



May 14, 2008

## Gennaro Offers Plan To Cut Water Rate Hike From 14.5 To 2.75%



City Councilmember James F. Gennaro unveiled a plan yesterday to reduce the Water Board's proposed 14.5 percent water rate increase to only 2.75 percent.

Joined by Councilman David Weprin and **Bob Friedrich** he called upon Mayor Michael Bloomberg to adopt his plan immediately before the Water Board votes on its proposal on Friday.

Gennaro (D- Fresh Meadows), who has been campaigning against Water Board increases since last year, explained his plan is based on "the basic principle that Water Board revenues should not be used to bolster the city's general fund".

*Councilman James Gennaro unveiled a plan to reduce the proposed water rate hike by over 80 percent at City Hall on May 12. He was joined by some of the supporters of this plan, including Councilman David Weprin, **Glen Oaks Village Co-op President and Council Candidate BOB FRIEDRICH** and Local Initiatives Support Corporation Research and Policy Analyst Sarah Hovde.*

Gennaro said the mayor could stop the practice of diverting Water Board revenues to the general fund "right now if he wanted to. It isn't written in stone," he said. Gennaro said if his plan was adopted and the proposed diversion of the \$122 million was stopped, the proposed 14.5 percent hike being sought would be reduced by 9 points. Eliminating \$55 million in

agency reimbursements would further reduce the 14.5 percent hike by another 2.75 percent, bringing the proposed increase down to 2.75 percent.

**BOB FRIEDRICH** said, "We are getting soaked by these unconscionable water rate increases." His idea is to allow full deductibility of double digit water rate hikes from property tax bills of co-op and single family homeowners. Bob said, "By doing this, which the City Council can do legislatively, we will cap these financially burdensome rate increases from our working class families."

## BOB FRIEDRICH

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE  
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

September 15, 2009

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