

Mak, Chanda (ATG)

From: Debby H. <dabeeus@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 4:55 PM
To: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel
Subject: PSE Rates and Public Hearings

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Members,

I recently received the Notice of Requested Changes with my recent PSE bill and have been trying to stay calm and absorb this information.

I live in a 55+ manufactured home community with 89 residents. It is distressing to read these proposals to further add yet *another* expense to the already tight budgets of these community members, myself included.

We have been paying increased *annual* rents caused by increasing property values due to explosive growth in our area. With the current situation of inflation causing everyday items to cost more, folks here are really feeling a squeeze. Any easing of inflation will take added time to resolve. Another rent increase will be coming in October, effective January 2023. These have been running in the 5-10% range *yearly*, again caused by increasing property values and taxes payable by the management owners of this community. In addition, individual residents pay personal property taxes on top of these rent increases.

Also, I am aware of the possible increase of Social Security coming in October. When I discuss this with my neighbors, they roll their eyes telling me, "Oh sure, and the Medicare costs usually increase also, wiping out any surplus." What other medical expenses and issues are they having to personally cover along with the cost of supplemental insurance?

When we discuss the possibility of some sort of senior dispensation program, that is met with a discussion of income ceilings that are extremely low and unreasonable to meet.

You need to understand the demographics here. This neighborhood consists primarily of widows, some widowers, who have lost a substantial income from the death of their spouse. Some women may have not been able to establish long term investments to see them through their golden (aka rust) years. Some do not have children or elder siblings to be able to assist them in their situation. And what parent wants to add that financial burden onto their children who are already struggling with their own family costs and expenses?

The option of finding different affordable housing is impossible here.

I appreciate the goals that PSE is trying to meet. I'm glad they are looking and planning ahead. They provide outstanding service and jobs. However, do these goals necessarily need to fall on the backs of our aging citizens?

Is there something you are able to persuade PSE to consider to help get us through this? We are not the only 55+ community in our area. I'm sure everyone in this category is feeling the pinch and worrying.

Thank you for your kind and compassionate consideration.

Sincerely,
Deborah Holt
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