

**THE WATER BUREAU  
PUBLIC HEARING**  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Wednesday, November 28, 2018

**Present:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, Clifford Avery Buell, Daniel A. Camilliere, Timothy J. Fitzgerald, Peter Gardow, Denise Hall, Domenic Pane, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman DiBella (9)

**Absent:** Commissioners Mary Ann Charron, Georgiana Holloway, David Ionno, Gary LeBeau, Kathleen Kowalshyn, Pasquale J. Salemi, Raymond Sweezy and Special Representative Michael Carrier (8)

**Also**

**Present:** Commissioner Allen Hoffman  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
John M. Zinzarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Business Services  
R. Bartley Halloran, District Counsel  
Christopher Stone, Assistant District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Christopher Levesque, Director of Operations  
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology  
Kelly Shane, Director of Procurement  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Karyn Blaise, Controller  
Lisa Remsen, Financial Analyst  
Kerry E. Martin, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer  
Victoria S. Escoriza, Executive Assistant  
Daivd Silverstone, Consumer Advocate

Commissioner Domenic Pane called the public hearing to order at 5:23 P.M.

District Clerk John S. Mirtle read the following statement:

“This is a public hearing to consider the proposed revisions to The Metropolitan District Water Supply Ordinances: **§ W1a**, **§ W1f** and **§ W6f**. This Public Hearing is part of the legal procedure that The Metropolitan District is required to follow regarding the revision of any of its ordinances, as mandated by Special Act 01-3 of the Connecticut General Assembly of 2001. A final decision on this proposed ordinance revision has yet to be made. That decision will ultimately be made by the District Board of The Metropolitan District, and will take into account what is said at this hearing.”

District Clerk, John S. Mirtle, read the following into the record:

The following hearing notice was published in the Hartford Courant on November 16, 2018 and again on November 23, 2018; and the notice was filed, for public inspection, in the office of the town clerk in each municipality that is a member town of The Metropolitan District.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### WATER BUREAU OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT PROPOSED 2019 WATER RATES AND REVISIONS TO WATER ORDINANCES

The Metropolitan District  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut

Pursuant to Special Act 01-3, as adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, and Section 2-14 of the Charter of The Metropolitan District, the Water Bureau of The Metropolitan District will hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to The District's Water Supply Ordinances as they relate to the water rates for the fiscal year 2019. The hearing will be held in the Board Room at Metropolitan District Headquarters, 555 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut, on Wednesday, **November 28, 2018 at 5:00p.m.**

Proposed changes to the rates stipulated under the following sections of the Water Supply Ordinances will be considered:

- § W1a        **“WATER USED CHARGE (TREATED WATER)”**
- § W1f        **“SURCHARGE OUTSIDE THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS”**
- § W6f        **“CHARGES FOR PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE”**

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/budget](http://www.themdc.org/budget).

All interested parties from The Metropolitan District's member municipalities may appear to be heard.

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

District Clerk John S. Mirtle read the public hearing guidelines.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Judy Allen, West Hartford, spoke in support of keeping the water rates as affordable as possible.

Esther Mapp, Hartford, spoke in opposition of the water rate increase.

Maria Ortiz-Ayala, Hartford, spoke in opposition of the water rate increase and in support of a fund to assist customers who cannot pay their water bill.

David Kies, East Hartford, spoke in opposition of the water rate increase and any high volume user discount.

Sue Kies, East Hartford, spoke in opposition of the water rate increase and spoke in support of raising rates for for-profit water users.

Richard Heldman, Hartford, spoke in opposition of the water rate increases.

Raquel Calderon, Hartford, spoke in opposition of the water rate increases.

Hycinth Yanni, Hartford resident and Chair of the Maple Avenue Revitalization Group, spoke in opposition of the water rate increases and in support of an fund to assist customers who cannot pay their water bill.

Independent Consumer Advocate David Silverstone spoke in support of the revision to water ordinance W6f and the addition of a fee for back flow prevention device inspection.

Esther Mapp, Hartford, asked whether or not customers are charged for new meter installations.

Noel Osowiecki, of Windsor, submitted the following written statement:

“I am writing to make a public comment for tonight’s water hearing. First I am very grateful for the work the MDC does that allows our area to have abundant and reliable clean water. It is something that many communities around this world do not have and we often times take it for granted.

I support the change in the proposed 2019 rates. I do not want to give the water bottling companies or other industry extra discounts based on their higher use of water. I understand that could cause some higher water users to choose other communities to grow or setup operations. That is an acceptable and even desired outcome.

Finally, I would like to encourage the MDC to remain committed to being as transparent as possible with the community. I feel they did do that in this situation and I am grateful for it. I still harbor scars from the water bottling

facility in Bloomfield in which it at least felt like that decision was shielded from public view. I am especially concerned in that case as the water bottling corporations have a poor reputation as organizations that take advantage of communities to trade a few jobs for dirt cheap water resources.

Anyhow, thank you again and I look forward to seeing more great work from the MDC in the future.”

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval