

Pierre N. Attallah B.Sc.
Kirkfield Park
Winnipeg, Manitoba

November 21, 2023

Via: winnipeg.ca Submission form

Winnipeg Mayor **Scott Gillingham** & Councillors
510 Main St.
Winnipeg MB R3B 1B9

Re: \$135M Smart Water Meters Winnipeg Manitoba not Properly Researched

Dear Mayor & City Councillors,

I am Pierre N. Attallah of Kirkfield Park in Winnipeg Manitoba. It has come to my attention that the City of Winnipeg, of which I am a resident, is planning on spending \$135M on new smart water meters based on alleged beneficial claims. As a concerned citizen and taxpayer, I am opposed to this spending for the following **inexhaustive reasons**.

1. We elect councillors to run the daily operations of the City and to make general decisions, with the expectation that this will be done in a responsible, financially prudent and transparent manner. For an expenditure of this size it is critical to **consult the people of Winnipeg**. Have you considered putting this to public vote on the next ballot? It would be irresponsible to rush an expenditure of this magnitude without gathering input from city residents.

2. One of the claims is that our existing direct read water meters are under billing residents. This is something that could easily be tested. Has the City of Winnipeg conducted sound and reliable analysis on this claim? With the cost of water being referred to as a fraction of a penny per cup/litre my hypothesis would be that any **water measuring accuracy** would be **monetarily negligible**.

3. It is a well known fact that mechanical water meters have a lifespan of well over 50 years without issue. No electronics have that lifespan. It is possible that these so called "smart meters" will all need replacement before the City realizes any financial benefit which could prove to become **an epic water disaster at huge financial cost to citizens and taxpayers**.

With many water main breaks occurring at an increasing rate due to our crumbling infrastructure, I believe residents would get greater benefit by spending half of this money on new copper water pipes to **improve the quality of our drinking water**. This would significantly reduce the occurrences of brown water and the financial loss of losing unpaid fresh water.

There are many residents who share my concerns. Therefore, I respectfully request consideration of all the above.

Yours truly,



Pierre N. Attallah B.Sc.