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JAN 31 2023

Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

**Stevenson City Hall**

7121 East Loop Rd  
Stevenson, Washington 98648

Dear City of Stevenson City Hall,

**I am requesting to the City of Stevenson that my water/sewer bill for February could be reconsidered and the portion for sewer consumption in the amount of \$433.30 could be removed from my bill.** I

realize that I am a new customer to the City of Stevenson and haven't had my account for 6 months, but I am asking that an exception be made in my case. I am renting the space at 304 SW Second St in Stevenson, and I have a lease agreement from my landlord, Brian Adams that I would be in charge of paying the water sewer charge at the commercial space.

During the month of December I had a burst pipe at the office due to the freezing weather. The burst pipe was in the back half of the office that is currently vacant and I am not renting. The landlord would like to rent it but he has not found a renter for this space yet. There is no heating in the front portion of the office that I rent so I am using electric space heaters to heat my portion of the space.

I was kindly notified by the city on 12/28/22 that the water consumption on my bill was really high so their must be a leak in the office. The City asked if I would like the water turned off and I said yes so they turned it off so I wouldn't incur a higher water bill. I immediately called my landlord because I was out of town visiting family and he said that he would go to the office to assess the damages and dry up all the water from the leak.

The leak was found by the landlord and he fixed the broken pipes involved but I did go without water in my office for 2 weeks as a result. The landlord did lecture me and tell me that this water leak could have been avoided and the heat could have been turned on so that this wouldn't have happened. I told him yes it could have been avoided but my lease agreement with him was for the front half of the office and he let me know in the lease agreement that there was no heat in my half. When the other tenant that was renting the back half of the office left after her lease agreement expired in early December she disconnected the gas heat that only heats the back half of the office. The landlord had put the gas bill in his name but he did not tell me this. I argued that this building is not my building, my lease agreement with him is only for the front half of the office. I had no idea that the gas was even connected and it is not my responsibility to check on the space during bad weather.

I made a good faith payment today in the amount of \$153.50 (the normal monthly amount for water and sewer). The water just went down the drain as a result of the burst pipe but it also damaged the flooring in the back half of the office and there was no one in the office when this happened.

If my request would be considered I would really appreciate it.

Sincerely,

*Laura Graves*

Agent Representative

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304 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Stevenson, WA 98648