

**FW: 12% Water Rate Increase - No!**

Paul Fugazzotto

**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2016 7:05 PM**To:** Paul Fugazzotto

---

**From:** Jacquelyn Brown**Sent:** Sunday, April 17, 2016 8:06 PM**To:** WaterRateBoard**Subject:** 12% Water Rate Increase - No!

To the Water Rate Review Board:

What the City of Philadelphia is doing to me and other working-class citizens is brutal. AVI quadrupled my property value, while the assessments of 3 other developer-owned/income-generating properties on this same block, that are in far better shape than mine, are still being assessed at the abated rate of 20 years ago - 1/4 the value of mine. Before AVI, we were assessed alike; post AVI, my property is 4 times the value while theirs remain unchanged. Consequently, my real estate taxes have risen 19% in the past two years. It was not mitigated by LOOP. My protest to the OPA that cited the 20 (not 10) year tax abatement still being enjoyed by the Neighborhood Restorations was rejected out of hand. They have three properties on this block and its owners do not even live in Philadelphia. I have recently discovered from Michael Piper's testimony before City Council that my appeal was rejected without review because the landed class knows how/has the resources to fight inaccurate, unfair property assessments, and the working-class poor do not. Oh yeah, he said it.

My salary has not increased 19% in the past two years - or even 5%. As a matter of fact, I am a DC33 city worker, and I went 5 years without any increase at all. Finally, we got 2% FY '15, and another 2% in FY '16. Will I get a raise in FY '17 ?

I need one, because the Water Commissioner and Mayor Kenney, want to gouge me for a 12% water rate increase. Why doesn't they make the developers and bankers-the country club, campaign-contributing Union League member class pay? They escape to the suburbs, committed to repeal the *reduced* wage tax that the City receives from non-resident Philadelphia employees, some of whom are pulling down six figures (upwards of 500% more than their front-line subordinates) at their non-profit (read: entitled to a 25% discount) places of employment. They won't hear of regionalism, as they pile into their SUV's on evenings and week ends to visit our museums, and partake of cultural and sporting events not available to them in the suburbs, leaving Philadelphia residents to bear the financial brunt of maintaining these institutions. Meanwhile, our streets are overrun with potholes, our sidewalks are dangerous obstacle courses, our schools are unfit for human habitation, much less learning; and only the special services districts get special services - street sweeping, adequate police protection and public schools reserved for the privileged,.

I've got some ideas. No 25% discount for the multi-million (billion?) dollar corporations masquerading as non-profits, whose CEO's,/COO's/CFO's earn more than 300% of the salary of the lowest paid worker. Instead, provide 25% discounts to the residents with property damage from water main breaks who after many months (years?) still have not been made whole by the department. One more thing - make current/former elected officials and other well-connecters pay their bills in full.

I choose to live in the City. I am certain that the Philadelphia Water Department needs the money to make the improvements and that the improvements are needed. Do they (the Commissioner and Mayor) care that workers are bruised and bleeding? They have alternatives. Restore my faith in the electoral process. I voted for the Water Rate Board. Stop the robber barons. In case you missed it - No 12% water hike!

On behalf of myself and other targets of economic violence,

Jakki Brown