

MEMORANDUM



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

DATE: December 17, 2024

TO: City of Grand Rapids Mayor and City Commissioners

FROM: Tai Verbrugge, Utility Financial Officer

SUBJECT: **2024 Rate Study – City of Grand Rapids 20-day Public Comment Period Comments**

During the 2024 Water and Sewer Rate Study comment period, the City of Grand Rapids did not receive any direct communications from the public. However, during tabling events held four times throughout the public comment period, feedback was collected from nine (9) individuals.

Of the nine people that I spoke with, three were opposed to any rate increases. Reasons for this disapproval included the hardships caused by general inflation across the board, and the feeling that other communities are not paying their fair share. Three respondents expressed their approval of the proposed rates once I explained the primary drivers behind the changes; all three believed that investments in replacing lead pipes are worth the additional costs. The final three residents only asked questions about the utility systems and the rate-setting process, but did not offer any opinions or comments.

As indicated at the Committee of the Whole Preliminary Rate Study Presentation on November 12, 2024, all public comments received will be reviewed by staff and considered as part of the FY2026 budget planning process.