

**For Immediate Release**

Thursday, December 10, 2009

## **MONROE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY BOARD PASSES 2010 BUDGET WITH A WATER RATE DECREASE**

At this morning's Board Meeting, the Monroe County Water Authority ratified next year's water rate schedule which includes a residential rate decrease for 2010. "Providing our customers with exceptional quality, safe and reliable water is the daily mission of the two hundred and thirty employees of the Water Authority. The Water Authority continues to achieve that goal in a cost-effective manner with performance measures that are among the industry's leading benchmarks", said Board Chairman Anthony Quattrone.

Ed Marianetti, the Water Authority's Executive Director, noted "Over the past four years, the Water Authority's rates have actually decreased. Over the past ten years, the Consumer Price Index has risen by about 18% more than Water Authority rates have." Nicholas Noce, Director of Finance & Business Services, stated, "We continue to meet the financial challenges of the water industry, which is important to meeting the long-term interest of our rate payers. MCWA is one of a select number of water providers in the country to obtain a AA+ rating from the independent rating agency, Standard & Poor's. This rating will translate to lower interest rates associated with capital improvements and lower overall annual expenses."

At a rate of \$2.49 for a thousand gallons of water for residential customers, MCWA rates remain below the national average and in the lowest 25% for water suppliers in the northeast. The average MCWA residential customer spends only \$20.00 per month for drinking water and fire protection. Bottled water, which typically costs more than 1,000 times that of water delivered by the MCWA, does not deliver the same value.

The Water Authority serves over 600,000 people in Monroe and portions of each of the five surrounding counties with an annual budget of \$54.3 million.

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