

October 30, 2017

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON  
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO ORDINANCES**

**THIS NOTICE CONTAINS AN UPDATED PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

Pursuant to Special Act 01-3, as adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, The Metropolitan District will hold a public hearing on proposed additions to The Metropolitan District General Ordinances **Part G9 “INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE”**. The hearing will be held in the Board Room at District Headquarters, 555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut on **Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.**

The proposed ordinance revisions are available for inspection at the Office of the District Clerk of The Metropolitan District, 555 Main Street, Hartford and [www.themdc.org/district-board](http://www.themdc.org/district-board).

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF ADDITION OF PART G9 “INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE”:** To create an Independent Consumer Advocate to advocate on behalf of District customers’ interests.

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

**G-9 INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

**PART 9, GENERAL ORDINANCES**

**Section**

**Section Title**

G9a

Independent Consumer Advocate

G9b

Reports

## **SEC. G9a INDEPENDENT CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

The State of Connecticut Consumer Counsel (“Consumer Counsel”) will appoint an Independent Consumer Advocate (“Consumer Advocate”) who shall be a member of the Connecticut bar and shall have private legal experience in public utility law and policy. The Consumer Advocate shall act as an independent advocate for consumer interests in all matters which may affect District consumers, including, but not limited to, rates, water quality, water supply and wastewater service quality. The Consumer Counsel will appoint the Independent Consumer Advocate prior to November 1, 2017 and then in each odd numbered year thereafter to serve for a two-year term commencing on the following first day of January. The Consumer Advocate shall be independent of the District Board and may not be removed by the District Board for any reason. The District Board shall not direct or oversee the activities of the Consumer Advocate. The District Board shall cooperate with reasonable requests of the Consumer Advocate to enable the Consumer Advocate to effectively perform his or her duties and functions. The Consumer Advocate may be terminated by the Consumer Counsel prior to the completion of a two-year term only for misconduct, material neglect of duty or incompetence. Costs related to the Consumer Advocate, including, but not limited to, hourly fees and necessary expenses shall be paid for by the District. The annual amount of such costs shall not exceed seventy thousand dollars for the period from November 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 and fifty thousand dollars for each year thereafter, unless there is a demonstration of substantial need made by the Consumer Advocate and approved by the District Board. From November 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017, the Consumer Advocate shall not perform any of his or her official functions as set forth herein, but rather perform those duties reasonably necessary to enable him or her to commence performing the official functions of the Consumer Advocate as of January 1, 2018.

The Consumer Advocate may appear and participate in District matters or any other federal or state regulatory or judicial proceeding in which consumers generally of the District are or may be involved. The Consumer Advocate, in carrying out his or her duties, shall: (1) Have access to the records of the District, (2) have the right to make a reasonable number of copies of District records, (3) be entitled to call upon the assistance of the District's technical and legal experts, and (4) have the benefit of all other information of the District, except for employment records and other internal documents that are not relevant to the duties of the Consumer Advocate. Prior to January 1, 2018, the Consumer Advocate and representatives of the District shall determine those District records that may be publicly disclosed without prior consent of the District. Requests for public disclosure of any other records shall be forwarded to the District Clerk and processed in accordance with the State of Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.

Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent any party interested in any proceeding or action of the District from appearing in person or from being represented by counsel therein.

## **SEC. G9b REPORTS**

The Consumer Advocate shall prepare reports of his or her activities and submit such reports at the end of each calendar quarter to the District, the chief elected official of each town

receiving service from the District and to the Consumer Counsel. Such quarterly reports shall be posted on the Internet web sites of the District and the Consumer Counsel. The Consumer Advocate shall hold an annual public forum on the second Wednesday of October each year at a location where the District holds hearings, for the purpose of describing the recent activities of the Consumer Advocate and receiving feedback from consumers. The District shall publicize the public forum through an announcement at the preceding scheduled meeting of the District, on its Internet web site and in a notice on or attached to its consumer bills. The Consumer Advocate may hold additional public forums as he or she deems necessary.