



Greg Hartmann

Hamilton County Commissioner

138 East Court Street, Room 603, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Ph: (513) 946-4405

www.hamilton-co.org

Fax: (513) 946-4444

PRESS RELEASE

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For more information, contact:
Kellie Wise, Hamilton County: (513) 946-4405

Hamilton County Commissioners Appoint MSD Rate Affordability Task Force Members

CINCINNATI – The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners this week approved a resolution appointing members to the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) Rate Affordability Task Force. The Task Force will study MSD rate structures and policies and provide Commissioners with recommendations to mitigate ratepayer fee increases and promote water conservation.

Under the terms of a federal consent decree, MSD is required to make over \$3 billion in infrastructure improvements to avoid wastewater overflow into local waterways. These mandated improvements have caused an eight percent annual increase in sewer rates over the past 10 years. The average residential sewer rates now exceed \$210 per quarter.

“Controlling escalating MSD rates is a top County priority as we continue work to fulfill the requirements of the mandated federal consent decree,” said Commissioner Greg Hartmann, President of the Board of Commissioners. “The appointed members on the Task Force will provide valuable insight and evaluation as Commissioners seek to mitigate the impact of future sewer rate increases.”

The 15-member Task Force is representative of local governments, business and environmental interest groups, senior citizens, low-income residents, and homeowners and renters.

Task Force members include:

- **Tom Moeller**, City Manager, City of Madeira (Chair of the Task Force);
- **Gwen Robinson-Benning**, President and CEO, Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency;
- **Mark Quarry**, Director of Government Affairs, Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors;
- **John Bernloehr**, President, Consolidated Metal Products, to represent the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber;
- **Suzanne Burke**, President and CEO, Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio;
- **Nancy Kammer**, President, Greater Cincinnati Building Owners and Managers Association;
- **Noel Morgan** and **Mike Lawson**, Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati;
- **Lucy Crane** and **Amy Roberts**, United Way of Greater Cincinnati and United Way 211;

- **Marilyn Wall**, Sierra Club;
- **Tom Weidman**, Hamilton County Township Association;
- **Stiney Vonderhaar**, Executive Director, Hamilton County Municipal League;
- **Charles Tassell**, Director of Government Affairs, Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Apartment Association;
- **Robert Miles** and **Clark Beck**, Communities United for Action (CUFA);
- **Charlie Norman**, Elections Administrator, Hamilton County Board of Elections (At-large member representing Commissioners); and
- **Christine Russell**, Economic Development Director, City of Springdale (At-large member representing Commissioners).

The Task Force is expected to hold its first meeting in September, and will plan to deliver recommendations to the Commissioners in Spring 2016. Each meeting of the Task Force will be publicly noticed to media and county residents.

To learn more about the Metropolitan Sewer District or the federal consent decree, visit: <http://www.msdc.org/>.

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