BOROUGH OF HILLSDALE
RESOLUTION 18203

RESOLUTION OPPOSING SUEZ WATER'S RATE/TAX INCREASE

WHEREAS, On May 31, 2018 Suez Water New Jersey filed a petition for approval of a rate increase to the BPU; and

WHEREAS, the requested rate increase would affect the Consumption and Monthly Facilities Charges for all consumers who service is provided by eleven (11) different meter sizes ranging from 5/8" up to 12", and

WHEREAS, the actual rate increase for each of the eleven (11) meter sizes equates to an actual 65.5% rate increase, and

WHEREAS, the actual monthly dollar amount of the proposed rate increase ranges from $7.12 for the 5/8" to $1,175.40 for the 12" meter sizes, and

WHEREAS, The SUEZ Water Utility Notice states that the Company is requesting an overall increase in water revenues of $32,104,860 or 12.05%, and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale, and all Municipalities in the State ae restricted to a Two Percent (2%) Annual CAP within the budget and utilities fall within the State mandated CAP, and

WHEREAS, any increase beyond two percent (2%) has a very chilling effect of municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS, every increase of over 2%; comes at a direct cost to municipal budgets reducing available funds in the balance of the budget, and

WHEREAS, utility costs cannot be bid or negotiated, any increase must be incorporated into the budget, regardless of available funds; and

WHEREAS, Homeowners and businesses report annual wage increases of less than 2% annually, State, County, Municipal and School budgets are stressed to a point of breaking; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that SUEZ Water New Jersey not be granted this exorbitant increase, be mandated instead to provide service within the budget parameters mandated by the State on all government agencies within the State with any future rate increases in a timely and appropriate manner consistent with State mandate for public budgets, and approved so any increase can be placed within the budget in a timely manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Hillsdale strongly opposes the 65.5% meter rate hike overall that Suez Water New Jersey is currently requesting so that this public utility will be able to earn 12.05% more than it did in previous years and urges the BPU to consider an appropriate raise, if any, to be slowly and incrementally placed to reflect the 2% CAP imposed by the State on all government agencies, and that the BPU be keenly aware that

rate increases have the chilling effect of causing the State of New Jersey to continue to hold the lead as one of the MOST TAXED STATES IN THE UNION, and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Murphy, our State Legislators, all Bergen County municipalities, and the Board of Public Utilities, care of Secretary BPU 44 South Clinton St, 9th floor Trenton, NJ 033625-0350 and The Office of Administrative Law, 33 Washington St. Newark, NJ 07102.

Council member	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	Recuse
DeRosa, Anthony			X				
Horvath, Zoltan			X				
Karcich, Scott			X				
Lundy, Abby		X	X				
Pizzella, Frank					X		
Segalas, Steven	X		X				
Ruocco, John							

Adopted: September 4, 2018

Attest: Denise Kohan
Denise Kohan
Municipal Clerk

John Ruocco
Mayor