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Utilities Div - Mailbox; Newman-Web; PierceWeb; Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Stump-
Web
City of Maricopa Utility Hikes

RECEIVED
2009 OCT 14 P 12:39
Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

I am sorry for e-mailing you all but I want to make sure that somehow the right person receives my message. OCT 14 2009

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

DOCKETED BY
MM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to ask for help and guidance. While I understand the economy has suffered a hit, communities are suffering a double whammy at the mercy of our utility companies. Global Water is set to go before you all to ask you to allow them to increase our monthly bills by 30%. This is addition to the 27% or so increase our unregulated electric company has already imposed on us. We are sinking! Good families are forced to walk away from their homes. Our streets are lined with short sale signs due to foreclosures. The bottom has fallen out and we are flailing.

For the last 3 months my electricity bills have been between \$576 and \$600. The kicker? I used LESS electricity than I did last year and my bill is higher.

Our water company has deplorable customer service and shady business practices as I am sure you know by all the complaints you receive from them. I filed a complaint however I haven't heard the outcome but they sent us a bill that was due on the a certain date and right away we received a second bill that was due 2 weeks later. The reasoning was that they needed to fit an extra billing cycle in. So no one expected a bill to be due so quickly, they proceeded a little bit later to disconnect service all over the city "saying" they sent out past due notices, which they did not, they blamed the post office. Many in the community rolled over and paid the reconnection fees that were, in my opinion, just a ploy to boost Global Water's bank account.

First I am asking you not to allow Global Water to increase their fees. We cannot afford it and so many will suffer. Also, I understand ED3 is not regulated, what can we as a community do to force them to be regulated?

I have attached a recent article from our local magazine regarding the hardships we as a community face as well as the signatures that will be presented before you. Please read it.

Thank you for your time.

<http://www.85239.com/NEWS/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?mid1=390&&ArticleID=6847&&name=c&&id=1>

Below is an excerpt from the above link regarding the hardships, we, as a community are facing....

"In Maricopa it is becoming difficult to live comfortably because the utility companies are taking all of the residents' disposable income," Burgess said. "Without disposable income people cannot go out to eat; they cannot put their kids in karate classes, and it causes local businesses to suffer."

"I see tears in the eyes of local business owners when they see their utility cost at \$3,000, rent at \$2,000 and dwindling business," Burgess said. "This city cannot afford for businesses to go under."

Burgess recognizes that struggling businesses are a problem for the city because of the lost tax revenue, but he believes the most disturbing byproduct of high-utility rates is the destruction of families.

"I'm not blaming the utility companies solely for breaking up families, but these large bills put an enormous amount of stress on families."

Global Water is scheduled to go before the Arizona Corporation Commission in December with a rate-increase application that would increase the average residential bill in Maricopa from \$75.27 a month to \$120.85.

"These water-rate increases are not only going to affect our water bills, but they are also going to drive our HOA dues through the sky," Burgess said. "If someone came into Maricopa and robbed five residents, we would lock them away. But if they have a business license, we let them get away with it."

Burgess will give the nearly 1,000 signatures he gathered at Founders Day, protesting Global Water's rate increase, to the Corporation Commission, and he will present the same number of signatures demanding the reconstruction of ED-3's board to the electrical company."

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