



## **Press Release** **December 15, 2023**

### **WGL Granted \$24.6 Million Rate Increase Disappointedly Amidst Consumers' Economic Struggles**

**Washington, DC** -- The DC Public Service Commission today approved a \$24.6 million rate increase for Washington Gas Light (WGL), resulting in an average monthly bill hike of \$7.63 for customers beginning in mid-January. WGL sought a rate increase of \$53 million, which the Office of the People's Counsel and various stakeholders strongly opposed, given the high energy burden consumers must shoulder as they continue to recover from the lingering impact of the pandemic.

Though OPC's advocacy resulted in a lower increase than WGL first requested, People's Counsel Sandra Mattavous-Frye expressed disappointment over today's decision.

*"This rate increase is disheartening, especially given ongoing financial struggles, particularly for low-income DC residents. While OPC recognizes the necessity of maintaining utility services, I believe more weight should have been given to the economic challenges our communities are navigating, including unemployment rates that remain higher than the regional and national averages."*

On a positive note, the Commission rejected two cost recovery proposals WGL related to climate. The decision to reject the proposals followed OPC's arguments that both lacked sufficient support and were not in the public interest. Had the proposals been approved, they would have further increased utility bills without the assurance of climate-related benefits for consumers or the city.

*"As local utilities repeatedly request rate increases that in most cases are unnecessarily high and beyond what OPC believes are needed to provide reliable and quality services, and the city lays the groundwork for major climate initiatives, the Office of the People's Counsel remains steadfast in advocating for the best interests of District of Columbia residents. We will continue to closely monitor utility proceedings to ensure reliability, affordability, sustainability, and equity in the energy sector,"* added People's Counsel Mattavous-Frye.

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