



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 21, 2022

City Council President Ian Abreu and
Honorable Members of the City Council
City of New Bedford
133 William Street, Room 215
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Proposed Wastewater Ordinance Amendment

Dear Council President Abreu and Honorable Members of the City Council:

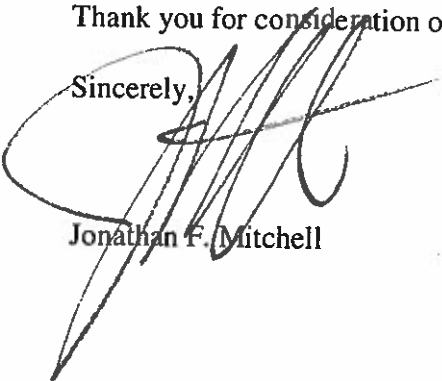
As you may be aware, the internal provisions of Article V of the City Code of Ordinances relative to wastewater rates are inconsistent and/or ambiguous in some sections. My administration recently submitted an Order for the establishment of multiple year sewer rates which has been referred by the Council to the Committee on Finance.

Therefore, in order to clarify ambiguities and/or remove inconsistencies in various sections of the Code related to wastewater rates and charges, I am requesting that the City Council approve the attached amendments to Section 16 of Article V of the City Code. These proposed changes will:

- provide for the establishment of water and sewer rates for multiple years at a time;
- confirm that bills are due 30 days after DPI's mailing;
- provide that bills unpaid 30 days after DPI's mailing will accrue interest at the rate of 1% per month; and

Thank you for consideration of this proposed Ordinance Amendments.

Sincerely,



Jonathan F. Mitchell



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Chapter 16, Article V, Sewer Charges

31- 509

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of New Bedford as follows:—

SECTION 1.

Chapter 16, Article V, Section 16-91 paragraph (c) be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

Bills for wastewater service shall be rendered twelve (12) times per year or such other frequency as to be determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Infrastructure. Bills shall be due and payable within thirty (30) days of the date of mailing of the bills by the Department of Public Infrastructure. Interest on bills not paid within thirty (30) days of Department of Public Infrastructure's mailing shall accrue interest at the rate of one (1%) percent per month, computed from the date of mailing.

Section 2. Chapter 16, Article V, Section 16-94 be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following language:

Rates and charges for sewer service shall be established by the City Council, subject to the approval of the Mayor, at any time the City Council elects to establish such rates and charges. Rates and charges for sewer service may be established by the City Council in any given year for multiple successive years. A City Council vote establishing rates and charges for sewer service shall only be required if no rate is currently in effect or if the rate is to change from the previously approved rate structure.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 43 of the General Laws.