

From: [Jeremy Hancher](#)
To: [WaterRateBoard](#)
Subject: 2021-2022 Proposed Water Rate Increase
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 11:12:12 AM

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

To whom it may concern,

As a resident and homeowner of the City of Philadelphia, I hereby state that I oppose the proposed changes in water, sewer, and stormwater related charges to take effect on or about September 1, 2021 and September 1, 2022.

I think that a proposed rate increase is absolutely ridiculous without hearing further consideration of where the Philadelphia Water Department can reduce costs through operating expenses, increased efficiency, and better monitoring.

I cannot tell you how many times I have driven through South Philadelphia in the summer and have seen open fire hydrants with kids playing in the dispersed water to help cool off or have fun. Where is the accountability for the adults who willfully waste potentially clean drinking water? How can residents be assured that waste will be reduced and homeowners will not be further burdened with higher costs yet again?

I also think one very important thing that is missing from the public documents is how much government entities and non-profits are paying in terms of water charges and what the proposed rate increases are for them. How much does it cost for City Hall to function? Are there energy efficiency sinks and toilets in municipal services buildings? Come on, let's get with the times.

Here are some suggested alternatives or food for thought:

- Propose rate increases in the City by zip code. This would hold accountable areas such as Center City and University City.
- Provide grants and/or rebates to homeowners for installing energy efficient water fixtures such as the rebate program that PECO has operated since the advent of Act 129.
- Reduce the allowance of dumping into stormwater sewer openings by closing off large open areas where residents can willfully dispose of litter. (This happens all the time in South Philly.)
- Provide a timeline as to when aging infrastructure will be replaced block-by-block or by zip code. (This will hold PWD more accountable as to when all of these "upgrade projects" will actually occur.

- Charge more for special events (e.g. parades, Made in America, Broad Street run, etc.) that utilize city water supplies for cleaning or consumption.

I would be happy to discuss my concerns more if you would like further information. You may reach me at jwhst16@hotmail.com.

Respectfully yours,
-Jeremy Hancher