

**From:** [Mark Siegfried](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Athens Rate Increase  
**Date:** Monday, June 20, 2022 8:30:42 AM

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I am submitting my objection to Athens Services' request for a 8.87% Rate Adjustment. 8.87% seems unreasonably high for the residents to absorb and will only be compounded for years to come over the terms of the City's agreement which can extend through 2034.

CPI for "Services" in LA County appears to increase 5.7% from April 2021 while the Producers Price Index by Industry for Solid Waste Collection by the St. Louis Fed increased 5.24% year over year.

While it may be part of the contract that Athens can ask for this increase, I do not think Council should approve this and should negotiate a lower rate with all of the other inflationary pressures that residents need to endure.

Sincerely,  
Mark Siegfried

Sources:

[https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/pdf/consumerpriceindex\\_losangeles.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/pdf/consumerpriceindex_losangeles.pdf)

<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/PCU562111562111>

**From:** [Janet Wall](#)  
**To:** [Alice Atkins](#)  
**Subject:** Athens rate increase item on agenda  
**Date:** Monday, June 20, 2022 10:06:09 AM

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Hi-

I am out of town so can't attend the City Council meeting tomorrow night. Would it be possible to have a statement read? If so, the statement is below:

I would like to voice my concern about the proposed Athens rate increase on tonight's agenda. My reasoning is as follows:

1. Athens has no competition and therefore has no incentive to demonstrate that their rate increase is based on facts relative to:

- a. Competitive rates
- B. Excellent customer service
- C. Ongoing review to ensure operational improvements

2. If part of the reason is based on the new recycling & composting mandates, no specific and detailed information has been provided to at least the public on what is required of Athens and Monrovia citizens. Thus must be done

3. Term of Athens contract. I think the citizens of Monrovia have a right to understand not only the length of the Athens contract but also the terms such as:

A. Rate increases - how often, how much, what proof of increased costs is required to justify the proposed rate increase

B. Competitive bidding - is there a clause that would allow for competitive bids - especially based on large increases such as the one proposed tonight?

C. What conditions allow the contract to be cancelled?

I have heard the contract term is well over 10 years. What terms favorable to the City of Monrovia would have caused such a long term contract to be executed? In my experience, long term contracts rarely end up favoring the client due to lack of needing to compete for business.

I would also like to know if any sitting council members have taken campaign contributions in any election- if they have I think they should be required to recuse themselves from voting.

I understand the need for businesses to increase cost but a rate hike of this size must be justified. If any of the increase is due to inflation or gas prices, these should be surcharges that can be stopped when gas prices and inflation go down. Once these types of increases are included in a rate hike, they never go down when the specific conditions go away.

I think it is wrong that Monrovia's don't have a choice for trash service, or at the very least, detailed, and proven, reasons for increases are provided.

Unless all of the above has been provided to the City Staff and it justifies the rate increase amount, I urge Council members to vote no and that they begin to thoroughly review the contract.

Thank you for your time.

Janet Wall  
Janet Wall. Sent from my iPhone