



DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commissioner Boyer to Host County's Meeting on Water and Sewer Upgrades

DECATUR – DeKalb County Commissioner Elaine Boyer will host a community meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 7 in Dunwoody to inform North DeKalb residents about CEO Burrell Ellis' proposal to again raise water and sewer rates in the county. The meeting will be held at Dunwoody City Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Boyer, a Republican who represents District 1 on the Board of Commissioners, will host the meeting with District 5 Commissioner Lee May. Dunwoody City Hall is located at 41 Perimeter Center East, Suite 250.

In 2007, the DeKalb Commission approved a five-year plan to implement more than \$1.4 billion in upgrades to the county's aging water and sewer system. Rates increases have been approved through 2011. However, CEO Burrell Ellis is proposing even higher rate increases – ones of 13 percent for each year in 2012, 2013 and 2014 to pay for more infrastructure improvements.

"I hope homeowners and business owners will come out and tell the county what they think about the idea of raising water and sewer rates another 39 percent," said Commissioner Boyer.

"In such a dire economy where so many DeKalb residents are out of work and foreclosures are skyrocketing, I'm very hesitant to consider another water rate hike."

Boyer said the Commission took prudent steps to improve the county's water and sewer system but residents can only sustain so many rate hikes. "We don't want to increase the number of foreclosures or force elderly residents out of their homes," she said.

DeKalb County's staff will make a presentation on the county's water, sewer and infrastructure needs. Watershed experts will identify capital improvements needed over the next five years to continue provide a safe water supply, ensure adequate fire protection and anticipate growth and development.

The county is using bonds to pay for the construction upgrades to its aging water system. All of the county's water is processed at the Scott Candler Water Treatment Plant on the edge of Dunwoody off Peeler Road. Sewage is treated at one of three plants in the county.

To find out more information about the water and sewer meeting, contact Commissioner Boyer's office at 404-371-3052.

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