



## MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mayor David J. Narkewicz

DATE: October 6, 2014

### City's New Storm Water/Flood Control Fee to Begin

**Northampton, MA** – The first storm water/flood control fees will begin going out in the mail this week. This first bill will contain two quarters of billing – half of the total annual fee – and every property owner in the city will receive a bill. Included in the first bill is some helpful information from the Department of Public Works, the text of which is below.

**New storm water/Flood Control Fee:** The City of Northampton has implemented a new storm water and flood control fee for Fiscal Year 2015. For this first year the first and second quarter bills have been consolidated on the enclosed second quarterly bill. This means your current bill is twice as large as you will see in each future quarter for this fiscal year.

**New Customers:** Every property owner in the City will receive a bill for the new storm water and flood control fee. If you have never received a water or sewer bill for your property, you are now receiving your first utility bill for this new storm water and flood control fee. The following are examples of new customers:

- Owners of undeveloped properties are required to pay the new fee.
- Tax-exempt properties are required to pay the new fee. This includes hospitals, private colleges and schools, religious organizations and other non-profit agencies that own land.
- Some Condominium owners may be receiving their first utility bill from the City, because many water and sewer bills are sent to condominium associations, and not to condominium owners. This new storm water/flood control fee, however, is sent to each condominium owner as required by City Ordinance, meaning you may be seeing your first ever utility-related bill from the City.

NOTE: If you are a current water and sewer customer, the new storm water/flood control fee is included on your bill.

**Storm water/Flood Control Fee Credits:** The new storm water/flood control utility includes a system of credits which are ways to reduce your bill. Many of these credits have already been automatically included in the bills, as applicable.

For example, Senior Needs-based and Low Income Credits have been automatically included for property owners that have qualified through the Tax Assessor's Office for CL 41C Tax Exemptions or the CPA Tax Surcharge Exemption. If you have questions about qualifying for these two credits please contact the Assessor's Office (587-1200).

In addition, Protected Land Credits have been applied based on active status for Chapter 61 lands and documentation of permanent land protection restrictions.

For those receiving credits there is a line on your bill for "Storm Water Factor" which shows the percentage of the total fee that you are being billed after the credit is applied.

For more information on the new storm water and flood control fee please visit <http://ma-northampton.civicplus.com/726/storm-water-Flood-Control-Utility>. You'll find specific information on the fee assessed to your property as well as information on receiving a credit to reduce your fee. You may also contact the Department of Public Works directly at 413-587-1570. Copies of all information relative to the new storm water and flood control fee are also available at the Department of Public Works, and Forbes and Lilly libraries.