

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Rate Increase Requests of the     )  
Hillcrest Utility Operating Company, Inc             )     **File No. WR-2016-0064**

**PUBLIC COUNSEL’S REQUEST FOR A LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING**

COMES NOW the Office of the Public Counsel (“OPC” or “Public Counsel”) and for its Request for Local Public Hearing and Date Recommendation, states as follows:

1. On September 14, 2015, Hillcrest Utility Operating Company Inc., (“Hillcrest”) initiated small company rate increase proceedings with the Missouri Public Service Commission (Commission) requesting a total water and sewer revenue increase of \$452,679 for its water and sewer regulated utilities.

2. On October 21, 2015 the Commission consolidated the water and sewer rate requests of Hillcrest into WR-2016-0064.

3. While the case is proceeding forward per the small company rate increase timeline, to date between Staff and OPC, 101 residents, which represent 42% of Hillcrest’s 240 customers, have filed public comments in EFIS or have phoned OPC or Staff to voice concerns over the proposed rate increase. The setting of a date and location for a local public hearing has been discussed with Staff and the Company and the parties do not object.

4. Pursuant to 4 CSR 240.3-050(15), OPC makes its formal request for a local public hearing in the above referenced matter. OPC has consulted with counsel for the Company and with Staff and proposes March 9, 2016 as the date to schedule the local public hearing. OPC would also propose using the same location as was utilized in the local public hearing for the certificate of convenience and necessity case, WO-2014-0340, of the Osage Centre on 1625

North Kingshighway, Cape Girardeau, Missouri if that location is available on the date and time set by the Commission.

5. Public Counsel further requests that the Commission order the company to provide written notice of the local public hearings to each customer.

WHEREFORE Public Counsel submits its local public hearing request.

Respectfully,

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC COUNSEL

By:     /s/ Cydney D. Mayfield    

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, emailed or hand-delivered to all counsel of record this 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016:

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