

ORIGINAL



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Sheila Stoeller

From: Karen Tinkham [k.tink@worldnet.att.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 1:39 AM  
To: Mayes-WebEmail  
Cc: Stump-Web; Kennedy-Web; Newman-Web; Pierce-Web  
Subject: Litchfield Park Service Co./Liberty Water rate hike request

SW-01428A-09-0103  
W-01427A-09-0104  
W-01427A-09-0116  
W-01427A-09-0120  
(5 items)

Dear Commissioners:

I was unable to attend tonight's meeting at the Wigwam Resort.

I am very concerned about the proposed rate hike by Liberty Water.

My late husband & I moved to Litchfield Park in 1972. We built our current home 25 years ago. We have always conserved our water usage, so we landscaped our front yard with desert lawn, cacti, & plants that interest hummingbirds. Our plants require NO WATER. Our backyard is artificial turf surrounded by stone. We have two orange trees, one apple tree & a meyer lemon. They require minimum water. I have vegetable plants in pots that I can move to the shade during the heat, thus requiring less water. We have a lap pool.

We replaced our toilets with low flush. We replaced our dishwasher with an energy efficient LOW WATER model. I take short showers. I do 3 loads of wash every 10 days. I rarely use my dishwasher even though it only uses 8 gallons of water per wash.

My December bill from Liberty was \$62.52. My November bill was \$63.96. My July bill was \$74.11. Can you imagine what my bills will be if Liberty gets approval of their rate hike request?

I have no other way of cutting my water usage. I am 66 & am a widow. I honestly cannot afford monthly water bills of over \$100. I also worry about the time when I will need to move from my home. Why would potential buyers look at an area that has extremely high rates for water & sewers?

I would not suggest that they not be allowed a rate hike, but one that is much lower & more realistic. I feel their request is over the top.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,  
Karen Tinkham  
P.O. Box 1432  
Litchfield Park, Az 85340  
623 935-4974

Arizona Corporation Commission  
**DOCKETED**

JAN 26 2010

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2010 JAN 26 P 12:38  
LITCHFIELD PARK

## Sheila Stoeller

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**From:** Jo Ann Goodrich [jgoodrich@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2010 10:23 AM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail  
**Subject:** LITCHFIELD PARK RATE INCREASE

Thank you for coming to our community last evening. I was impressed with the attendance and for the people who spoke.

FYI--- I am a single person living alone, have a small house in Litchfield Greens, not much of a yard and am on Social Security. I am 68 years old and hold down 3 part time jobs because \$700.00 a month before they take out for medicare and AARP really doesn't go very far these days.

My water bill averages \$50.00 per month. The sewer alone is \$25.00. I have had occasion to go away in the summer for a month or two, my bill doesn't seem to be any lower???? Don't think it's been anything less than \$40 something. I run my dishwasher 1 or 2 x's and do a few loads of laundry per week. My bill is already too high.

Thank you for reading this e-mail.

JoAnn Goodrich

## Sheila Stoeller

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**From:** Mayette, Michael K Civ USAF AETC 56 CES/CEPD-1 [Michael.Mayette@luke.af.mil]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2010 8:05 AM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail; Kennedy-Web; Pierce-Web; Stump-Web; Newman-Web  
**Cc:** tschoaf@litchfield-park.org; pfaith@litchfield-park.org  
**Subject:** Liberty rate increase legal fees recovery

Dear Arizona Corporation Commission:

Thank you again for holding the meeting last night in Litchfield Park. Among many things, the meeting to me emphasized the immense responsibility the commission has in legislating and the important economic role you play in our great state. Especially in these tough times where our economy is trying to adjust itself. The last thing the economy needs as it hedges towards depression is another unnecessary tax or rate increase forced upon us. That will hinder people from spending their hard earned dollars in their communities which I feel is key to a slow but solid economic recovery for all in years to come that will be able to sustain justifiable rate increases due to growth and prosperity and not greed.

I am concerned about the legal fees Litchfield Park has expended (\$23,000 to date) in the dispute over this rate increase when one can see that this request should have been dead on arrival from the onset. Can the judge order Liberty to pay legal fees and reimburse the City of Litchfield Park?

I was one of the many speakers last night who encouraged the commission to disapprove the rate increase in its' entirety. After listening to the other speakers and giving further consideration to this matter, one can see how out-of-line this 100 plus percent rate request is. This shouldn't be and we should expect better from our utility industries that when they apply for a rate increase, there should be a standard they are held to and if it is found that the request is out-of-line with little or no basis, then the entire request should be rejected until the next ACC cycle and any legal fees expended in the process to dispute it should be paid by the requestor.

I am certain that many eyes are watching how you decide in this case as others may follow suit depending on the outcome. A complete rejection would signal zero tolerance for out-of-line requests and thus, will result in little or no room for negotiations. In my opinion, this request should not have made it this far creating unnecessary anxiety in our community, wasting your and our valuable time, and forcing the City of Litchfield to expend city funds we do not have on legal fees (\$23,000 so far and it is expected to reach \$55,000) disputing nonsense. Further, rejecting this rate increase would make headlines and send a strong signal to the utilities that they better sharpen their pencils before coming to the table with the ACC, exercise conservative business practices daily & to follow their business plans making adjustments when necessary, and above all do a gut check & have integrity when requesting rate increases. Figures don't lie...liars figure!

Michael K. Mayette Sr  
827 West Village Parkway  
Litchfield Park, Arizona 85340

## Sheila Stoeller

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**From:** Bill Sheets [billsheets7@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2010 9:34 AM  
**To:** Mayes-WebEmail  
**Subject:** Liberty Water

Kristin,

I thank you for bringing the Commission to Litchfield park. I am the one who came to you during the break to shake your hand and I'm ashamed to say that I have a fear of public speaking so I didn't stay. I noticed that my demographic was not well represented and that causes me further guilt for not coming forward. As I told you, I am a single parent, retired at Luke, and presently work for Honeywell. What I should have said in the hearing is that most of my demographic was probably fixing dinner for our kids or helping them with homework. My son was at his mothers so I was able to attend. I would have also thanked the West Valley View for bringing the issue to our attention. What I hope will happen is that the presiding judge will not put an increase of any kind in front of you and then you won't have to vote it down. I suspect it will go down some other way. What I will say is that Honeywell cut my hours from 40 to 36 last year and made use take a week furlough this year resulting in reduced wages. Has Liberty Water had a furlough? When I have been delinquent on my bill they cut me off without so much as a phone call. You really want to see the face of someone who takes the water from people in a desert. When asked about it they reply that they don't have the manpower to call people. So, what takes longer, calling someone or getting in a truck and driving to someones house and turning off the water and then the next day getting in your truck and driving to someones house to turn the water back on? It should be obvious to anyone that this practice is driven by profits and not customer service. They tack on a connection fee and deposit fee to reconnect. I would rather put a septic tank in my yard than pay their waste water fee but I don't think that is allowed in Palm Valley? Do you know? I'd bet it's more affordable. I think that most of the people in my demographic bought for proximity to schools and not because we like the water company in the neighborhood. We are a captive customer with our hands tied. We are not all rich like that one resident said. We are hoping to put our kids through college but not sure how we will with these companies that look at us like fish in a barrel. So, Thank you and the other commissioners for representing us. Tell Liberty Water that they can wait for more prosperous times to increase rates and in the mean time bank interest rates are low and they can barrow or refinance to help balance their books until those prosperous days arrive. I am also currently going through 1BOG.org, REC solar, and SunRun to reduce my carbon footprint with a 7Kwatt photovoltaic on the grid system. I will do my best to speak next time if I have the chance. Thanks for listening.

Bill Sheets

## Sheila Stoeller

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**From:** Kyle Addington [kyle@addingtonadvisors.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2010 10:01 PM  
**To:** Rebecca Wilder; Kate Baumgarth; Mayes-WebEmail  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Liberty Water Rate Increase

**Importance:** High

**To:** Kristin Mayes, Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission  
Rebecca J Wilder, Public Information Officer, Arizona Corporation Commission  
Kate Baumgarth, Certified Reporter #50582, Arizona Reporting Service, Inc.

This email below is from Donna Sirounian that was read aloud by me, Kyle Addington, at the public comment meeting held at Wigwam Resort on January 25, 2010 by the Arizona Corporation Commission and is being sent via email to Rebecca J Wilder, Public Information Officer, Arizona Corporation Commission and Kate Baumgarth, Certified Reporter, Arizona Reporting Service, Inc. at the request of the Kristin Mayes, Chairman of the Arizona Corporation Commission who asked that this email be submitted into the official record. At the request of Donna Sirounian, I agreed to present her written testimony to the Commission as she was unable to attend the hearing due to another commitment. Below are the comments from her that I read before the Commission.

For the record, I was approached and stopped by Matthew Garlick, Business Manager for Liberty Water after exiting the public comment meeting. He asked that I turn over a copy of this email to him. I felt very uncomfortable that he approached me directly and asked to be given a copy of Donna's email. I told him I was providing a copy of the email to the court reporter and the commission and it would be up to them to release the email to Liberty Water if they chose to do so. Donna Sirounian's email address has been redacted from this email for fear of her email address getting into the hands of Liberty Water. She has asked that no one from Liberty Water contact her regarding this email.

Sincerely,  
**Kyle Addington**  
**245 N Parkview Ct.**

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**From:** Donna Z. Sirounian  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 23, 2010 2:26 PM  
**To:** 'Kyle Addington'  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Liberty Water Rate Increase

Here's my statement for the Liberty Water rate increase meeting...thanks for bringing it to the meeting.

I was recently told by a Vice President of Liberty Water, during the Litchfield Park Christmas in the Park, that residents of Litchfield Park really did not have a choice in the water rates doubling. He stated the City was wasting time and money fighting this and it was a given the increase was going to happen. He explained to me that they have invested money over the years and now it was time to recoup their investment.

It is unfortunate, a 100% increase would happen at once since smaller increases were not put into place over the years. I and my husband told him that we were really disappointed that our water rates would increase so significantly, and that we had no choice in the matter.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Sirounian  
390 N Cloverfield Circle