



Office of General Counsel

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detroitmi.gov/dwsd

October 1, 2018

Gerald L. Carson
17645 Grandville
Detroit, MI 48219

RE: 17645 Grandville, Detroit, Michigan 48219
Account Number: 250-4399.300

Dear Mr. Carson:

Thank you for visiting our recent Board of Water Commissioners meeting. At the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), we take pride in ensuring customer satisfaction.

This letter serves as the explanation for DWSD's decision regarding removing delinquent amounts transferred to your tax bills. After careful review of the account, it is our determination that DWSD will not remove the delinquent amounts transferred to your tax bills for the following reasons.

First, under the *Municipal Water Lien Act* (MCL 123.161, *et seq*) and Chapter 56 *Utilities* of the Detroit City Code, DWSD has an automatic lien on the property upon the provision of water and sewerage services to the property. Further, DWSD may enforce its lien by transferring the delinquent amount to the tax rolls and pursue foreclosure. In this case, DWSD exercised its legal right to transfer the delinquent amounts owed to the tax rolls.

DWSD has not transferred any delinquent amounts to your tax bill since 2013. According to Wayne County records, you have entered into a payment arrangement with Wayne County to pay your delinquent taxes. Wayne County applies any payments made to the delinquent amounts first. As such, DWSD cannot remove any amounts owed from the Wayne County tax records because the amount transferred by DWSD in 2013 has been paid, and there is nothing to remove from the tax records. In essence, your dispute is with Wayne County regarding your delinquent taxes, and not DWSD.

Second, DWSD billing and collection rules provide a procedure for disputing water bills. If you dispute an amount owed, it is your responsibility to notify DWSD. You must notify us of your dispute no later than twenty-eight (28) days after the date on your bill. After

the period expires, you lose your right to dispute the bill. If you dispute only a portion of your bill, all amounts not in dispute are due and payable.

At the Board meeting, Director Brown mentioned to you that you could schedule a hearing with the City of Detroit Department of Administrative Hearings (“DAH”). While the DAH hears DWSD matters relative to billing disputes, the DAH does not hear disputes of this nature. Even if the DAH heard this matter, the DAH is not a court with binding authority over any government agency. This means that even if the DAH issue an order requiring DWSD to remove any delinquent amounts from the tax rolls, Wayne County could choose not to honor the request. As such, you will have to seek legal action to receive an order requiring DWSD and/or Wayne County to remove any amounts from the tax rolls.

As of the date of this letter, you owe DWSD \$2,130.32. DWSD has several payment options available. You may make a payment using any of the following methods:

- Autopay by enrolling at www.detroitmi.gov/paymywaterbill;
- Phone by calling 313-267-8000;
- Online by visiting www.detroitmi.gov/paymywaterbill;
- Via United States Mail by mailing a check or money order to **P.O. Box 32711, Detroit, MI 48232**;
- In person at our customer service centers located at **735 Randolph; 15600 Grand River Avenue; or 13303 E. McNichols**; or
- At one of our **Bill Payment Kiosks**. To find a kiosk near you, visit www.detroitmi.gov/DWSDkiosk.

Additionally, if you are in need of assistance with paying your bill, you may visit our website: www.detroitmi.gov/paymywaterbill or visit any of our three customer service centers to establish a payment plan. You may also contact our community partner, Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency at 313-386-WRAP (9727) or visit their website at www.waynemetro.org/wrap to determine if you are eligible to participate in our Water Residential Assistance Program (WRAP).

Sincerely,

Choi T. Portis

Ms. Choi T. Portis
Deputy General Counsel

Enclosure