



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Approves
FY 2020 Water and Sewer Budget and Rates**

Following a public hearing held on June 5, 2019, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) met on Thursday, June 20, 2019 to vote on the proposed fiscal year 2020 (FY 20) budget and capital improvement program; the three-year Capital Improvement Program; schedule of rates, fees and charges; and revisions to Commission rules and regulations.

FY 20 runs from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

The Commission voted to approve a combined water and sewer rate for residential customers of approximately 9.9%. For FY 20, the residential water rate will increase from \$3.22 per 100 cubic feet (CF) to \$3.62 per CF. The residential sewer rate will increase from \$5.32 to \$5.71 per CF. The typical household water and sewer bill is estimated to increase an average of \$105 annually, or approximately \$8.80 per month. The proposed rate increases will be applied to water and sewer use beginning July 1, 2019, with the increases reflected in bills issued in August 2019.

“The continued need to make significant investment in water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades is driving the rate increase for FY 20,” said Daniel Rodriguez, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. “We understand that any utility increase affects household and business budgets. But costs will be higher and more unpredictable if impacts of aging infrastructure, evolving regulation requirements, and climate change resilience on our water and wastewater



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systems are left unaddressed. The Commission is committed to responsible financial planning to keep any rate increases incremental and manageable, while ensuring that the Springfield region is always served with affordable, reliable, and high quality water and sewer service.”

The Commission also voted to approve the proposed revisions to its rules and regulations; the FY 20 Total Operating Budget of \$72,408,163 (total operations and debt service); and the three-year Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2020-2022, which includes \$34,527,862 in capital costs for FY 20.

Infrastructure upgrade (capital) projects scheduled to commence in the upcoming fiscal year include:

- Pilot study and design of new treatment processes at the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant
- Water main replacement projects, totaling to 1 mile of new pipes in various areas throughout Springfield
- Sewer main replacement and repair projects, totaling up to 2/3 mile of new or rehabilitated pipe in various areas throughout Springfield

END