

PRESS RELEASE

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No Sewer Rate Increase for Third Year in a Row Changes Ahead in Billing

CINCINNATI – For the third year in a row, there will be no increase in sewer rates for customers of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD).

In addition, there are some changes ahead for customers related to billing:

- Starting in January 2018, all MSD customers billed by Greater Cincinnati Water Works will be billed monthly instead of quarterly for sewer service.
- Starting in January 2018, the minimum base charge for sewer service will be based only on the size of the property's water meter and will include the first 300 cubic feet of water used each month.

The Hamilton County Commissioners approved the 0% rate increase and new rate structure for MSD on November 15, 2017. The changes go into effect on January 1, 2018.

“No sewer rate increase in three years is an exceptional achievement, especially in light of the fact MSD is under a federally mandated \$3 billion Consent Decree to reduce sewer overflows,” said Gérald Checco, MSD’s Director. “This achievement was due in part to the steadfast management of MSD and increased efficiencies.”

Sewer bills for MSD customers are based on the amount of water used during the billing period (known as a commodity charge), plus a service charge (known as a minimum base charge).

The service charge, or minimum base charge, was reduced as part of this rate structure change and now includes the charge for the first 300 cubic feet of water used each month

instead of the first 500. As an example, for a property with a 5/8" water meter (the smallest size residential meter), the minimum base charge will be \$39.12/month instead of \$57.11.

The commodity charge applies to water consumed in excess of 300 cubic feet. This rate did not change and has not changed since 2015. There were also no changes for industrial customers.

"If you use 300 cubic feet of water or less in a month, you will see a reduction in your sewer bill," said Checco. "If you use more than 300 cubic feet, your sewer bill will be similar to past bills, compared of course to a month's usage versus quarterly and provided your water usage didn't dramatically rise that month."

The changes to MSD's rate structure were recommended by the Hamilton County Rate Affordability Task Force, which was created in 2015 to evaluate options for improving affordability and equity for MSD customers.

"MSD's federally mandated Consent Decree, which is funded through customer sewer bills, has resulted in annual sewer rates increases for many years," said Checco. "These rate increases have negatively impacted our customers with lower or fixed incomes, and the quarterly billing worsened the problem by creating large bills for people, many of whom budget on a monthly basis."

Additional changes to MSD's rate structure are expected to occur in 2018.

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