

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES

SERVICE SHUTOFF MORATORIUM

BE ADVISED that Senate Bill 4081 currently prohibits a local government from shutting off water to a residential customer, or to an account primarily serving residential customers, due to nonpayment of water charges unless the disconnection is to prevent, ameliorate or eliminate a risk to public health or safety. **This shutoff moratorium remains in effect until March 15, 2022.**

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY AND LIEN ENFORCEMENT MORATORIUM

BE ADVISED that until March 15, 2022, Senate Bill 4081 places a moratorium on local governments enforcing late payment charges and penalties on water and sewer and does not allow for a tax lien sale on such. On or after **March 15, 2022**, charges and penalties may be imposed for delinquent payments, and any payments remaining delinquent may be referred to a tax lien sale held by the municipal tax collector.

BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is currently developing a Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). This program is designed to assist water customers facing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information will be provided once the program is perfected and goes live.

OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY ARREARAGES IN INSTALLMENTS

BE ADVISED that residents experiencing economic hardship during COVID-19 and who are behind on their water payments may be eligible to enter into an agreement whereby the resident agrees to pay their arrearages in installments over a period of time. As part of the agreement, the resident must keep up to date on all current charges. For more information on repaying arrearages in installments, please email the Borough Utility Collector at taxcollector@alphaboronj.org .