



Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority • 127 Roosevelt Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060 • Tel: (908) 226-2518 • Fax: (908) 226-4923

VIA EMAIL and REGULAR MAIL

April 19, 2016

The Honorable Adrian O. Mapp
Mayor of the City of Plainfield
CITY HALL
515 Watchung Avenue
Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

Re: Lawn sprinkler usage

Dear Mayor Mapp,

I am in receipt of your letter dated March 28, 2016, addressed to the Board of Commissioners, regarding city resident Kevin Crisson of 1136 Evergreen Avenue.

After full discussion with the Commissioners and careful review by my staff, I remain committed to the position I outlined in my initial correspondence to Mr. Crisson, dated March 3, 2016 (see attached).

Extending credit to residents that have professional installed sprinklers but *not* to residents whose water bills may spike in the summer months due to a variety of reasons (that may well involve run off water not entering the sanitary sewer system e.g. frequent watering their lawn via a garden hose, operating children's waterslides, car-washing etc.) would be inequitable. Currently, a professionally installed, sprinkler-operating resident's best option is to install a second meter, at their expense, in order to defray the cost involved in running their system. The PMUA as a courtesy will send personnel to read such a meter, as the water company will not.

As I mentioned before, until there is technology that can quantify and identify a resident's precise water usage, sewer rates will remain based off of water consumption. This remains the most transparent and evenhanded method for all of our customers.

The Honorable Adrian O. Mapp
April 19, 2016
Page Two

We will continue to review this issue as we did with the swimming pool matter. As with any issue that concerns our rate payers the Authority will actively review all, and any, fair and feasible options.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any further questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Mejias", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel I. Mejias
Executive Director

DM/tsw
Enclosure
cc: PMUA Board of Commissioners



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Mr. Kevin Crisson
1136 Evergreen Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060

March 3, 2016

RE: Sewer Service Charges

Dear Mr. Crisson,

Thank you for furnishing me with the requested documents. Upon review of such, I have noticed a couple of issues which may have caused the spikes in your water usage and ultimately your sewer charges:

- In July 2014, the first full month of usage of your irrigation system, there was a spike in your water usage, as to be expected. This increase continues through October. In May of the following year, 2015, there is another spike - reflective of the start of "watering" season. However, these numbers were less per month as compared to the corresponding months of the previous year.
- In August 2015 a major spike occurred. In researching possible reasons for the August increase, I noticed that a new water meter had been installed at your property in July. Please note that depending on the age and accuracy of the meter that was removed, a change in consumption rates is possible. If the old meter was under reporting water usage then a new, more accurate and sensitive meter may indeed account for the hike in registered water usage.

Both of these factors, using a sprinkler system and a new water meter, can ultimately drive up both your water and sewage bills. Unfortunately, without a separate meter measuring water *not entering the sanitary sewer system*, we cannot precisely quantify the numbers. I therefore recommend that you install a second meter (at your expense) to accurately capture your sprinkler usage. The PMUA will then send out personnel, to read your second meter and adjust your account accordingly.

Mr. Kevin Crisson
March 3, 2016
Page Two

Once again, I thank you for your inquiry and understand your position. If new technology becomes available that allows the Authority to quantify sprinkler usage, with the amount of accuracy necessary to be deemed reliable and fair to all of our residents and rate payers, then the PMUA will certainly revisit this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel I. Mejias". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel I. Mejias
Executive Director

DM/tsw
cc: The Honorable Major Mapp, City of Plainfield