

March 12, 2018

Board of Water Commissioners
City of Detroit
Water and Sewerage Department
735 Randolph Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Commissioners:

On January 16, 2018, I attended the Board of Water Commissioners meeting at Little Rock Baptist Church. I read my letter to you and sent a copy to be duplicated for each of you. When you took questions or statements from the audience, I stated about the changes the board had recommended to lower water usage and cost. I stated that I had not seen any changes in lowering my water bill. Mr. Brown said that he would check on my concern. The bill I received in February was \$7.64 higher. I called the water department and was told that I had the same water usage last year and she could not make any changes. This month my bill was \$15.29 lower. When comparing water bills of others, I am wondering whether the computers are causing these discrepancies in recording our water bills.

The week of February 16th, a message was left on my phone from Mr. Matthew Williamson. He said that he was working with DMC Strategies and that I should address all of my water bills concerns in my community to them. My question is, adding these groups to the department, will this increase our water bills? I am concerned about people who have retired and are living on fixed incomes who are already struggling to pay. I am also concerned that these special programs at some point will be discontinued.

Commissioners, in addition I received a phone call from Ms. Ida Patton, 8221 Ward, account #570-2217.300, zip code 48221, stating that she mails her water bills at the post office at the end of the month and no later than the first of each month to avoid any late fees. When she called to check on the status of her account March 13th her check had not been posted. I informed her that this is probably a lockbox issue. I have been here before regarding late fees and it was explained to me, after checking, that my check had been in a lockbox.

As an activist I work to make a difference in our communities by speaking when others are afraid or not comfortable expressing themselves in public. Thank you for considering to having computers checked for accuracy in recording water bills and have lockboxes picked up on time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fredia M. Butler". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Fredia M. Butler, Community Activist