

# TOWN OF ROTTERDAM

**Mollie Collins, Supervisor**  
Jack Dodson, Deputy Supervisor  
Evan Christou, Councilmember  
Samantha Miller-Herrera, Councilmember  
Joseph Mastroianni, Councilmember



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John F. Kirvin Government Center • 1100 Sunrise Boulevard • Rotterdam, NY 12306  
Telephone: 518-355-7575 • Fax: 518-355-7976 • Website: [www.rotterdamny.org](http://www.rotterdamny.org)

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Media Contact: Brittany Kenny, [bkenny@martingroupmarketing.com](mailto:bkenny@martingroupmarketing.com)

## **ROTTERDAM TOWN BOARD CALLS ON ASSEMBLYMAN SANTABARBARA TO PASS LEGISLATION EXEMPTING ROTTERDAM FROM WATER METER MANDATE**

### *Town Seeks Funding for Infrastructure Improvements and Mandate Relief*

ROTTERDAM – The Rotterdam Town Board Majority is calling on Assemblyman Santabarbara to pass legislation to exempt Rotterdam from any law, rule, regulation or condition that would require the town to install water meters on residential properties. "We are pleased to see the Assemblyman shares our opposition to water meters. Assemblyman Santabarbara is a member of the Democrat Majority, and we are asking him to fast-track legislation that would exempt Rotterdam from any government mandate that would lead to a water meter installation requirement," said Councilman Joe Mastroianni. The Republican Majority has made it clear that they will fight against any mandate to install the water meters.

The Councilman is also asking Assemblyman Santabarbara to secure state financing to upgrade the town's water system. "Our engineers have estimated the cost of our upgrades to run around \$28 million, with a state budget spending over \$200 billion we believe that a majority member should have no problem securing this infrastructure financing for his hometown" Mastroianni added.

Assemblyman Santabarbara has issued correspondence to the town board expressing his shared concerns about the DEC mandate, has made numerous media statements and is now collecting signatures on a petition to oppose the meter mandate. Mastroianni is hopeful that the steps the town is taking to implement a water leak detection program and initiating a water conservation public awareness campaign, along with Assemblyman Santabarbara's petition drive, would be enough for him to secure this desperately needed infrastructure financing and pass legislation that would protect the community from being forced to install water meters.

"Fortunately, we are all in agreement on this issue. Rotterdam residents don't deserve this being forced on them by the state, when they are already struggling to make ends meet. The rising inflation is already taking a toll on our families, the state has to help. More importantly, we have a hometown representative in the State Assembly Majority who can help his community get relief from this mandate and secure the much needed financing to conserve our precious resource," added Town Supervisor Mollie Collins.

Deputy Town Supervisor Charles Dodson, who is an engineer, expressed optimism over the request "we have nearly thirty thousand residents in Rotterdam who contribute a significant amount of tax revenue to the state, a return of some of that money for infrastructure purposes sounds like a no-brainer. Historically Rotterdam has been neglected when it comes to infrastructure improvement projects, this is a great opportunity for the Assembly and Senate representatives to step up and help our community."

The town has sent a letter and draft legislation to Assemblyman Santabarbara formalizing the request. The legislative session is only halfway through and with the exception of the state budget, spending bills have yet to be taken up, so there should be plenty of time to get this legislation and financing through the process.

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