

Motion to Compel the Public Advocate to put on the record the name, email address, physical address, and phone number of every Civic Group, Community Group, Labor Union, Elected Official and Individual It contacted regarding the Proposed Water Rate Increase

1. Whereas, the Public Advocate has failed to place on the record how it seeks or allows the Public to have any input into the decisions and/or positions of the Public Advocate; and
2. Whereas, the Public Advocate contacted groups and individuals seeking their attendance at the Public Hearings on the proposed rate hike; and
3. Whereas, the overwhelming majority of Community and Civic groups, individuals, and elected officials testified in opposition to the proposed rate hike, and
4. Whereas, not a single person testifying urged the Public Advocate to negotiate, in secret, a settlement, and
5. Whereas, the Public Advocate secretly negotiated settlement proposes to give the Philadelphia Water Department 10s of millions of dollars more than the Public Advocate's own consultants said was needed; and
6. Whereas, the Public Advocate refused to seek input and/or guidance from any civic and/or community group, any individual, and/or any elected official, before it decided to ignore its own consultants that stated, on the record that no rate increase is/was needed; and

7. Whereas, despite entreaties from another intervenor in the rate case, the Public Advocate has refused to contact the groups, it asked to appear at public hearings to listen to the Public's opinion of the proposed settlement; and

8. Whereas, the Public Advocate has stated, on the record, that it believes placing the information about and terms of the settlement on the web page of the Water Rate Board constitutes sufficient public notice; and

9. Whereas, on the record, no one was able to state how many people visit the Water Rate Board's Web page; and

10. Whereas, if the Public doesn't know to look at a web page to seek information, it is counter-intuitive to think that people will view the web page; and

11. Whereas the Public Advocate has a responsibility to represent the Public; and

12. Whereas, it is impossible for anyone to represent the Public if there is no method for the Public to have its voice heard; and

13. Whereas, it is evident that the Public Advocate has no intention to reach out to civic, community groups, labor union, elected officials and/or individuals to seek their input on the proposed settlement, therefore;

14. It is in the Public interest for the Hearing Examiner to order the Public Advocate to put on the record the names, emails, addresses and phone numbers of all the Community and Civic Groups, labor unions, individuals and/or elected officials so that concerned members of the Public can contact them and tell them of the settlement that the Public Advocate secretly negotiated.