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From: Eric Mei <mr.ericmei@gmail.com>
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To: WaterRateBoard
Subject: Public Hearings set for Proposed Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rate Increases

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Good morning, Philadelphia water administration. There must be other ways of increasing revenue for the government besides increasing prices for the water infrastructure. One for example, that has plenty of success in many US States and around the world, like Malta, is the legalization of recreational marijuana. The criminal justice system in the US as a whole is already flooded with an overburden on tax-payers with the incarceration of small-time drug users for a natural non-synthetic plant like marijuana. Do you also know what a prisoner does not do? Work and pay taxes. The US government would rather waste tax-dollars and send people to prison for a small crime like marijuana use that is no different than smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol which are legal at a certain age, than try to regulate and make tax income out of it. This is just one example of the many ways the city or even the state can raise money to pay for governmental overhead. Back to the original problem, I would be greatly hurt by the increase in prices for water use & maintenance because I own a rental property in Philadelphia, and my tenant had not paid me rent for some of 2021 and the whole of 2022 as I gave him many months to reconsolidate his finances, yet it is to no avail. I am in the process of eviction and do you know what I've been paying for the entire year and a half that he hasn't paid? Property taxes, insurance, and most importantly, the water bill which runs around \$220 a month. I cannot keep up with these burdening costs and will be forced to sell the house to a mega investment conglomerate, who always calls or texts me several times a day to buy my property, that does nothing for the health of the local economy, if the cost of owning a rental property goes any higher. Please reconsider this, thank you.

Best regards - John Mei