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April 13, 2022

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Holyoke City Clerk's  
Holyoke, MA

Holyoke City Council  
City of Holyoke  
City Hall – Council Chambers  
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Council Members:

I wish to inform you that at a regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners held Monday, April 11, 2022, the Commission voting to approve a water rate increase of \$.05/100 gallons effective July 1, 2022 as the first in a series of three proposed rate increases to compensate for the bonding costs associated with the Comprehensive Capital Improvements Projects.

The need to increase water rates a total of \$.12/100 gallons was discussed with the Finance Committee for both the \$13.39 and \$6.54 million bond authorizations approved by the Holyoke City Council back in 2018 and 2019 respectively. To minimize the impact to the ratepayers and at the request of the City Council, the Commission proposed raising water rates over a three years period beginning on July 1, 2020. I am pleased to say the Commission has successfully delayed the first increase for two full years due to the careful fiscal management of the department's operational costs, aggressive collection of outstanding arrears and municipal liens and, most unfortunately, as aid to mitigate the financial impact associated with the COVID-19 pandemic to our community as a whole.

Accordingly, the Board and I are available to meet with the City Council to discuss the rate increase in more detail and at your convenience as well as any other matters of concern regarding the municipal water system.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Conti, Manager

Cc: Mayor Joshua Garcia  
Board of Water Commissioners