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May 5, 2015

Racine Water Works Commission
President, Tom Bunker
800 Center Street, Room 227
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Mr. Bunker:

My building complex called the Rapids Business Center on Rapids Drive and N. Memorial Drive has several water meters feeding the site. I have always been prompt in paying my water and sewer bill for the facility. One of those meters is a 3 inch water meter located in a pit. The Racine Water Utility has been trying to get me to install a meter bypass for several years and I cannot seem to find the necessary funds to get this accomplished. I have asked for assistance from the Public Service Commission as well as local and state politicians for leniency and /or grandfathering my current situation and I have been told no from all.

In November 2014, I signed an agreement with the Water Utility agreeing to install the meter bypass by June of 2015 or they could shut my water off to a portion of my building until I could get this work completed. I appreciate the time extension that was provided by Mr. Haas last year. I am currently obtaining revised quotations from local plumbing contractors. I understand that this piping change is my responsibility as a building owner and I have exhausted all efforts to get a pass on this State plumbing code requirement. I must now face the facts and bite the bullet and get this done. I also agreed to several milestones leading up to the bypass installation and I am currently a little behind on those and beg for your indulgence and forgiveness.

I am losing a large client of mine in O&H Bakery and I fear that others may follow suit and leave me with a vacant building complex. It is imperative that I get this plumbing work done to avoid losing more tenants of mine. Mr. Haas has explained to me that I need to find the funds and pay for this piping change. While he has explained to me that the Water Works Commission is not a loan agency and has never loaned any money to a ratepayer, I am asking if the Racine Water Utility would help me pay for half of the project cost with an interest free loan for half the cost. Assuming the work is in the neighborhood of \$10,000 I would be asking for a \$5,000 loan. You could have the City Attorney draw up an agreement that I would be committed to pay back in a 5 year period of time or you could put a lien on my property. I am concerned that if you proceed with shutting my water off for an extended period of time I will lose the few remaining tenants that I currently have.

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I understand that the Public Service Commission requires you to test large meters and that is why I am required to provide a meter bypass and a serviceable installation for the Water Utility meter. I also understand that the PSC has given you the go ahead to shut my water service off because I have not complied with your demands for a meter bypass. I hope that you can address my request at your upcoming May 26, 2015 Commission meeting. I am a good customer of the Utility and of the City of Racine and I am struggling to keep my building operational in these tough economic times.

I appreciate any consideration that you can give to me as you contemplate a short term loan for half of the amount so that I may comply with this plumbing code bypass requirement as part of servicing the Water Utility's meter installation at my location.

Sincerely,



John Schacht
Rapids Business Center