

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE: COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES**

*Certain measures are in place providing relief to ratepayers experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review this message in its entirety. For more information please go to our website at [www.hardyston.com/directories/municipal-utilities-authority/](http://www.hardyston.com/directories/municipal-utilities-authority/) or contact the Authority's Billing Specialist at (973) 823-7020 ext. 9441.*

### **SERVICE SHUTOFF MORATORIUM**

BE ADVISED that Executive Order 229 currently prohibits a local government from shutting off water or electric service to a residential customer, or to accounts primarily serving residential customers, due to nonpayment of water, sewer, or electric charges unless the disconnection is to prevent or ameliorate a risk to public health or safety. **This shutoff moratorium remains in effect until January 1, 2022.**

### **LATE PAYMENT PENALTY AND LIEN ENFORCEMENT MORATORIUM**

BE ADVISED that, **until January 1, 2022**, Executive Order 229 places a moratorium on local governments enforcing late payment charges and penalties on water or electric accounts, or referring a delinquent water or electric payment to tax sale. **On or after January 1, 2022**, charges and penalties may be imposed for delinquent payments, and any payments remaining delinquent may be referred to a tax lien sale held by the municipal tax collector.

### **BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS**

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is currently developing a Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). This program is designed to assist water and sewer customers facing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information will be provided once the program goes live.

### **OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY ARREARAGES IN INSTALLMENTS**

BE ADVISED that residents experiencing economic hardship during COVID-19 and who are behind on their sewer and water payments may be eligible to enter into an agreement whereby the resident agrees to pay their arrearages in installments over a period of time. As part of the agreement, the resident must keep up to date on all current charges. For more information on repaying arrearages in installments, please contact the *Authority's Billing Specialist at (973) 823-7020 ext. 9441.*