

City Hall, Wednesday, April 8, 2009: This afternoon I participated in a City Hall Press Conference called by City Council Finance Chair David Weprin to oppose the 14% Water Rate Hikes proposed to take affect this summer. Queens Civic Congress will again testify against the rate hikes. At the press conference I noted that Queens Civic Congress and the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition have been presenting to Queens Community Board and will present to the Queens Borough Board on April 2009; we also are beginning outreach to community and borough boards in the rest of the city. Councilman Weprin has placed a [petition](#) opposing the water rates hikes on his City Council home page. [See <http://council.nyc.gov/d23/html/members/home.shtml>] Just click on the “water rates” banner. Queens Civic Congress urges its member organizations to sign the petition and share it with your members. - Corey Bearak, President, QCC

Queens Civic Congress also urges concerned citizens to testify at the water rate hearings. No information is posted on the NYC.Gov/DEP website but the agency was kind enough to email the hearing information which follows below:

NEW YORK CITY WATER BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT in accordance with Section 1045-j (3) of the Public Authorities Law, public hearings will be held on April 27, 28, 29 and 30, 2009, concerning proposed rates and charges to be effective July 1, 2009, for the use of, or services furnished, rendered or made available by the Water and Wastewater System of the City of New York (the “System”) and concerning certain changes to made to the billing policies and to other rates and charges to be incorporated in the New York City Water Board's Rate Schedule effective July 1, 2009. The hearings will be held as follows:

<u>Borough</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>
Queens	Department of Environmental Protection 59-17 Junction Blvd., Lecture Room, 6 th Floor Flushing, NY 11373	Monday, April 27 10:00 a.m.
Staten Island	College of Staten Island Center for the Arts, Recital Hall 2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314	Monday, April 27 7:00 p.m.
Bronx	Bronx Library Center 310 East Kingsbridge Road, Bronx, NY 10458	Tuesday April 28, 2:00 p.m.
Brooklyn	Brooklyn College, Student Center - Alumni Lounge (opposite Whitehead Hall) East 27 th St. & Campus Rd., Brooklyn, NY 11211	Wednesday, April 29 6:00 p.m.
Manhattan	St. John’s University – Manhattan Auditorium, 101 Murray Street, New York, NY 10007	Thursday, April 30 5:30 p.m.

All members of the public who wish to obtain copies of the Board’s Information Booklet describing the rate proposal and changes to billing policies, or who wish to testify at a hearing should contact Kevin Kunkle, New York City Water Board, 59-17 Junction Boulevard, 8th Floor, Flushing, NY 11373, Telephone (718) 595-3601, email: kkunkle@dep.nyc.gov, not later than April 22, 2009. Oral testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes duration. A copy of any prepared or written statement may be submitted to the Water Board at the above address by the close of business April 24, 2009.