



## City of Cincinnati

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Greater Cincinnati Water Works Credit Rating Upgrade to “AAA”**

This week Greater Cincinnati Water Works’ long-term credit rating was upgraded to “AAA” from “AA+” by Standard & Poor’s, a global leader in credit ratings. This is the highest rating possible by Standard & Poor’s. There are only 20 water utilities in the United States with a “AAA” rating from Standard and Poor’s, less than 1% of all water utilities.

At the same time, Moody’s Investor Services confirmed a rating of Aa1, the second highest rating possible. GCWW’s focus on strong customer service and outreach has provided the department with opportunities to expand its customer base and continue to provide excellent drinking water in a financially responsible manner.

“This top credit rating by Standard & Poor’s is excellent news, particularly in the current economy” said David Rager, Director of GCWW. “It demonstrates confidence in our financial stability.”

This rating is similar to an individual’s credit score and ultimately leads to the amount of interest paid over the life of a loan. The higher the rating, the lower the interest rate.

In their reports to investors, the rating agencies noted GCWW’s strengths. Standard & Poor’s pointed to GCWW’s position as a regional service provider, the region’s deep and diverse employment base, and the organization’s strong management, financial strength and long-term rate stability.

Moody’s recognized City Council’s consistent support for requested rate increases as a credit strength. They also highlighted GCWW’s financial health, broad service area, strong system capacity and nearly unlimited water supply allowing for future growth, strong management including financial forecasting and planning for future regulatory issues.

Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s reports included the fact that Cincinnati is considering a proposal to shift the water utility to a regional district. The transition to a water district was considered positively as a way to maintain a strong financial future for the utility through a large, economically diverse customer base.

“Based on the recommendations of the study group, Moody’s believes that operations of the utility are not likely to be significantly affected by the transition to a regional district,” according to Moody’s report.

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