

AGENDA STAFF REPORT



MEETING NAME: REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MEETING DATE(S): May 15, 2023

FROM: ARTURO CEJA – DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

FOR: ACTION DIRECTION INFORMATION

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consider recommendations from the Public Affairs Committee and deny any further action or billing adjustments for 66249 Avenida Barona.

BACKGROUND

Mr. Chang Rhee's previous tenant on the property located at 66249 Avenida Barona accumulated a large balance on the account. They accumulated this balance through the COVID-19 pandemic when the State instituted a shutoff moratorium on unpaid water and sewer accounts. Staff removed all late fees associated with the account balance to help Mr. Rhee with the unpaid balance. Mr. Rhee wants the District to cancel the account charges for the period after the shutoff moratorium ended through the date the account was disconnected for nonpayment (January 1 – September 15, 2022).

SUMMARY

On March 14, 2023, property owner, Chang Rhee called and left a voicemail related to the unpaid water bill left by his previous tenant on the rental property located at 66249 Avenida Barona. After investigating the account status, reviewing notes from the communication that staff noted from calls with Mr. Rhee, it was noted that staff had already reversed all late fees on the account totaling \$3,093.03. Additionally, this account was included in the State Arrearage funding request and received \$723.11 towards the tenant's unpaid water bills.

The tenant took advantage of the State's shut off moratorium that ended on December 31, 2021, and the newly adopted SB998 that required the District to reach out to customers at risk of being disconnected for non-payment before shutting them off. The tenant contacted the District on April 5, 2022, to set up a payment plan, making several payments through June 2022. The tenant's account was not turned off until September of 2022 because SB998 requires a 60 day wait period before turning customers off for non-payment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total outstanding balance for the disputed account is \$2,445.55.

ATTACHMENTS

Public Relations Committee Meeting Minutes

Email communication with Mr. Rhee requesting a meeting with the Public Affairs Committee.

66249 Avenida Barona Timeline Report