

# **NORTH AND CENTRAL MERRICK CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

**P.O. Box 500, Merrick, NY 11566**

**[www.northmerrickcivic.org](http://www.northmerrickcivic.org)**

**516-972-6988**

*Claudia Borecky, President*

*[claudiaborecky@gmail.com](mailto:claudiaborecky@gmail.com)*

July 13, 2016

Ms. Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary  
New York State Public Service Commission  
Three Empire State Plaza  
Albany, New York 12223-1350

## **RE: NY American Water Co., Inc. Rate Case #16-W-0259**

Dear Ms. Burgess:

We write on behalf of North and Central Merrick and our neighboring south shore communities regarding New York American Water Company's (NYAW) proposed rate increase and have sought party status to these proceedings so that we may submit documentation and testimony in opposition.

The people residing in the southernmost parts of North Merrick pay three times more than residents in the northern parts of North Merrick who get their water from the Town of Hempstead. The North and Central Merrick Civic Association ("NCMCA") has been fighting for affordable water for years and was instrumental in the reconstitution of the Water Authority of Southeast Nassau County ("WASENC") in 2010, formed to study the feasibility of a public acquisition of what was then Aqua Water. WASENC was dissolved earlier this year. And now, a few months later, NYAW requests an 8.1% rate increase for our service area. If we had public water, it would have been subject to the 2% tax cap.

Residents have serious concerns regarding their water. With recent main breaks; lead, iron and volatile organic compounds discovered in our aquifers; the Grumman Plume's migration into our service area; an increase in brown water and decrease in water pressure; and \$4.5 million spent on a new ostentatious building, rather than on infrastructure repair; we need the time to prepare a case in opposition to this proposal.

In 2009, when what was then Aqua Water, proposed a rate hike, our county and state representatives notified us and we, as a civic association, requested and were granted a September hearing. The hearing was very well attended. People were turned away at the door since the library was filled to capacity.

At this time, we respectfully request that hearings be held in September 2016. Notice of this hearing was difficult to find as it was posted in the classified section of Newsday and our state and county representatives failed to inform us about the hearing, which is scheduled in the summer when many people are away. Further, as NYAW's 125,000 customers did not receive sufficient notice of these hearings as no notice was sent with our bills, we believe that a meeting in the fall would be in the best interest of the public.

Therefore, in order for the public to participate in these hearings and to afford the NCMCA, as party to these proceedings, equal opportunity to prepare a case in opposition to this proposal, we ask that the Public Service Commission hold hearings in September and extend the public comment period until November 1, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

*Claudia Borecky*

Claudia Borecky, President