

Nov 30, 2015



BY E-MAIL

exc@toronto.ca

Executive Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Ms. Jennifer Forkes, Administrator, Executive Committee

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,

Re: Item 10.23: 2016 Rate Supported Budgets - Toronto Water and Recommended 2016 Water and Wastewater Rates and Service Fees

I wish to express my concern regarding the proposed 8% increase in the water rate for 2016, and request that Executive Committee reduce this increase.

YaYa Foods is located in South Etobicoke, having moved our manufacturing plant to the City of Toronto several years ago. We employ 190 people, having created these new jobs in Toronto when we opened our plant here. The food and beverage industry is extremely competitive, and our South Etobicoke Plant is competing in this challenging environment.

Water is a significant cost for our manufacturing operation. For the past several years, water costs have been increasing at 9% per year, and in 2015 increased by 8%. While we understand the need to replace water infrastructure, these are very large increases, and disproportionately impact business in Toronto. No other input costs are increasing at this rate. In addition to this, sewer surcharge fees are also increasing dramatically – as high as 31 % for some parameters, and a third increase from charging for multiple parameters was also just approved. These multiple increases have a cumulative impact on the cost of our operations and those of our suppliers.

We ask that the City, through its Executive Committee, exercise some reasonable restraint and refrain from this dramatic level of cost increase. The three increases of water rates and sewer surcharge costs are not sending a very positive message to business in the City.

We request that Executive Committee reduce the annual increase in the water rate from the 8% currently planned, and minimize the surcharge costs increases.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

Eli Cohen
Executive VP
YaYa Foods Corp.

cc. Councillor Mark Grimes, Ward 6