

Agenda Date: 7/22/15 Agenda Item: VIIB

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

HERNANDEZ REALTY P/A 6001 POLK STREET, WEST NEW YORK, NJ Petitioner V.)))	ORDER ADOPTING INITIAL DECISION SETTLEMENT	
UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY, Respondent)))	BPU DOCKET NO. WC14010059U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 05138-14	

Parties of Record:

Mario M. Blanch, Esq., appearing on behalf of Petitioner, Hernandez Realty P/A 6001 Polk Street, West New York, NJ John P. Wallace, Esq., appearing on behalf of Respondent, United Water New Jersey

BY THE BOARD: 1

On January 21, 2014, Hernandez Realty P/A 6001 Polk Street, West New York, NJ ("Petitioner") filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting a formal hearing related to a billing dispute with United Water New Jersey ("Respondent") for utility services rendered by Respondent.

After the filing of Respondent's answer, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearing and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. This matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Kimberly A. Moss.

While this matter was pending at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and entered into and signed a Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") that was submitted to the ALJ. By Initial Decision issued on June 15, 2015 and submitted to the Board on June 16, 2015, to which the Agreement was attached and made part thereof, ALJ Moss found that the Agreement was voluntary, that its terms fully disposed of all issues in controversy and that it satisfied the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

¹ Commissioner Upendra J. Chivukula recused himself due to a potential conflict of interest and as such took no part in the discussion or deliberation of this matter.

Pursuant to the Agreement, which resolves a dispute with respect to unbilled and unpaid charges for water consumption at premises located at 6001 Polk Street, West New York, New Jersey, the Petitioner has agreed to pay \$9,976.94 to Respondent in full and final satisfaction for unbilled and unpaid water consumption provided at the subject premises. The parties have further agreed that the Agreement supersedes any prior bills and that the Petitioner is free to share the information with the North Hudson Sewer Authority in the event that an additional sewer bill may be required.

The parties have also agreed that Respondent could reserve its right to collect \$14,252.65 in the event that the Petitioner defaults making the settlement payment or tampers with the meter after the date of the Settlement Agreement. As part of the Agreement, Petitioner will voluntarily dismiss its petition in this matter.

After review of the Initial Decision and the Settlement Agreement of the parties, the Board <u>HEREBY FINLS</u> that the parties have voluntarily agreed to the Agreement as evidenced by their signatures and that by the terms of the Settlement Agreement have fully resolved all outstanding contested issues in this matter.

Accordingly, the Board <u>HEREBY ADOPTS</u> the Initial Decision and Settlement Agreement executed by the parties in their entirety as if set forth at length herein.

This order shall be effective on August 1, 2015.

DATED:

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

RICHARD S. MRO

PRESIDENT

JOSERH L. FIÓRĎÁLISO

COMMISSIONER

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN

COMMISSIONER

DIANNÉ SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

IRENE KIM ASBURY SECRETARY I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

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HERNANDEZ REALTY P/A 6100 POLK STREET, WEST NEW YORK, NJ

V.

UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY

BPU DOCKET NO. WC14010059U OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 05138-14

SERVICE LIST

Mario M. Blanch, Esq. 440 65th Street West New York, New Jersey 07093

Hernandez Realty P/A 6001 Polk Street, West New York, NJ 5418 Bergenline Avenue West New York, New Jersey 07093-1697

John P. Wallace, Esq., 171 East Ridgewood Avenue Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450

Christopher Psihoules DAG Division of Law 124 Halsey Street Post Office Box 45029 Newark, New Jersey 07102-45029 Eric Hartsfield, Director Division of Customer Assistance Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Post Office Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Julie Ford-Williams
Division of Customer Assistance
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350



CASE management

INITIAL DECISION

SETTLEMENT

OAL DKT. NO. PUC 05138-14

AGENCY DKT. NO. WC14010059U

HERNANDEZ REALTY P/A 6001 POLK STREET, WEST NY, NJ,

Petitioner,

٧.

UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY,

Respondent.

Mario M. Blanch, Esq. on behalf of petitioner

John P. Wallace, Esq on behalf of respondent (United Water New Jersey)

Record Closed: June 12, 2015

Decided: June 15, 2015

BEFORE KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ:

This matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for hearing as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 to-15 and N.J.S.A. 52:14F 1 to-13. A telephone prehearing was conducted during which time the hearing date was scheduled. Several hearings and telephone conferences were scheduled, the last being March 23, 2015. During the March 23, 2015 conference the parties resolved all issues in dispute. On June 12, 2015 respondent's counsel submitted a Stipulation of Settlement, which is attached hereto for reference.

I have reviewed the record and terms of the Stipulation of Settlement and FIND:

- The parties have voluntarily agreed to the settlement as evidenced by the signatures of the parties or their representatives.
- 2. The settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with law.

I CONCLUDE that the agreement meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1 and therefore, it is ORDERED that the parties comply with the settlement terms and that these proceedings be and are hereby concluded.

I hereby FILE my initial decision with the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES for consideration.

This recommended decision may be adopted, modified or rejected by the BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES, which by law is authorized to make a final decision in this matter. If the Board of Public Utilities does not adopt, modify or reject this decision within forty-five (45) days and unless such time limit is otherwise extended, this recommended decision shall become a final decision in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-10.

6-15-15	
DATE	KIMBERLY A. MOSS, ALJ
Date Received at Agency:	•
Date Mailed to Parties:	

RECEIVED

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1015 JUN 12 P 1:05

WHEREAS HERNANDEZ REALTY & 6001 POLK STREET LLC (hereinafter "Customer") and UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY, (hereinafter "UWNJ") have agreed to a resolution of a dispute with respect to unbilled and unpaid charges for water consumption at premises at 6001 Polk Street, West New York, New Jersey, it is hereby agreed by said parties as follows:

- 1. Customer agrees to pay the total settlement sum of \$9,976.94 to UWNJ for the unbilled and unpaid water consumption provided to the property at 6001 Polk Street, West New York, New Jersey, in full and final satisfaction, of the disputed bill issued by UWNJ to Customer, dated November 13, 2013, copy of which is attached hereto as "EXHIBIT A".
- 2. This settlement agreement supersedes the disputed bills, and constitutes a new service charge for the usage of water that shall be paid as and due within ten (10) days of the date of this Settlement Agreement. Said parties agree that Customer is free to share the content of this settlement agreement with NORTH HUDSON SEWER AUTHORITY (hereinafter "NHSA") in the event that a sewer bill results from the unbilled water consumption that is the subject of this settlement agreement. Said parties acknowledge that NHSA is separate from and unaffiliated with UWNJ and UWNJ has no input or control with respect to NHSA, its management or operations.
- 3. UWNJ reserves the right to collect \$14,252.65 in the event that Customer defaults in making the settlement payment due per the settlement agreement or tampers with the meter after the date of this Agreement.
 - 4. Customer agrees to file voluntary dismissals of its complaints against UWNI filed

and/or pending in: (i) the Office of Administrative Law under Docket Number WC14010059-U, and (ii) the Superior Court of New Jersey, Bergen County under Docket Number L-868-15 within 7 days of the date hereof.

5. This Settlement Agreement is not an acknowledgment of wrongdoing by either party.

DATED:

March , 2015

JOO1 POLK STREET LLC

& HERNANDEZ REALTY

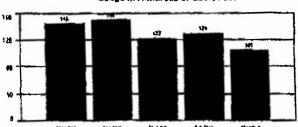
March , 2015

UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY

VILLE HOSIGENT & BONISHMEN

UNITED WATER

USAGE HISTORY Usage in Hundreds of Cubic Feet



Billing Date: 11/13/13 Account Number: Previous Bolance \$0.00 Payments Through 11/13/13 montrou \$646.36CR **Balance Forward** \$546.36CA Current Charges Due 12/02/2013 \$74,899.01 OTAL AMOUNT CORRECTED BILL

MARTIN MATERIAL MARTINES - NO. 176 Committee Co. Laurenne

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THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF

Next mener reading date on or about 02/12/2014

SERVICE TO: 6001 POLK STREET LLC

SERVICE ADDRESS: FUOT POLK ST WEST NEW YORK NJ

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WAYER CHARGES WATER CHARGES FACILITY CHARGE				\$14,427.41 \$416.80 \$\$4.31		SURCHARGE IL CURRENT	r Charge	S \$1	\$0.41 14,899.01

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

IMPORTANTMESSAGES

Save a stamp and go paperless today! Log on to www.unitedwater.com or call Customer Service to find out more information and to enroll in eBilling. Make it easy with Direct Debit! Pay your hill automatically by having your payment electromically deducted from your checking or sayings account, for details, call us or visit unitedwater.com.
Your account has been estimated. We are unable to obtain on actual meter reading. Kindly call us at 800-422-5987 to schedule a meter reading. Approximately 14.0625% or \$2095.17 of your current period charges reflects the overage Grass Receipt and Franchise Taxes which are pold to the State of New Jersey and distributed to New Jersey municipalities.
On May 31, 2013, the Company filed its first Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC) related to infrastructure improvements. As a result, the Company will be implementing a surcharge effective July 15, 2013. The surcharge is a fixed amount based on mater size and is only applicable to General Metered and Private Pire customers.

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UNITED WATER petomer Service Cent 9 DaVoe Place Ockunsack, NJ 07601

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SERVICE AD DRESS: GOOT POLK ST WEST NEW YORK NO

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PL: 5 **6001 POLK STREET LLC** HERNANDEZ REALTY 5418 BERGENLINE AVE WEST NEW YURK NJ 07093-1697

1000043F415555500001452F200000000

Account Number:

Balance Forward

\$646.36CR

Current Charges Due 12/02/2013

\$14,899.01

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

\$15,858.65

Payment Amount Enclosed

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UNITED WATER NEW JERSEY PAYMENT CENTER PO 80X 371804 PITTSBURGH PA 15250-7804

EXHIBIT A

JOHN P. WALLACE COUNSELLOR AT LAW

MEMBER NJ. AND N.Y. BAR

171 EAST RIDGEWOOD AVB.

RIDGEWOOD, NJ. 07450

(201) 445-3533

(201) 447-0417

June 10, 2015-

Honorable Kimberly Moss Office of Administrative Law 33 Washington Street Newark, NJ 07102

Ře:

Hernandez Realty P/A 6001 Polk Street, West New York, New Jersey

vs. United Water New Jersey

Billing Dispute

Docket No. WC14010059U

5704 Hudson Realty, LLC vs. United Water New Jersey

Billing Dispute

Docket No. WC12121170U

Dear Judge Moss:

As directed by your assistant, Ms. Bryant, I am enclosing original Settlement Agreement pertaining to the above matters.

Respectfully yours.

JOHN P. WALLACE

JPW:pj Enclosures

cc:

Mario Blanch, Esq. (w/out enclosures)



State of New Jersey OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW FAX TRANSMITTAL

·	-		DATE: TIME:	6-16-15
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