 FOR ALLOWING US THIS TIME IN THEIR CHAMBERS. I'M  
18 VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE OTHER TABLE, BUT NOT SO MUCH  
19 WITH THIS ONE.

20 ANYWAY, I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR ALL OF  
21 THE COUNCIL PERSONS WHO ATTENDED AND FOR YOUR  
22 INTERESTS. AND I WANT TO THANK ALL OF THE  
23 WITNESSES THAT CAME FORWARD TODAY. AND THANK THE  
24 WATER DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE FOR

1 ATTENDING AS WELL.

2 (WHEREUPON, THE HEARING WAS ADJOURNED AT  
3 10:05 A.M.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE WITNESS WAS DULY  
SWORN BY ME AND THAT THE DEPOSITION IS A TRUE  
RECORD OF THE TESTIMONY GIVEN BY THE WITNESS.

---

SHEILA J. KLOS  
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER  
COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS

(THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION OF THIS  
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REPORTER.)

Philadelphia Water Department Public Hearing  
April 7, 2016

<b>A</b>	2:20 3:22	<b>AMOUNT</b>	52:23	10:13 13:14	61:14,18	<b>BET</b> 63:21	42:8,12
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