



FOR IMMEDIATE

April 7, 2022

Chamberlain, Macomb

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SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

RELEASE

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Township Community

MACOMB TOWNSHIP BOARD VOTES TO WITHHOLD PAYMENTS FOR HIGHLAND PARK DEBT

Macomb Township, Mich. — The Macomb Township Board of Trustees voted to withhold a portion of the township's water bill payment until there's a resolution in the lawsuit against Highland Park for their unpaid water bills.

The Great Lakes Water Authority is asking Macomb Township, and 86 other communities in Southeast Michigan, to foot the bill after the City of Highland Park has failed to pay their water bills for nearly a decade. This has spread Highland Park's roughly \$54 million debt across dozens of communities in metro Detroit. Macomb Township residents would be left paying \$443,600 of the city's water debt.

Township Supervisor Frank Viviano has sent a letter to Governor Gretchen Whitmer last month asking state officials to intervene in the matter.

"By any measure, this is an unfair burden to place on the residents of Macomb Township, as well as the other communities that are a part of the GLWA," Viviano said in the letter. "The likely result of the path we are all on will be costly and time-consuming litigation. However, a higher authority has the ability to step in and become a part of the solution."

As Macomb Township residents pay their water bills, the portion that would have gone to GLWA to cover the Highland Park debt will now go into escrow. Once a decision has been made in the case against the city, or the state government steps in, that money could potentially go back to the residents.

Giving the burden of this debt to the people of Macomb Township and its neighbors is unfair. This signals to others that if they don't pay their bills then others will just pick up the tab.

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