#### STATE OF MICHIGAN WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

UNITED HOUSE OF PRAYER, a District of Columbia non-profit corporation, individually and as representative of a class of similarlysituation persons and entities,

Case No. CZ Hon.

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF DETROIT, a municipal corporation,

Defendant.

Gregory D. Hanley (P51204) Edward F. Kickham Jr. (P70332) Kickham Hanley PLLC 32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300 Royal Oak, Michigan 48073 (248) 544-1500 Attorneys for Plaintiff

There were two prior actions between these parties arising out of the same types of transactions and occurrences as are alleged in this Complaint. One action was Wayne County Circuit Court Number 15-009083-CZ and the other action was Wayne County Circuit Court Number 19-002074-CZ. Both actions were assigned to the Honorable Annette J. Berry. Both actions are no longer pending. This Complaint involves claims arising from certain charges imposed after the dates that were applicable to the prior actions.

#### PLAINTIFF'S CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff United House of Prayer ("Plaintiff" or "UHOP"), by its attorneys, Kickham Hanley PLLC, individually and on behalf of a class of similarly situated class members, states the following for its Class Action Complaint against the City of Detroit (the "City"):

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. This is an action challenging the "Private Fire Line Charges" ("PFL Charges") imposed by the City on citizens whose property requires private fire line service. The City has extracted significant monies from its private fire line customers that it has used not to cover the actual expenses of providing private fire line service to those customers, but rather to fund certain of the City's other functions.
- 2. The PFL Charges are arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable and therefore are unlawful under common-law rate-making principles. The Charges unjustly enrich the City because they generate revenue far in excess of the City's actual cost of providing private fire line capacity to its customers. The PFL Charges are far in excess of the appropriate rates for private fire line service, both as established by the American Water Works Association and as reflected in the comparable service charges other large cities impose and collect. The PFL Charges also violate § 7-1202 of the Detroit City Charter, which requires all water rates to be "equitable".

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 3. Plaintiff is a private fire line customer of the City, has paid the PFL Charges, and seeks to act as a class representative for all similarly situated persons.
- 4. Defendant City of Detroit (the "City") is a municipality located in Wayne County, Michigan.
- 5. Venue and jurisdiction are proper with this Court because all parties are present here and the actions which give rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this County.

#### GENERAL ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE PFL CHARGES

6. Fire protection water service has characteristics that are markedly different from other types of water service. Where ordinary water service is in constant day-to-day use, fire protection water service is principally of a standby nature; fire protection systems stand by to deliver

large quantities of water for short periods of time in the event of a fire at any of a large number of points in the water distribution system.

- 7. The City furnishes water to its citizens for fire protection purposes in two ways: (a) through public fire lines that lead to fire hydrants located throughout the water supply system, typically on city curbs and sidewalks; and (b) through private fire lines that lead to private fire hydrants, standpipes, and sprinkler connections located on private property.
- 8. Costs allocated to fire protection services as a whole can therefore be subdivided into those related to public fire protection service and private fire protection service.
- 9. The costs the City's Water Fund incurs for public fire protection service are incorporated into the water rates charged by the City to all users of the public water supply system.
- 10. The costs the City's Water Fund incurs for private fire protection services are incorporated into separate PFL Charges which are charged solely to those customers who have private fire suppression systems, such as sprinklers. In addition to a customer's ordinary water line, the City provides a standby water pipe to the customer's premises, which provides a stand-alone water supply to the fire suppression system in the unlikely event of a fire.
- 11. There are well-established methodologies for establishing private fire line service rates. The American Water Works Association ("AWWA") has published and endorsed a methodology that allocates a municipality's total fire protection costs among public and private fire systems based on the relative demands both type of fire protection system place on the water supply system.
- 12. The first step in the AWWA methodology is to determine the total revenue requirement (the "Revenue Requirement") associated with the municipality's water supply system (i.e., the revenues necessary to cover the costs of the entire system) and then determine how much of the Revenue Requirement to allocate to public and private fire protection services. Both direct

and indirect costs are calculated. The direct fire protection costs are assigned directly to public fire protection. The indirect fire protection costs (those associated with providing maximum-day and maximum-hour firewater capacity to public hydrants and private fire lines) are allocated between public and private fire protection systems.

- 13. In order to allocate that total indirect cost among public and private systems, the AWWA methodology requires a calculation of the total fire flow demands of the public and private systems. One typical method is to determine the equivalent hydrant factors for each system. For the public system, each public hydrant with a standard six inch connection counts as one hydrant. For the private system, because the sizes of the dedicated fire line serving private premises vary among private users, the number of equivalent hydrants is determined by assigning an equivalent hydrant factor to each user based up the size of the dedicated fire line. Because it is the same size as a public hydrant line, a six inch private fire line is assigned a hydrant equivalent factor of 1.0. Smaller lines are assigned an appropriate fraction of one hydrant, while larger lines are assigned more than one hydrant.
- 14. The total number of equivalent hydrants is determined, and then allocated among the public and private users in proportion to the total equivalent hydrants of each class.
- 15. In 2016, Plaintiff brought a class action against the City claiming that the PFL Charges were excessive and constituted "taxes" imposed in violation of the law (the "First Prior Action"). A Settlement Agreement was consummated settling the claims in the First Prior Action on a class-wide basis. As part of the Settlement, the City agreed to change the method by which it charges for private fire protection services. The City agreed to perform a rate study and/or cost of services analysis for the City's PFL Charges guided by the principles set forth in Chapter IV.8 in the Sixth Edition of the American Water Works Association "principles of Water Rates, Fees and Charges, Manual of Water Supply Practices M1" (the "M1 Manual") or in any chapter in any

subsequent edition of the M1 Manual. The City further agreed to implement the PFL Rates recommended in that study/analysis effective July 1, 2017. As part of the Settlement, the City received a release of all claims relating to the PFL Rates imposed through June 30, 2017.

- 16. In 2017, the City engaged Raftelis Associates to conduct the rate study required by the Settlement Agreement in the First Prior Action (the "Raftelis Study"). A copy of the Raftelis Study is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 17. As a result of the Raftelis Study, the City reduced its PFL Rates effective July 1, 2017 by almost 50%. For example, the monthly charge for a six-inch line was reduced from \$321.41 per month to \$182.66 per month.
- 18. Notwithstanding the reduction effective July 1, 2017, the City's PFL Charges remained arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable and therefore continued to generate revenues far in excess of the City's actual cost of providing private fire line service.
- 19. Contrary to the requirements of the Settlement Agreement in the First Prior Action, the Raftelis Study did not comply with the M1 Manual and contains a number of egregious errors and erroneous factual assumptions that defy reality and result in the derivation of proposed PFL Rates that generate revenues far in excess of the City's actual cost of providing private fire line service.
- 20. The principal reason the Raftelis Report recommends PFL Rates that generate revenues far in excess of the City's actual cost of providing private fire line service is that Raftelis used revenue and expense assumptions that are completely unterhered from the revenue and expenses actually associated with the City's provision of water service to customers in the City. The following is a summary of the principal defects in the Raftelis Report, which translated into unreasonable rates for private fire line service.

- 21. Raftelis used an inflated overall revenue requirement for the City's water supply system. For FY 2018, Raftelis used a revenue requirement of \$138 million when the City's actual revenue requirement to be satisfied by retail rates (including private fire line charges) was only \$99.9 million. The revenue requirements were similarly inflated for FY 2019 and FY 2020.
- 22. Raftelis used improper peaking factors in performing its functional cost allocation (allocation of costs to Base, Max Day and Max Hour functions) which resulted in an overallocation of total costs to the Max Day and Max Hour cost functions. This further inflated the private fire line rates, because the higher the Max Day and Max Hour costs, the higher the private fire line rates.
- 23. Raftelis over-allocated units of service to the fire protection function (and, hence, to the private fire line rates) by using grossly-excessive estimates of needed fire flows. Raftelis accomplished this by artificially increasing the Max Day and Max Hour needed fire flows as a percentage of the total Max Day and Max Hour flows.
- 24. Raftelis used improper estimates of meter-related costs associated with private fire lines, which further inflated the private fire line rates. Raftelis determined that these costs should be allocated "based on meter size or equivalent meter capacity." Raftelis Report at p. 8. This was erroneous because meter-related expenses should be allocated based upon equivalent meter-and-service cost ratios and not based upon capacity. See M-1 Manual, Appendix B at p. 323-324. Raftelis also improperly assumed that the maintenance and capital costs associated with each size of private fire protection check meters were equivalent to the maintenance and capital costs associated

Equivalent meter-and-service cost ratios compare the direct and indirect costs of installing a standard sized water meter (e.g., 5/8") with the direct and indirect costs of installing a larger sized meter. Equivalent meter capacity ratios compare the maximum safe operating flow capacity of a standard sized water meter with the maximum safe operating flow capacity of a larger sized meter. Because the meter-related costs are (naturally) more closely related to the cost of the meter than to the meter's capacity, the meter-and-service cost ratio is the appropriate means of cost allocation.

with the corresponding sized water supply meters. To the contrary, the relevant costs associated with stand-by meters are far less than the costs associated with the same sized water supply meters.

- 25. Raftelis also erred in allocating the revenue requirement to functional costs components by assigning costs to the Max Hour function that should have been assigned to other functions.
- 26. The foregoing are just a sample of the many errors and omissions made by Raftelis in its Report.
- 27. The City adopted the recommendations for PFL Rates that were contained in the Raftelis Report, and implemented those Rates, effective July 1, 2017. The City's PFL Rates thus incorporated the many errors and omissions made by Raftelis in its Report.
- 28. In 2019, Plaintiff brought another class action against the City claiming that the PFL Charges were excessive and constituted "taxes" imposed in violation of the law (the "Second Prior Action"). A Settlement Agreement ultimately was consummated settling the claims in the Second Prior Action on a class-wide basis. As part of the Settlement, the City created a settlement fund of \$2.3 million and received a release of all claims relating to the PFL Rates imposed through June 30, 2020.
- 29. Effective July 1, 2020, the City implemented new PFL Rates (the "FY 2021 PFL Rates"). Remarkably, the City actually increased the PFL Rates by 3.5% "across the board."
- 30. By failing to reduce the PFL Rates, the FY 2021 PFL Rates continue to reflect the many errors and omissions made by Raftelis in its Report that were the subject of the Second Prior Action. For example, as described above, Raftelis used an inflated overall revenue requirement for the City's water supply system. For FY 2018, Raftelis used a revenue requirement of \$138 million when the City's actual revenue requirement to be satisfied by retail rates (including private fire line charges) was only \$99.9 million. By increasing the PFL Rates for FY 2021, those Rates necessary

were based on a overall revenue requirement of at least \$138 million, even though the actual revenue requirement to be satisfied by retail rates (including private fire line charges) was only \$101.2 million. *See* Exhibit B hereto.

- 31. The City's FY 2021 PFL Rates and resulting PFL Charges remain arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable and therefore continue to generate revenues far in excess of the City's actual cost of providing private fire line service (the "PFL Overcharges").
- 32. Not surprisingly, the City's PFL Charges far exceed the same charges imposed by virtually every other major municipality in the United States. In many cases, the City's PFL Charges are 5 or 10 times the amount of the charges imposed by comparable municipalities. The Charges constitute a naked cash grab completely untethered from any actual costs the City incurs in providing private fire suppression services.
- 33. Because the City imposes PFL Charges far in excess of its actual cost of providing private fire suppression services, the City is able to divert millions of dollars garnered from the PFL Charges to finance at least one other governmental function i.e., the provision of treated water for consumption purposes which is unrelated to providing private fire suppression services.
- 34. The fact that the City is able to divert millions of dollars of PFL Charges for services unrelated to supplying private fire protection systems is proof that the City is charging rates for private fire protection service that exceed the actual cost of providing the service, and the City thereby has been unjustly enriched at the expense of private fire line customers.
- 35. "The City, through the Board of Water Commissioners, shall have as security for the collection of any water rates, assessments, or charges due or to become due, for the use or consumption of water supplied to any building or to any premises, lot, piece or parcel of land, a lien upon such building and upon any premises, lot, piece or parcel of land upon which such building shall be situated or to which such water is supplied. Such lien shall become effective

Ordinance Section 48-1-41. "All water charges shall be assessed against the premises supplied and shall be a lien against the same. The official records of the Water and Sewerage Department shall constitute notice of the pendency of such lien. Such lien shall have priority over all other liens, except taxes or special assessments, whether or not such other liens accrued or were recorded prior to the accrual of such water lien." City Ordinance Section 48-1-42.

36. The City, through the Board of Water Commissioners and its officers, agents or employees, may discontinue water service to any building or any premises, lot or any parcel of land upon which any water rates, assessments, or charges referred to in this division are delinquent and against which the lien referred to in this division shall have accrued, or may institute suit for collection of such water rates, assessments or charges in any court of competent jurisdiction. No discontinuance of service or any attempt to collect such water rates, assessments, or charges by any process shall in any way invalidate or waive the lien upon the premises. City Ordinance Section 48-1-44. "To enforce collection of water rates, assessments, and charges referred to in this division by sale of the house, building, lot or piece or parcel of land, the City, acting by and through the Board of Water Commissioners, its officers, agents and employees, may proceed to sell such building, lot, piece or parcel of land when any such water rates, assessments, or charges are not paid, provided, that notice of sale of the premises shall be published for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City and County. …" City Ordinance Section 48-1-45.

#### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

37. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action, pursuant to MCR 3.501, individually and on behalf of a proposed class consisting of all persons or entities who/which have incurred or paid PFL Charges during the relevant class period.

- 38. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.
- 39. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of members of the Class. Plaintiff is a member of the Class it seeks to represent, and Plaintiff was injured by the same wrongful conduct that injured the other members of the Class.
  - 40. The City has acted wrongfully in the same basic manner as to the entire class.
- 41. There are questions of law and fact common to all Class Members that predominate over any questions, which, if they exist, affect only individual Class Members, including:
  - a. Whether the PFL Overcharges imposed by the City are taxes;
  - Whether the City has been unjustly enriched by collecting the PFL
     Overcharges in violation of its own Charter;
  - c. Whether the City has violated MCL 141.91; and
  - d. Whether the City's PFL Charges are unreasonable.
- 42. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class, and Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to those of the Class. Plaintiff is committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action, and has retained competent and experienced counsel to prosecute this action.
- 43. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. The prosecution of separate actions would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications. Furthermore, the prosecution of separate actions would substantially impair and impede the ability of individual class members to protect their interests. In addition, since individual refunds may be relatively small for most members of the class, the burden and expense of prosecuting litigation of this nature makes it unlikely that members of the class would prosecute individual actions. Plaintiff anticipates no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

#### COUNT I ASSUMPSIT – MONEY HAD AND RECEIVED VIOLATION OF MCL 141.91

- 44. Plaintiff incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 45. MCL 141.91 provides: Sec. 1. "Except as otherwise provided by law and notwithstanding any provision of its charter, a city or village shall not impose, levy or collect a tax, other than an ad valorem property tax, on any subject of taxation, unless the tax was being imposed by the city or village on January 1, 1964."
- 46. The City has violated MCL 141.91 by imposing and collecting the PFL Overcharges. The PFL Overcharges are taxes that are not ad valorem property taxes and the PFL Overcharges were first imposed after January 1, 1964.
  - 47. The PFL Overcharges have all relevant indicia of a tax:
    - a. They have no relation to any service or benefit actually received by the taxpayer;
    - b. The amount of the PFL Overcharges is disproportionate to the cost incurred by the City in providing private fire suppression services;
    - c. The PFL Overcharges are designed to generate revenue;
    - d. The PFL Overcharges lack a regulatory purpose;
    - e. Payment of the PFL Overcharges are not discretionary, but effectively mandatory;
    - f. Various other indicia of a tax described in *Bolt v. City of Lansing* are present.
- 48. As a direct and proximate result of the City's improper conduct, the City has collected millions of dollars to which it is not entitled. By paying the PFL Overcharges, Plaintiff and the Class have conferred a benefit upon on the City.

- 49. A claim to recover amounts paid to a governmental unit in excess of the amount allowed under law is properly filed as an equitable action in assumpsit for money had and received.
- 50. By virtue of the City's inclusion of the PFL Overcharges in the Rates, the City has collected amounts in excess of the amounts it was legally entitled to collect. Therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to maintain an equitable action of assumpsit to recover back the amount of the illegal exaction. See, e.g., Bond v. Public Schools of Ann Arbor, 383 Mich. 693, 704, 178 N.W.2d 484 (1970).

WHEREFORE, the City should be required to disgorge the revenues attributable to the PFL Overcharges imposed or collected by the City between July 1, 2020 and the date of the filing of this action, and during the pendency of this action, and refund all PFL Overcharges it has collected to Plaintiff and the Class.

## COUNT II UNJUST ENRICHMENT – VIOLATION OF MCL 141.91

- 51. Plaintiff incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 52. MCL 141.91 provides: Sec. 1. "Except as otherwise provided by law and notwithstanding any provision of its charter, a city or village shall not impose, levy or collect a tax, other than an ad valorem property tax, on any subject of taxation, unless the tax was being imposed by the city or village on January 1, 1964."
- 53. The City has violated MCL 141.91 by imposing and collecting the PFL Overcharges. The PFL Overcharges are taxes that are not ad valorem property taxes and the PFL Overcharges were first imposed after January 1, 1964.
- 54. As a direct and proximate result of the City's improper conduct, the City has collected millions of dollars to which it is not entitled. By paying the PFL Overcharges, Plaintiff and the Class have conferred a benefit upon on the City.

- 55. The City has been unjustly enriched because it received PFL Overcharges to which it was not entitled, and it would be unfair for the City to retain the PFL Overcharges under these circumstances.
- 56. The City should be required to disgorge the amounts by which it has been unjustly enriched.
- 57. The City should be required to disgorge the revenues attributable to the PFL Overcharges imposed or collected by the City between July 1, 2020 and the date of the filing of this action, and during the pendency of this action, and refund all PFL Overcharges it has collected to Plaintiff and the Class.

## COUNT III ASSUMPSIT – MONEY HAD AND RECEIVED CHARTER VIOLATION

- 58. Plaintiff incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 59. As a direct and proximate result of the City's improper conduct, the City has collected millions of dollars to which it is not entitled. By paying the PFL Overcharges, Plaintiff and the Class have conferred a benefit upon on the City.
- 60. The City has been unjustly enriched because it received PFL Overcharges to which it was not entitled, and it would be unfair for the City to retain the PFL Overcharges under the circumstances.
- 61. Indeed, the Detroit City Charter, § 7-1202, specifically provides that the City must "establish equitable rates to be paid" for all water supply, drainage, and sewer services.
- 62. A claim to recover amounts paid to a governmental unit in excess of the amount allowed under law is properly filed as an equitable action in assumpsit for money had and received.
- 63. By virtue of the City's inclusion of the PFL Overcharges in the Rates, the City has collected amounts in excess of the amounts it was legally entitled to collect. Therefore, Plaintiff is

entitled to maintain an equitable action of assumpsit to recover back the amount of the illegal exaction. *See, e.g., Bond v. Public Schools of Ann Arbor*, 383 Mich. 693, 704, 178 N.W.2d 484 (1970).

WHEREFORE, the City should be required to disgorge the revenues attributable to the PFL Overcharges imposed or collected by the City between July 1, 2020 and the date of the filing of this action, and during the pendency of this action, and refund all PFL Overcharges it has collected to Plaintiff and the Class.

## COUNT IV <u>UNJUST ENRICHMENT—CHARTER VIOLATION</u>

- 64. Plaintiff incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 65. As a direct and proximate result of the City's improper conduct, the City has collected millions of dollars to which it is not entitled. By paying the PFL Overcharges, Plaintiff and the Class have conferred a benefit upon on the City.
- 66. The City has been unjustly enriched because it received PFL Overcharges to which it was not entitled, and it would be unfair for the City to retain the PFL Overcharges under the circumstances.
- 67. Indeed, the Detroit City Charter, § 7-1202, specifically provides that the City must "establish equitable rates to be paid" for all water supply, drainage, and sewer services.
  - 68. The City has violated its Charter by failing to impose "equitable" PFL Charges.

WHEREFORE, the City should be required to disgorge the revenues attributable to the PFL Overcharges imposed or collected by the City between July 1, 2020 and the date of the filing of this action, and during the pendency of this action, and refund all PFL Overcharges it has collected to Plaintiff and the Class.

#### COUNT V ASSUMPSIT – MONEY HAD AND RECEIVED UNREASONABLE WATER AND SEWER RATES

69. Plaintiff incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

- 70. Water and Sewer Rates must be reasonable. *Mapleview Estates v. City of Brown City*, 258 Mich. App. 412.
  - 71. The City's Private Fire Line Rates are arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable.
- 72. As a direct and proximate result of the City's improper conduct, the City has collected millions of dollars to which it is not entitled. By paying the PFL Overcharges, Plaintiff and the Class have conferred a benefit upon on the City.
- 73. A claim to recover amounts paid to a governmental unit in excess of the amount allowed under law is properly filed as an equitable action in assumpsit for money had and received.
- 74. By virtue of the City's inclusion of the PFL Overcharges in the Rates, the City has collected amounts in excess of the amounts it was legally entitled to collect. Therefore, Plaintiff is entitled to maintain an equitable action of assumpsit to recover back the amount of the illegal exaction. See, e.g., Bond v. Public Schools of Ann Arbor, 383 Mich. 693, 704, 178 N.W.2d 484 (1970).

WHEREFORE, the City should be required to disgorge the revenues attributable to the PFL Overcharges imposed or collected by the City between July 1, 2020 and the date of the filing of this action, and during the pendency of this action, and refund all PFL Overcharges it has collected to Plaintiff and the Class.

#### COUNT VI UNJUST ENRICHMENT – UNREASONABLE WATER AND SEWER RATES

- 75. Plaintiff incorporates each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 76. The Private Fire Line Charge is arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable.
- 77. As a direct and proximate result of the City's improper conduct, the City has collected millions of dollars to which it is not entitled. By paying the PFL Overcharges, Plaintiffs and the Class have conferred a benefit upon on the City.

- 78. The City has been unjustly enriched because it received PFL Overcharges to which it was not entitled, and it would be unfair for the City to retain the PFL Overcharges under the circumstances.
- 79. The City should be required to disgorge the amounts by which it has been unjustly enriched.

WHEREFORE, the City should be required to disgorge the revenues attributable to the PFL Overcharges imposed or collected by the City between July 1, 2020 and the date of the filing of this action, and during the pendency of this action, and refund all PFL Overcharges it has collected to Plaintiff and the Class.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Plaintiff requests that the Court grant the following relief:

- A. Certify this action to be a proper class action with Plaintiff certified as Class Representative and Kickham Hanley PLLC designated Class Counsel;
- B. With respect to Counts I through VI, define the Class to include all persons or entities who/which have incurred or paid PFL Charges at any time since July 1, 2020 and/or who/which incur or pay the PFL Charges during the pendency of this action.
- C. With respect to Counts I through VI, enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class and against the City, and order and direct the City to disgorge and refund all PFL Overcharges collected and to pay into a common fund for the benefit of Plaintiff and all other members of the Class the total amount of PFL Overcharges to which Plaintiff and the Class are entitled;
- D. Appoint a Trustee to seize, manage and distribute in an orderly manner the common fund thus established;

E. Permanently enjoin the City from collecting any past PFL Overcharges and from

imposing or collecting PFL Charges in the future which exceed the City's actual costs of providing

private fire line service;

F. Find and declare that the City has been unjustly enriched by collecting the PFL

Overcharges, and permanently enjoin the City from collecting any past PFL Overcharges and from

imposing or collecting PFL Charges in the future which exceed the City's actual costs of providing

private fire line service;

G. Find and declare that all liens or encumbrances upon the properties of Plaintiff and

the Class for unpaid PFL Overcharges are null, void and discharged.

Н. Award Plaintiff and the Class the costs and expenses incurred in this action,

including reasonable attorneys', accountants', and experts' fees; and

Grant any other appropriate relief. J.

KICKHAM HANLEY PLLC

/s/ Gregory D. Hanley

Gregory D. Hanley (P51204)

Edward F. Kickham Jr. (P70332)

32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300

Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

(248) 544-1500

Counsel for Plaintiff

Date: October 28, 2020

**JURY DEMAND** 

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

KICKHAM HANLEY PLLC

/s/ Gregory D. Hanley

Gregory D. Hanley (P51204)

Edward F. Kickham Jr. (P70332)

32121 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300

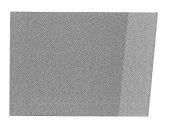
Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

#### (248) 544-1500 Counsel for Plaintiff

Date: October 25, 2020

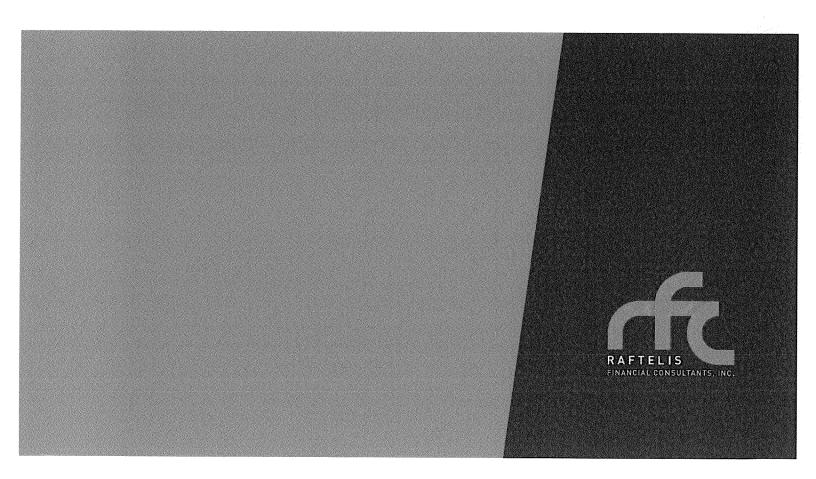
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# EXHIBIT A



## **Detroit Water and Sewerage Department**

Fire Protection Cost of Service Analysis Final Draft Report / June 1, 2017



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#### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

In January of 2017, The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department ("DWSD", "the Department") engaged Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. (RFC) to develop, in collaboration with the Department, a fire protection cost of service analysis.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

The scope of services includes the following:

- » Examine the cost of providing water service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018
- » Determine the cost of providing private fire protection service
- » Determine a monthly charge for private fire protection service

#### WATER COST OF SERVICE METHODOLOGY

A cost of service analysis determines how the revenue necessary to operate the water system should be recovered from DWSD's customer classes. As this study is only concerned with setting private fire protection charges, the only unique customer classes to which costs are allocated are public fire protection and private fire protection. All remaining costs are allocated to other retail customers as a single class. The methodology employed to determine the private fire protection charges involves the following steps:

- 1. Determine revenue requirement
- 2. Allocate revenue requirement to functional cost components
- 3. Determine unit cost of service
- 4. Allocate costs between retail and private fire protection
- 5. Determine private fire protection charges.

The overall objective of the study is to equitably allocate costs between retail customers and private fire service customers. The process begins with a determination of the overall level of costs to be allocated (determine revenue requirement). The revenue requirement is then allocated to the components of costs which vary according to customer demand (allocate revenue requirement to functional cost components), such as base demand, maximum day demand, and maximum hour demand. Once the costs associated with each component have been determined, each customer class' proportionate share of those costs is determined by establishing customer class units of service. Once the costs and units of service are determined, a unit cost of service for each functional cost component is developed (determine unit cost of service). Once the overall unit cost is known, each customer class can be assigned proportionate responsibility for those costs in accordance with their units of service (allocate costs between retail and private fire protection). Each class' units of service are multiplied by the overall unit cost of service to determine proportionate responsibility for water system costs. The share of costs allocated to private fire protection is based on that class' proportionate share of the cost components (i.e. base, maximum day, maximum hour). The costs associated with private fire protection will be recovered via a monthly charge per equivalent six-inch

fire connection and is determined by dividing the private fire service cost by the number of equivalent six-inch connection multiplied by 12 **(determine private fire protection charges)**.

#### **Determine Revenue Requirement**

The annual revenue requirements or cost of service to be recovered includes operating and capital related costs. The total FY 2018 cost of service to be recovered from DWSD customers, shown in **Figure 3**, is calculated using the cash needs approach. Total cost of service under the cash needs approach is approximately \$138.1 million, of which approximately \$78.8 million are operating costs and the remaining \$59.3 million are capital costs, consisting of debt service payments and cash funded capital. The cost of service analysis is based upon the premise that the utility must generate annual revenues adequate to meet the estimated annual revenue requirements.

#### **Operating Costs**

The basis for the development of the operating costs portion of the revenue requirement was the FY 2018 operating budget provided by DWSD. Non-operating expenses such as the refunding of debt principal (\$46.9M) were excluded and additional transfers not accounted for in the operating budget were added (e.g. the transfer to the pension obligation payment fund). The allowance for doubtful accounts, treated as a negative operating revenue was included in the operating cost share of the overall revenue requirement. Finally, DWSD's payment to the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) for wholesale water service includes an operating and a capital portion. For FY 2018, the operating portion is \$16,027,090. Figure 1 shows a reconciliation of the total FY 2018 operating expenses to the amount included in the operating expenses share of the overall revenue requirement.

Figure 1: Operating Expenses

Budget:	\$ 97,044,853
Debt Service and Amortization	(46,921,944)
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	12,146,019
Transfer to Operating Reserve	775,000
Pension Obligation Fund	4,500,000
GLWA Payment for Water Service	16,027,090
(Operating Portion)	
Total O&M Expenses:	\$ 83,571,018

#### **Capital Costs**

Capital costs include debt service, a transfer to the improvement and extension (I&E) account, and the capital component of DWSD's payment to GLWA for wholesale water service. **Figure 2** indicates the capital cost share of the revenue requirement.

Figure 2: Capital Expenses

Debt Service	\$34,400,000
Transfer to I&E Account	<b>4,40</b> 7,559
GLWA Payment for Water Service	<b>2</b> 0,523,900
(Capital Portion)	

Total Capital Costs: \$59,331,459

#### **Other Revenue**

As part of the cost of service analysis, revenues from sources other than water rates and charges (e.g. revenues from miscellaneous services and income) are deducted from the appropriate cost elements. **Figure 3** shows the total system revenue requirement. The \$20,700,000 lease payment from GLWA is not included as an offset to the overall revenue requirement.

Figure 3: Total Revenue Requirement

	Operating	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue Requirements			
O&M Expenses	\$ 67,543,928		\$ 67,543,928
Debt Service		34,400,000	34,400,000
I&E Account		4,407,559	4,407,559
GLWA Payment for Water Service	16,027,900	20,523,900	36,551,800
Total Revenue Requirement	\$ 83,571,828	\$ 59,331,459	\$ 142,903,287
Other Revenue	\$ (4,750,000)		\$ (4,750,000)
Net Revenue Requirement	\$ 78,821,828	\$ 59,331,459	\$ 138,153,287

## Allocation of Revenue Requirement to Functional Cost Components

The total cost of water service is analyzed by system function to equitably distribute the cost of service. For this analysis, water utility cost of service is assigned under the Base-Extra Capacity method to three basic functional cost components: base costs, extra capacity or peaking costs and customer service related costs as described in the M1 Manual, Principles of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges, published by the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

Base costs are those operating and capital costs of the water system associated with serving customers at a constant average rate of use. Supply costs are typically considered to be based on average usage.

Extra capacity or peaking costs represent those costs incurred to meet customer peak demands for water in excess of average day usage. Total extra capacity costs are subdivided into costs associated with maximum day and maximum hour demands. The maximum day demand is the maximum amount of water used in a single day in a year. The maximum hour demand is the maximum usage in an hour on the maximum usage day. Different facilities are designed to meet different peaking characteristics. For example, transmission lines are designed to meet Max Day requirements. Transmission lines must be designed larger than they would be if the same annual amount of water were being used at a constant rate throughout the year. The cost associated with constructing a larger line is based on the "overdesign principle" and is proportioned on the Max Day factor. For example, if the Max Day factor is 2.0, then the line must be designed twice as large than would be required to only meet the average usage conditions. In this case half of the cost would be allocated to Base or average day and the other half allocated to Max Day. The calculation of the Max Hour and Max Day demands is explained below.

Customer service costs include customer related and meter related costs. Customer costs are uniform for all customers and include such costs as meter reading, billing, collecting, and accounting. Meter service costs include maintenance and capital costs associated with meters. These costs are assigned based on meter size or equivalent meter capacity.

Direct fire protection costs are those associated with private fire lines and/or public fire hydrants.

The allocation of costs of service into these principal components provides the means for determining the costs to the various customer classes based on their respective base, extra capacity and customer requirements for service.

#### **Determination of Allocation Percentages**

To determine how costs should be allocated to average and peak (Max Day and Max Hour) demands, the allocation percentages assigned to each cost component need to be determined. Customer service related costs are allocated 100 percent to the customer service component. Costs related to meter maintenance are allocated to the meter operations component. Public hydrant costs were allocated 100 percent to the public fire protection component. The methodology for calculating volume related cost allocations is explained below.

The first step is to determine system peaking factors. Peaking factors are based on assumed system design criteria. The Base or average daily demand (ADD) is the average of the annual usage expressed as the usage per day. This Base Demand, or ADD, for DWSD is assigned a value of 1.0. DWSD's Max Day demand is 1.50 times the ADD. The maximum hourly (Max Hour) demand is 2,00 times the ADD. **Figure 4** below shows the assumed peaking factors of the water system.

Figure 4: Demand Factors

200		Peak	ki <mark>ng F</mark> act	or
Base Max D Max H	is.		1.00 1.50 2.00	
	Salutinol/Sur.	JESUS MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR		250000000000

For example, cost components that are designed for Max Hour peaks (i.e. distribution system costs) are allocated to base and max hour. The Max Hour factor is 2.00, so Max Hour facilities are designed to provide 200 percent of the average day capacity. Out of this 200, 100 represents the ADD, and 100 represents the Max hour requirement. This means that the Max Hour capacity represents 100 out of 200, or 50 percent, and the remaining 100 out of 200 represents the base capacity of the facilities designed for Max Hour. The allocation of Max Hour facilities is shown below:

Base: 50% = 1.00/2.00Max Hour: 50% = (2.00-1.00)/2.00

#### Allocation of Operating Expense

Projected net operating expenses for FY 2018 are allocated to cost components based on their function within the utility. For example, meter and customer service related costs are allocated directly to those components. Distribution costs are allocated based on max hour peaks as well as a nominal allocation to public fire based on the net book value of fire hydrant assets. The operating expenses portion of DWSD's payment to GLWA is allocated according to the Service Charge Recommendations FY 2018 report.

Administration and general expenses are related to total system operations and cannot be specifically allocated to individual functions such as transmission or treatment, etc. These expenses are therefore allocated in the same proportion as all the remaining operating expenses. The resulting allocation of operation and maintenance expense serves as the basis for allocating the FY 2018 net operating costs shown in **Figure 3** to the base, max day, max hour, customer service, meter operations, and fire protection cost components as shown in **Figure 5**.

Figure 5: Functional Cost Components for Operating Expenses

							Customer	<u>Meter</u>
	Total	<u>Base</u>	Max Day	Max Hour	Public Fire	Private Fire	<u>Service</u>	Operations
Distribution	100%	50.0%		50. <b>0</b> %		50		
Hydrants	100%				100.0%			
GLWA Payment	100%	2.4%	62.9%	34.7%				
General Plant	100%	32.8%	22.4%	44.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	<b>.</b>
Distribution	\$ 36,805,983	\$ 18,402,992		\$ 18,402,992				
Hydrants	283,332				283,332			
GLWA Payment	20,523,900	493,300	12,912,600	7,118,000				
General Plant	1,718,244	563,559	385,103	<b>761</b> ,132			8,450	

#### **Allocation of Plant Investment and Capital Costs**

Capital costs include DWSD's debt service, a transfer to the Local I&E fund, and a portion of DWSD's payment to GLWA for water service. Capital costs related to specific facilities will vary significantly from year to year. Allocating these costs based on the functions of these specific facilities would cause the rates to the different customer classes to change from year to year. A reasonable method of assigning capital costs to functional components, widely practiced in the industry, is to allocate such costs based on net plant investment recognizing that over time these allocations will provide costs to be passed on to customers equitably. Net plant investment is represented by the original cost less accumulated depreciation of water utility facilities. The estimated fiscal year net plant investment in water facilities consists of net plant in service as of June 30, 2014. Costs are allocated based on the design criteria of each facility. Allocation of the capital portion of DWSD's GLWA payment for water service is based on the Service Charge Recommendations FY 2018 Report. The investment in general plant is allocated to each cost component based on all other plant investment. The resulting allocation of net plant investment serves as the basis for allocating the capital costs shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Functional Cost Components for Capital Costs

	Total	Base	Max Day	ļ	Max Hour	Public Fire	Private Fire	<u>Customer</u> <u>Service</u>	Meter Operations
Transmission	100%	50.0%			50.0%				
Distribution	100%	50.0%			50.0%				
Hydrants	100%					100.0%			
GLWA Payment	100%	2.4%	62.9%		34.7%				
General Plant	100%	32.8%	22.4%		44.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	
Transmission	\$ 3,961,249	\$ 1,980,624		\$	1,980,624				
Distribution	32,844,734	16,422,367			16,422,367				
Hydrants	283,332					<b>283</b> ,332			
GLWA Payment	20,523,900	493,300	12,912,600		7,118,000				
General Plant	1,718,244	563,559	385,103		761,132	r L		8,450	

#### **Determine Unit Cost of Service**

To allocate the cost of service to the different customer classes, unit costs of service need to be developed for each cost component. The unit cost of service is developed by dividing the total annual costs allocated to each parameter by the total annual service units of the respective component. The volume related cost components are based on annual usage (in Mcf) and maximum day and hour usage (expressed in Mcf per Day). Customer service related cost components are based on number of bills and meter related costs are based on equivalent 5/8" meters.

Fire Protection units of service are based upon a theoretical maximum concurrent fire flow. Based upon a review of information provided by the Detroit Fire Department, this study assumes that fire flow in the City could have to support fighting up to two large fires at 3,000 gallons per minute for six hours and ten small fires at 1,500 gallons per minute for four hours. **Figure 7** demonstrates the calculation of theoretical concurrent fire flow.

Figure 7: Determination of Theoretical Fire Flow

	Max Day	Max Hour
Large Fire		
Number of Fires	2	2
Duration (minutes)	360	60
Maximum Flow (gpm)	3,000	3,000
	2,160,000	8,640,000
Small Fire		
Number of Fires	10	10
Duration (Minutes)	240	60
Maximum Flow (gpm)	1,500	1,500
	3,600,000	21,600,000
Fire service demand (gals)		
Public Flow	5,470,166	<b>1,</b> 521,630
Private Flow	289,834	<b>28,71</b> 8,370
Total:	5,760,000	30,2 <b>40,00</b> 0

Figure 8 shows the determination of the total annual units by customer class.

Figure 8: Units of Service Calculation

FY 2018				Max Day		Max Hou	ur	Customer Units	r Units	Private Fire C	onnections	Private Fire Connections Public Hydrants
		Average	Peaking	Total	Extra	Peaking Total	Extra		Equiv.			
	Water Sales Day	Day	Factor	Capacity	Capacity	Factor Capacity	y Capacity	Bills	Meters F	Equiv. Meters Bills	Bilk	Hydrants
	mef	mef		mef	nncf	Jam	Jou		5/8" Ea.	6" Ea.		
Calculations	51	= (1) / (365)		$= (2) \times (3) = (4) - (2)$	= (4) - (2)	=(2) x (	$=(2) \times (6) = (7) - (4)$					
Retail	4,467,300	12,239	1.23	15,055	2,816	1.27 15,505		450 2,084,568	280,000			
Private Fire				38.7	39	2	203 165			1,612	19,320	
Public Fire				731.3	731	3,839	9 3,108	~				30,430
	4,467,300	12,239		15,825	3,586	19,548		3,723 2,084,568	280,000	1,612	19.320	30.430

#### **Allocate Costs to Customer Classes**

**Figure 9** shows the total system cost by functional cost component. Each cost component is divided by the total units of service for that component shown in **Figure 8** to arrive at a Unit Cost of Service ("Unit COS"). The Unit COS is then multiplied by the units for each class to develop the total class revenue requirement shown in **Figure 10**. The determination of the private fire protection cost of service is shown in **Figure 11**.

Figure 9: Unit Cost of Service

							Customer		Meter		
Total System Cost		Total	Base	Max Day	Max Hour		Service	9	Operations_	Pt	ublic Fire
DWSD O&M	\$	62,793,928	\$ 18,341,535	\$ 9,471,140	\$ 14,36 <b>1,167</b>	\$	<b>15,841,</b> 221	\$	4,58 <b>7,683</b>	\$	191,183
GLWA O&M		16,027,900	5,294,200	9,382,700	1,351,000		-		-		
DWSD Capital		38,807,559	18,966,550	385,103	19,164,124		-		-		291,782
GLWA Capital	***************************************	20,523,900	493,300	12,912,600	7,118,000	46					
Total Cost of Service	\$	138,153,287	\$ 43,095,585	\$ 32,151,542	\$ 41,994,291	\$	15,841,221	\$	4,587,683	\$	482,965
Unit COS	\$	20,292.48	\$ 9.65	\$ 8,966.96	\$ 11,279.91	\$	7.53	\$	12.55	\$	15.87

Figure 10: Class Revenue Requirements

				Customer	Meter	
	<u>Total</u>	Base <u>Max Day</u>	Max Hour	Service	Operations	Public Fire
Total Class Cost						
Retail Customers	\$ 92,634,267 \$	<b>43,095,</b> 585 \$ <b>25,246</b> ,983	\$ 5,080,772	\$ 15,695,751	\$ 3,515,176	
Fire Protection	<b>45,</b> 519,020	- 6,9 <b>04,5</b> 59	36,913,519	145,470	1,072,507	482,965
Public	42,096,185	- 6,557, <b>132</b>	35,056,088	-	-	482,965
Private	3,422,835	- 347,427	1,857,431	145,470	1,072,507	
Total System Cost:	\$ 138,15 <b>3,287</b> \$	43,095,585 \$ 32,151,542	\$ 41,994,291	\$ 15,841,221	\$ 4,587,683	\$ 482,965

Figure 11: Development of Private Fire Protection Revenue Requirement

Total Revenue Requirement	\$ <u>Total</u> 138,153,287	\$ <u>Base</u> 43,095,585	\$ Max Day 32,151,542	Max Hour 41,994,291	\$ <u>Customer</u> <u>Service</u> 15,841,221	<u>c</u> \$	Meter operations 4,587,683	<u>Pt</u> \$		<u>c Fire</u> 2,965
divided by										
Total Units of Service equals		4,467,300	3,586	3,723	2,103,888		365,430		3	0,430
Unit Cost of Service multiplied by	\$ 20,292.48	\$ 9.65	\$ 8,966.96	\$ 11,279.91	\$ 7.53	\$	12.55	\$		15.87
Private Fire Protection Units equals			39	165	19,320		85,430			
Private Fire Protection Rev. Req.	\$ 3,422,835		\$ 347,427	\$ 1,857,431	\$ 145,470	\$	1,072,507			

#### **Determine Private Fire Protection Charges.**

Since private fire line accounts are not charged based on volume, the entire class revenue requirement must be recovered through a monthly meter charge. The charge is calculated by dividing the revenue requirement by 1,612, the number of six-inch equivalent private fire meters. The result is divided by twelve to convert to a monthly charge. AWWA meter equivalency ratios are applied to the six-inch charge to determine the charge for other meter sizes. The monthly charges per meter can be found in **Figure 12**.

Figure 12: Monthly Private Fire Line Charges

4" Fireline \$	84.92
6" Firelin <b>e</b>	176.91
8" Fireline	254.75
10" Fireline	410.43
12" Fireline	608.57

# EXHIBIT B

#### Great Lakes Water Authority Approved FY 2021 Water Supply System Allocated Revenue Requirements and Service Charges

Line		Fixed Monthly Charge (a)	Commodity	Annual
No.	Customer	\$/mo	Charge (a) S/Mcf	Revenue Regits
61		•		
62	Romeo Romulus	13,000	18.18	259,600
63	Roseville	216,400	8.23	4,328,700
64	Royal Oak Township	138,700	5.91	2,774,800
65	S O C W A	10,500	7.15	210,400
66	Shelby Township	1,192,900	7.58 15.15	23,857,100
67	South Rockwood	724,600 6,000	9.92	14,491,100
68	Southgate	114.600	7.90	119,600 2,291,500
69	St. Clair County-Greenwood Township	24,000	12.83	480,400
70	St. Clair Shores	158,300	6.68	3,165,400
71	Sterling Heights	785,000	10.99	15,700,400
72	Sumpter Township	34,500	9.64	689,600
73	Sylvan Lake	12,100	15.11	241,900
74	Taylor	241,400	7.24	4,827,900
75	Trenton	86,700	8.10	1,734,100
76	Troy	700,800	12.14	14,015,000
77	Utica	29,800	9.34	596,800
78	Van Buren Township	177,200	11.14	3,543,300
79	Walled Lake	41,700	10.64	833,500
80	Warren	530,000	6.89	10,599,900
81	Washington Township	116,900	12.49	2,337,200
82	Wayne	159,500	13.38	3,190,700
83	West Bloomfield Township	538,000	16.29	10,760,600
84	Westland	321,700	7.80	6,433,100
85	Wixom	127,600	13.73	2,551,500
86	Woodhaven	86,700	11.91	1,733,500
87	Ypsilanti Comm Util Auth	540,900	8.76	10,817,300
88	Total Wholesale Contract Customers			322,110,700
89	Adjustment to Flint Revenue Requirement for KWA Debt Service			(6,652,200)
90	Adjustment for Highland Park Bad Debt			(1,206,300)
91	Net Requirement from Wholesale Charges (agrees with GLWA B	udget "Schedule 3A")		314,252,200
	Detroit Customer Class - \$			
92	Wholesale Revenue Requirement (c)			43,255,400
93	less: Ownership Benefit per Lease			(20,700,000)
94	Net Wholesale Revenue Requirement			22,555,400
	•			
95	Indirect Retail Revenue Requirements (d)			46,830,400
96	less: Use of Lease Payment for Debt Service			(8,278,300)
97	Net Indirect Retail Revenue Requirements (d)			38,552,100
98	Subtotal Subject to GLWA Board Approval (94) + (97)			61,107,500
99	Direct Retail Revenue Requirements (e)			40,105,900
100	Total Local System Revenue Requirement (97) + (99)			78,658,000
101	Net Requirement from Detroit Customer Class (agrees with GLW	/A Budget "Schedule 3A")	<b>F</b>	101,213,400
a) Reflec	ts charges annroyed March 11, 2020.			

APPROVED FY 2021 CHARGES 3/11/2020



<sup>(</sup>a) Reflects charges approved March 11, 2020.
(b) Net fixed monthly charge will include \$554,400 monthly credits for KWA debt service.
(c) Wholesale revenue requirements for the Detroit Customer Class.
(d) Local System revenue requirements related to Master Bond Ordinance (local debt service, etc.)
(e) Local System operating expenses (net of shared services reimbursement) and I&E deposit. Not Subject to GLWA Board approval.