



Detroit Water and Sewerage Department
Central Services Facility
6425 Huber Street, Detroit, MI 48211
313-267-8000 • detroitmi.gov/DWSD

May 13, 2020

Carlo Kevianne
15735 Plainview Avenue
Detroit, MI 48223

Re: Public Comment – Why am I being charged for mother nature? I don't ask for rain or snow my downspouts are all going to my grass. My water was off for over seven months and my bill totaled \$217 in drainage fees. How is this legal?

Dear Mr. Kevianne,

Please accept this letter as a follow-up to your concern addressed to the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, at the Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC) meeting on April 15, 2020. In your comments you expressed concerns regarding the drainage fee/charge.

The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is legally obligated to treat the wet weather flows (rain, snowmelt run off) that enters our sewer system, required by the State of Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) NPDES Permit, before discharging to a receiving water body. The Drainage Charge is based upon the cost of service to collect, convey, and treat wet weather flows with debt for investments in Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) facilities that were installed as a part of the permit compliance. As such, property owners must pay for the cost of service DWSD provides to manage wet weather flows.

The drainage charge is assessed based on the hard (impervious) surface area measured in acres on your parcel and is billed monthly. Your parcel contains 0.06 acres of impervious surface and has been charged \$27.09 monthly since July 2019 based on the current drainage charge rate. Although water and sewer services were interrupted drainage charges are still applicable. You were billed the monthly rate of \$27.09 from August 2019 through March 2020 for the total amount of \$216.72.

Please note that residential parcels/properties automatically receive a 25% green credit on the drainage bill, which accounts for disconnected impervious surfaces such as disconnected downspouts; you are receiving this credit.

Drainage Engineering team has also reviewed your Drainage Charge Adjustment Application submitted on April 15, 2020, and determined that the impervious area of 0.06 acres on your parcel is correct and does not warrant any adjustments in your bill; you will be receiving the Determination letter separately.

Thank you for your comment. If you have further questions, please contact our customer care center at 313-267-8000 option 6 to speak with a representative.

Respectfully,

Lisa Wallick

Lisa Wallick, P.E.
Stormwater Management Group Program Manager

cc: Honorable Board of Water Commissioners