



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUREAU OF UTILITIES

8250 Old Montgomery Road ■ Columbia, Maryland 21045 ■ 410-313-4900

Arthur Shapiro, Chief

FAX 410-313-4919

www.howardcountymd.gov

TDD 410-313-2323

Fire Hydrant Usage Agreement Number: _____

This Agreement for use of a Howard County Bureau of Utilities rental meter to obtain water from Howard County Fire Hydrants for limited purposes, is made between Howard County, Maryland and _____ (Name of Business or individual) "Customer" this _____ day of _____, 20__ , for a term of six months.

The Customer agrees to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Any failure to meet any term or condition of this Agreement is a basis for its immediate termination and the immediate return of the rental meter. The rental meter remains the property of Howard County. Failure to return it constitutes theft and will be reported to the Howard County Police Department. Use of the meter must be in compliance with this agreement and Howard County Rules and Regulations governing Fire Hydrant Use, a copy of which is attached.

The Customer will be furnished with a meter equipped with the necessary fittings/accessories to attach the meter to the fire hydrant, including a fire hydrant wrench. The attached fittings are not to be removed. At the time of rental, the Customer will be instructed in the proper methods of operating both the meter and the fire hydrant. The Customer will be billed for the cost of any repairs required because of damage to either the meter or a fire hydrant. The Howard County Hydrant Meter Tag is not to be removed from the Howard County rental meter. There will be a \$25.00 replacement fee if the tag is removed from the meter.

The meter must be returned for inspection every six months, on or before the six-month expiration date noted on this Agreement unless the Bureau of Utilities requests it be returned earlier. If the rental water meter and accessories are not returned by the expiration date, a \$10-dollar late fee will be charged every day until they are returned.

In the event the meter is lost or stolen, the Customer must immediately notify the Bureau of Utilities. The deposit will be immediately applied to the cost of replacement and the Customer will be billed for any replacement costs that exceed the amount of the deposit. In addition to late fees and monthly service charges, a water usage charge of 1,500 gallons per day will be assessed against the account for all days that were not previously billed.

A new agreement and meter must be issued for each six-month period. All money owed must be paid prior to the issuance of a new agreement. Existing deposits will carry over to the new agreement unless the deposit was reduced to cover the cost of damaged, lost or stolen meters. Bills will be issued quarterly and must be paid within 30 calendar days. **Failure to pay all amounts due and owing by the due date will result in a 10% late fee for every ninety (90) days the bill remains unpaid.**

A monthly usage log and a photograph of the meter dial and number shall be emailed by the first of each month to rentalmeters@howardcountymd.gov . The location (Hydrant #), the time, the date, the beginning meter reading and the ending meter reading must be recorded in the log for each meter usage. Failure to submit this information will result in a quarterly bill with an estimated water usage charge of 1,500 gallons per day in addition to the monthly services charges and may result in the termination of this Agreement.

Howard County Bureau of Utilities reserves the right to:

- make periodic field inspections of the meter during the six-month period.
- restrict the use of certain fire hydrants for any reason.
- recall a rental meter and terminate a Fire Hydrant Usage Agreement for any reason.
- impose special fire hydrant restrictions or conditions during times of drought or water shortage.

The Customer agrees to indemnify Howard County, and all of its employees, for any liability associated with the use of the meter.

The meter may be used only to obtain water for non-potable uses and is not to be used for direct connection to fill swimming pools unless by a pool filling contractor. If there are any questions, please call 410-313-4977 between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.

	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Monthly Service Charges</u>
1" Meter	\$400.00	\$50
3" Meter	\$1,500.00	\$50
Replacement Cost for Lost Hydrant Wrench	\$75.00	
Water Usage Charge – current rate per unit of water (748 gallons, 100 cubic feet)		

If the meter is damaged or tampered with, such as removing the register, or there is any failure to adhere to the most recent revision of Howard County’s Rules and Regulations, this Agreement will be immediately terminated and the

Customer will forfeit the deposit. Howard County reserves the right to refuse service to any entity that fails to comply with this Agreement.

The Customer must ensure that the meter is registering at all times. When a meter fails to register, it shall be returned immediately for repair or replacement. Under no circumstances is the Customer to use the meter with a broken or missing register.

Use of a Howard County rental meter outside of Howard County, is a violation of the law and a breach of this agreement. Use of any rental meter in Howard County that has not been issued by Howard County is a violation of the law and may result in civil fines or criminal penalties.

Only a fire hydrant wrench is to be used to operate a Howard County fire hydrant. The fire hydrant water meter shall not be left unattended while connected to a fire hydrant.

The customer shall immediately report any fire hydrant damage or malfunction to the Bureau of Utilities by calling 410-313-4900.

A copy of this Agreement must be in the possession of the person using the Howard County fire hydrant water meter. Any truck, tank or vessel used for hauling water must be inspected and have a Howard County Water Permit affixed prior to use.

By signing below, I affirm that I have read and understand and agree to all the terms and conditions of this Agreement. I acknowledge that I have been instructed in the proper use and operation of a fire hydrant and the hydrant meter and I know how to read the meter. I understand that I am personally liable for any amounts due and owing under this Agreement. I affirm that I am the owner or authorized agent of the owner for the business utilizing the meter and agree that the business is liable for any amount due and owing under this Agreement, and that I am authorized to enter this Agreement.

Name of Business: _____ Federal Tax ID #: _____

Address: _____ Email Address: _____

_____ Telephone Number: _____

Intended Use of Meter: _____

Business Owner _____
Name

Authorized Agent: _____
Print Signature Title

Driver's License #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Meter Size _____ Type _____ Number _____ Starting Meter Reading: _____

Hydrant Wrench Issued: Yes _____ No _____

Accessories: _____

Date Out: _____ Expiration Date : _____

Signed In By: _____ Date _____

Ending Meter Reading: _____

If Applicable:

Late Return Date: _____ Days Late _____ Late Fees: _____

Any Meter Damage When Returned Yes _____ No _____ Repair Charges: _____
