



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 20, 2023

City Council President Linda Morad and
Honorable Members of the City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02720

7:03 APR 20 PM 2:52
CITY CLERK

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members:

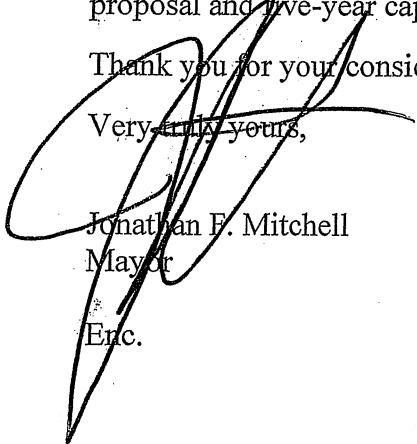
As you know, the City has been mandated to undertake a long series of Wastewater and Stormwater Capital Improvement Projects to comply with a Federal Administrative Order. As the Council determined the last two years, it would only vote to approve one year of a rate increase at a time. To maintain on track with required increases over the next several years to afford these improvements, we are submitting the request for fiscal year 2024 to take effect July 1, 2023. Last fiscal year's rate increase was 9.0%, while this year we are proposing a more modest 7.7% increase while the CPI index was at 6.4% last calendar year.

I urge you to take up this matter with deliberate speed, as failure to adopt the proposed rate increases and to authorize the associated FY2024 loan order – which has previously been filed – by June 30, 2023, will result in the loss of State Revolving Fund (SRF) monies. As you may recall, there were missed deadlines in the past with these approvals that resulted in a loss of grant funds and caused compression in the timeline for the City to execute its capital plans. Any further delay in the approval of rates and associated appropriations will only exacerbate the situation for the City.

City staff and consultants are available to thoroughly brief the Council on the details of the rate proposal and five-year capital project plan at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Very truly yours,


Jonathan F. Mitchell
Mayor
Enc.



Department of Public Infrastructure

**Jamie Ponte
Commissioner**

**Water
Wastewater
Highways
Engineering
Cemeteries
Park Maintenance
Forestry**

**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor**

April 6, 2023

Honorable Jonathan F. Mitchell
City of New Bedford
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

**Subject: Capital Project Implementation
Sewer Rate Impact Assessment
Schedule of Sewer Rate Increases**

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

I respectfully request that a motion for a sewer rate increase proposal be submitted to City Council on behalf of the Department of Public Infrastructure, Wastewater Division to take effect July 1, 2023.

With the adoption of these rates, it is required that the City approve an appropriation by June 30, 2023. This deadline is mandated by the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust to access the State Revolving Fund (SRF) funding awarded to the City. Without this funding, the City will not be able to meet the deadlines mandated by the EPA in our Administrative Order.

Commodity Rate Proposal

Table 1 below summarizes the existing FY23 commodity rate and the proposed commodity rate for FY24:

Table 1: Commodity Rate Proposal FY 24

FY 2023 (Current Rate)	FY 2024	Increase
\$6.67	\$7.18	\$0.51

Base Rate Proposal

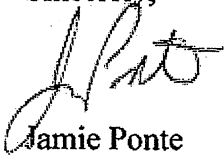
Table 2 below summarizes the existing base rate for FY23 and the proposed base rate for FY24:

Service Size	FY 2023 (Current Rate)	FY 2024	Increase
5/8"	\$108.25	\$116.60	\$8.35
3/4"	\$108.25	\$116.60	\$8.35
1"	\$108.25	\$116.60	\$8.35
1 1/2"	\$108.25	\$116.60	\$8.35
2"	\$108.25	\$116.60	\$8.35
3"	\$356.83	\$384.36	\$27.53
4"	\$516.06	\$555.87	\$39.81
6"	\$960.94	\$1,035.07	\$74.13
8"	\$1,493.87	\$1,609.12	\$115.25
10"	\$2,114.85	\$2,278.00	\$163.15
12"	\$2,114.85	\$2,278.00	\$163.15

I am requesting that the above charges in the commodity and base rates take effect July 1, 2023.

Thank you for considering this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (508) 979-1556.

Sincerely,



Jamie Ponte
Commissioner