



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL

KENYATTA JOHNSON
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2ND DISTRICT COUNCILMAN

Randy E. Hayman, Esq.
Commissioner and CEO, Philadelphia Water Department
1101 Market Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

February 14, 2023

Dear Commissioner Hayman,

On January 24, 2023, the Philadelphia Water Department filed advance notice with the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board of its request to increase water, sewer and stormwater rates by 20 percent over two successive years. Despite the need for revenue, a 20 percent water bill increase will have a negative impact on low-income Philadelphians who are already struggling to get by, as well as middle-class families who are often ineligible for assistance programs. The increase will significantly impact many Philadelphians who have experienced increased financial burdens over the past few years. Record inflation rates, increasing cost of food, and the 2022 property reassessment has created hardships for many families

While the Department has faced challenges that have made it difficult to implement investments in critical infrastructure improvements, or to pay for personnel and supplies, we cannot continue to raise costs on our residents when we have other potential options. I implore you to explore other options, as there are alternatives. I recommend the utilization of the funds the City received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a plan which specifically authorized municipalities to use funding to support water infrastructure needs. The City has over \$800 million in ARPA funds remaining that are waiting to be spent and run the risk of being recollected. Philadelphia will also be receiving \$500 million in newly allocated federal funding for water infrastructure improvements, which would allow for lead pipe replacement. These funds take off some of the burden and need for additional resources to pay for improvement and repairs.

With these additional funds and other funding methods at our disposal, I request you explore other options rather than passing the burden onto the hardworking citizens of Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenyatta Johnson".

Councilmember Kenyatta Johnson
Second Council District

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darrell A. Clarke".

Darrell Clarke
Council President

[Faint signature]

JAMIE GAUTHIER
Councilmember, 3rd District

Michael J. Driscoll

MIKE DRISCOLL
Councilmember, 6th District

Jim Harrity

JIM HARRITY
Councilmember-at-Large

Katherine Gilmore Richardson

KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
Councilmember-at-Large

Isaiah Thomas

ISAIAH THOMAS
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Mark F. Squilla

MARK F. SQUILLA
Councilmember, 1st District

Kendra Brooks

KENDRA BROOKS
Councilmember-at-Large

Brian J. O'Neil

BRIAN J. O'NEIL
Councilmember, 10th District

Quetcy Lozada

QUETCY LOZADA
Councilmember, 7th District

Sharon Vaughn

SHARON VAUGHN
Councilmember-at-Large

Cindy Bass

CINDY BASS
Councilmember, 8th District

Anthony A. Phillips

ANTHONY A. PHILLIPS
Councilmember, 9th District