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MEMORANDUM

TO: James Leonard, Records Commissioner
FROM: Sonny Popowsky, Chair, Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board *SP*
DATE: June 21, 2023
RE: 2023 General Rate Proceeding – Determination of Water Department General Rates and Charges Beginning 9/1/2023 and 9/1/2024

Pursuant to Section 5-801 of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, Section 13-101 of the Philadelphia Code, and the Regulations of the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board, and at the direction of the Rate Board in its public meeting of June 21, 2023, I am forwarding herewith for filing the Rate Determination of the Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board on the 2023 General Rate Proceeding, which constitutes the Rate Report and Rate Determination of the Rate Board, along with a memorandum of approval from the Law Department. The Rate Board has approved changes in rates and charges effective on September 1, 2023 and September 2, 2024.

On February 23, 2023, following Advance Notice filed with City Council and the Rate Board on January 24, 2023, the Water Department filed a Formal Notice entitled “Formal Notice of Proposed Changes in Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rates and Related Charges (FY 2024 and FY 2025),” commencing a General Rate Proceeding. In accordance with the Charter, Code, and Regulations noted above, the Rate Board’s Hearing Officer held a procedural conference and supervised discovery among the five entities and two individuals registered as participants in the rate proceeding. Four public hearings on this matter were held on March 21 and March 22, 2023, and were well attended; more than 30 presented comments. The Board received more than 40 additional public comments outside of the hearings before the record was closed. Technical hearings were held on May 2-5, 2023, and the participants added additional documents to the record. Transcripts, comments, and all other documents comprising the record are posted on the Rate Board’s website at <https://www.phila.gov/departments/water-sewer-storm-water-rate-board/rate-proceedings/2023-rate-proceeding/>.

On May 30, 2023, the Hearing Officer filed her Report, summarizing the record and making recommendations for the resolution of the issues. Five participants filed exceptions. The Rate Board deliberated the issues in its monthly public meeting on June 14, 2023, and adopted the attached Rate Determination at a special public meeting on June 21, 2023 by vote of 4-0. All meetings and hearings were duly noticed.

We expect that the Water Department will timely file Rates and Charges in conformance with the Rate Determination.

Attachments: Law Department Approval Memo
Rate Determination, 2023 General Rate Proceeding