



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

Return to Excellence

Office of the Water Department

Director – Damon L. Garrett, PE

Metro Consulting Associates, LLC

February 7, 2022

Suzanne R. Coffey, PE, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Great Lakes Water Authority Board
735 Randolph, Suite 1900
Detroit, Michigan 48226

RE: GLWA FY 2023 Water & Sewer Charges Rebuttal

Dear Ms. Coffey,

On January 4, 2022 an email regarding GLWA Proposed FY 2023 Water and Sewer Charges was sent to Willie Faison among others within the City. The Water Department was excluded from this correspondence. The Water Department has been copied and or included on all these types of correspondence in the recent past. It is extremely important a request of this importance and magnitude be shared directly with all city stakeholders. Please remain consistent in your communication protocol so we can ensure all the proper parties have been notified and have the proper time to respond.

With regards to the proposed water and sewer charges, Highland Park continues to disapprove any increase in rate that is not consistent with the current contracts. As stated in prior correspondence any rate adjustment should follow the process outlined in the current contracts. GLWA has also walked away from three consent judgements which voluntarily settled and set sewer rates and/or rate making for Highland Park. The first was dated June 1983. The second was the June 18, 1996, and the third was dated February 26, 2021. In addition, GLWA continues to pass along non-contracted increases/overcharges to all GLWA wholesale customers, while simultaneously blaming the City of Highland Park for those water and sewer rate increases.

Despite having a contract and rates being settled, GLWA has continued to increase rates and overcharge Highland Park without following proper protocol. Please see the amount Highland Park has been overcharged below:

ACO/Settlement Summary					
City of Highland Park Overpayment Analysis					
Fiscal Year	Retail Water Sales Volume (KCF)	Rate/KCF	Maximum Sewer Charge Under 1996 Agreement and Amended Consent Judg.	Amount Paid by Highland Park to GLWA	Highland Park Overpayment Amount
2016	34,930.77	\$22.66	\$791,531.25	\$2,242,290.33	\$1,450,759.08
2017	28,306.83	\$22.66	\$641,432.77	\$3,504,691.15	\$2,863,258.38
2018	30,989.01	\$22.66	\$702,210.97	\$3,541,618.91	\$2,839,407.94
2019	30,511.07	\$22.66	\$691,380.85	\$4,612,566.67	\$3,921,185.82
2020	28,565.31	\$22.66	\$647,289.92	\$2,369,459.93	\$1,722,170.01
2021	29,102.00	\$22.66	\$659,451.32	\$2,198,555.40	\$1,539,104.08
2022 YTD	13,886.00	\$22.66	\$314,656.76	\$314,656.76 ¹	-\$314,656.76
Total			\$4,447,953.83	\$18,469,182.39	\$14,021,228.55

City of Highland Park Water Department
14110 Woodward Avenue
Highland Park, MI



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The Highland Park Water Department would like to request a one-on-one meeting to discuss the proposed charges early next week. Please let us know your availability ASAP. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Damon L. Garrett".

Damon L. Garrett, PE

Director

Cc:

Hubert Yopp, Mayor

William R. Ford, City Attorney

Cathy Square, City Administrator

Eleanor Williamson, City Finance Director

John J. Zech, Board Chair; Representative for Wayne County

Jaye Quadrozzi, Board Vice Chair; Representative for Oakland County

Fremantle Hendrix, Board Secretary; Representative for City of Detroit

Beverly Walker-Griffiea, Ph.D; Board Representative for the State of Michigan

Brian Baker; Board Representative for Macomb County

Gary A. Brown; Board Representative for the City of Detroit

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