

Board of Estimates Hearing  
Water & Sewage Rate Increase  
Position: **OPPOSE**

To the Honorable Members of the Baltimore City Board of Estimates,

My name is Antonia Brooks and I live in the Third District. I am submitting testimony in opposition to the proposed water and sewage rate hike.

I am a physical therapy rehab technician at a hospital where I've worked for 23 years. I live with my father in the home my family has owned since 1985. We currently pay about \$400 per year for water. With just the two of us in the house, that's too high.

My father is retired and needs his social security and retirement payments to pay for his medicine, which also costs too much. I pay the mortgage so my father can afford his medication. I might choose to live somewhere else but I need to help my dad with his bills and medical needs. We can't afford to pay more for our water. We'll take a hit because we have other expensive bills, particularly BGE.

This rate hike would affect every Baltimore resident and its institutions, including wealthy tax-exempt hospitals and universities who are part of a Payment In Lieu of Taxes or "PILOT" Agreement. Every year, these wealthy institutions utilize \$47 million in city services, but they only contribute \$6 million annually. If they paid their fair share through the PILOT Agreement, the boost in revenue could go towards updating our outdated water and sewer infrastructure.

The institutions should be paying their fair share for the city services, like all city residents do. The hospital I work at is part of the PILOT agreement, and I know they can afford to pay the city for the services they use. That expense shouldn't only fall on people like us. I urge you to oppose these water and sewer rates, and hold our tax-exempt hospitals and universities accountable.

Sincerely,

Antonia Brooks  
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Baltimore MD 21234