

PRESS RELEASE

Fort Valley Utility Commission

Date: September 13, 2018

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**FORT VALLEY UTILITY COMMISSION
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The Fort Valley Utility Commission filed a Petition For Declaratory Relief today in Peach County Superior Court seeking judicial clarification of long standing issues regarding the Commission's authority to manage and operate the local utility system.

The Utility Commission's previous efforts to collaboratively resolve these issues with the City have been unsuccessful, mainly due to the City's unresponsiveness to the Commission's settlement proposals. The Commission felt it necessary to file the Petition at this time because of findings in the City's recent audit report. The audit report lists findings of fiscal deficiencies and fiscal mismanagement that could negatively impact the Commission's ability to continue to operate the utility system at its current level of financial strength. The filing of the Petition is necessary to protect the stability and strength of the Commission's financial position and to protect customers from unreasonable rate increases due to the City's fiscal challenges.

The Commission will continue efforts to work collaboratively with the City to settle the issues between the parties.