



City of Hamilton

GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE (BUDGET) REVISED

Meeting #: 24-001
Date: January 16, 2024
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers (GIC)
 Hamilton City Hall
 71 Main Street West

Angela McRae, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 5987

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6. PUBLIC HEARING / DELEGATIONS

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10.1 Closed Session Minutes - November 27, 2023 - General Issues Committee (Rate Budget)

Pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-sections (b) and (d) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (b) and (d) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including City or local board employees; and labour relations or employee negotiations.

11. ADJOURNMENT



**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
(RATE BUDGET)
MINUTES 23-032(a)**

9:30 a.m.

November 27, 2023

Council Chambers, City Hall, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Mayor A. Horwath
Councillor J.P. Danko (Budget Chair)
Councillors J. Beattie, C. Cassar, B. Clark, M. Francis, T. Hwang,
T. Jackson, C. Kroetsch, T. McMeekin, N. Nann, E. Pauls,
M. Spadafora, M. Tadeson, A. Wilson, and M. Wilson

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Ward Office Staffing Review (HUR23017) (City Wide) (Item 11.1)

(Kroetsch/Hwang)

- (a) That the direction provided to staff in Closed Session, respecting Report HUR23017, Ward Office Staffing Review be approved and remain confidential;
- (b) That Report HUR23017, respecting the Ward Office Staffing Review remain confidential; and,
- (c) That the Confidential presentation respecting Report HUR23017, Ward Office Staffing Review, be received and remain confidential.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark

Yes - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
 Yes - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
 Yes - Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
 Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
 Absent - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
 Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

2. Councillor Ward Office Budgets and Policy Guidelines for Eligible Expenses for Elected Officials (FCS18083(d)) (City Wide) (Item 7.1)

(Kroetsch/Cassar)

That staff be directed to report back in January 2024 with revised recommendations respecting Councillor Ward Office Budgets and Policy Guidelines for Eligible Expenses for Elected Officials.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes - Mayor Andrea Horwath
 Yes - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
 Yes - Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
 Yes - Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
 Yes - Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
 Yes - Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
 Yes - Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
 Yes - Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
 Yes - Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
 Absent - Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
 Yes - Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
 Yes - Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
 Yes - Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
 Yes - Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
 Absent - Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
 Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

3. 2024 Recommended Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget (FCS23100) (City Wide) (Item 5.1)

(Kroetsch/A. Wilson)

(a) That the metered water consumption charges for average residential properties (meters < 25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Monthly Water Consumption (m3)	Rate (\$/m3)
0 – 10	1.07
> 10	2.13

- (b) That the metered water consumption charge for commercial, industrial, institutional and larger residential properties (meters = >25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the rate of \$2.13 per cubic metre, effective January 1, 2024;
- (c) That daily water fixed charges for all properties in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Meter Size	Daily Water Rate
15 mm	\$0.48
16 mm	\$0.48
20 mm	\$0.48
21 mm	\$0.48
25 mm	\$1.20
38 mm	\$2.40
50 mm	\$3.84
75 mm	\$7.68
100 mm	\$12.00
150 mm	\$24.00
200 mm	\$38.40
250 mm	\$55.20
300 mm	\$81.60

- (d) That the wastewater / storm treatment charges for average residential properties (meters < 25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Monthly Water Consumption (m3)	Rate (\$/m3)
0 – 10	1.08
> 10	2.15

- (e) That the wastewater / storm treatment charge for all commercial, industrial, institutional and larger residential properties (meters = >25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the rate of \$2.15 per cubic metre, effective January 1, 2024;
- (f) That daily wastewater / storm fixed charges for all properties in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Meter Size	Daily Wastewater / Storm Rate
15 mm	\$0.52
16 mm	\$0.52
20 mm	\$0.52
21 mm	\$0.52
25 mm	\$1.30
38 mm	\$2.60
50 mm	\$4.16
75 mm	\$8.32
100 mm	\$13.00
150 mm	\$26.00
200 mm	\$41.60
250 mm	\$59.80
300 mm	\$88.40

- (g) That the residential non-metered annual water rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$777.45 per annum, effective January 1, 2024;
- (h) That the residential non-metered annual wastewater / storm rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$784.75 per annum, effective January 1, 2024;
- (i) That the residential combined non-metered annual water and wastewater / storm rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$1,562.20 per annum, effective January 1, 2024;
- (j) That the Private Fire Line rates be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Connection Size		Monthly Rate
mm	inches	
25	1	\$4.67
38	1.5	\$10.74
50	2	\$18.68
75	3	\$42.02
100	4	\$74.70
150	6	\$168.08
200	8	\$298.81
250	10	\$298.81
300	12	\$298.81

- (k) That the 2024 Water, Wastewater and Storm Proposed User Fees and Charges be imposed as per Appendix "G" to Report FCS23100, effective January 1, 2024;
- (l) That the 2024 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Operating Budget in the amount of \$303,338,939 be approved as per Appendix "A" to Report FCS23100;
- (m) That the long-term financing plan for the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater programs and related rate increases required to meet sustainable financing as identified in the 2024 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Operating Budget forecast 2025-2033 (Appendix "A" to Report FCS23100) be approved, in principle;
- (n) That the 2024 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Capital Budget and Financing Plan in the amount of \$285,872,000 be approved as per Appendices "K", "N", "Q" and "S" to Report FCS23100;
- (o) That the 2025-2033 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Capital Budget forecast and financing plan (Appendix "I" to Report FCS23100) be approved, in principle;
- (p) That the City Solicitor be authorized and directed to prepare, for Council approval, all necessary by-laws respecting the 2024 water and wastewater / storm user fees, charges and rates set out in Recommendations (a) through (k) of Report FCS23100;
- (q) That the 2024 Rate Supported Staffing Summary, inclusive of the proposed Business Cases, be approved as per Appendix "F" to Report FCS23100;
- (r) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, be authorized and directed to negotiate and confirm the terms for the placement and issuance of all debenture issue(s), and / or private placement debenture issue(s), in either a public or private market and / or bank loan agreements and debenture issue(s) and / or variable interest rate bank loan agreements and debenture issue(s), in an amount not to exceed \$70,439,684 Canadian currency as attached in Appendices "K", "N" and "Q" to Report FCS23100, which includes \$39,869,133 in Rate Supported municipal debt and \$30,570,551 Rate Supported Development Charges municipal debt;
- (s) (i) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, be authorized to engage the services of all required professionals to secure the terms and issuance of the debenture issue(s) described in

Recommendations (r) and (t) including, but not limited to, external legal counsel and fiscal agents;

- (ii) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, is authorized and directed, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, to enter into and / or execute, all agreements and necessary ancillary documents to secure the terms and issuance of the debenture issue(s) described in Recommendations (r) and (s) and conditional upon the by-law being enacted as described in Recommendation (t) to Report FCS23100, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (t) That staff be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary By-Law(s), for Council's consideration, for the purpose of authorizing debenture issue(s) described in Recommendation (r) to Report FCS23100;
- (u) That the City of Hamilton appeal to the Provincial Government of Ontario and the Federal Government of Canada for financial assistance in addressing the infrastructure deficit in the water, wastewater and storm programs; and,
- (v) *That staff be directed confirm and differentiate between the component of the rate budget increase is due to provincially mandated regulations (both through Bill 23 exemptions and statutory exemptions) and City initiated rate increases due to operating and capital increases and reflect these two components on individual line items on both the rate budget bill and accompanying communications materials.*

Result: Main MOTION, As Amended, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora

Yes - Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS

- (i) Item 11.1, respecting Report HUR23017, Ward Office Staffing Review, is to be moved up on the agenda and considered immediately following approval of the previous minutes to accommodate the external consultants.
- (ii) Item 7.1, respecting Report FCS18083(d), Councillor Ward Office Budgets and Policy Guidelines for Eligible Expenses for Elected Officials, is to be considered immediately following the consideration of Item 11.1, respecting Report HUR23017, Ward Office Staffing Review, as the two items are related.

(Hwang/Kroetsch)

That the agenda for the November 27, 2023 General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting, be approved, as amended.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 16 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) November 21, 2023 (Item 3.1)

(Horwath/Kroetsch)

That the minutes of the November 21, 2023, General Issues Committee (Budget) meeting be approved, as presented.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 16 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(d) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL (Item 14)

(i) (Kroetsch/Hwang)

That Tammy Elliott and Andrea Friesen, Mungall Consulting Group, be permitted to attend the Closed Session portion of the meeting respecting Item 11.1, Report HUR23017, Ward Office Staffing Review.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 16 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis

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Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

(ii) (Cassar/Francis)

That Committee move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-sections (b) and (d) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (b) and (d) of the *Ontario Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including City or local board employees; and labour relations or employee negotiations.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 16 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Yes	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(iii) Ward Office Staffing Review (HUR23017) (City Wide) (Item 11.1)

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1.

(iv) Recess

(Kroetsch/Tadeson)

That the General Issues Committee recess for 30 minutes until 1:30 p.m.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath
Yes	-	Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2 Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3 Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4 Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5 Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7 Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8 Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9 Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10 Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11 Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12 Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13 Councillor Alex Wilson
Absent	-	Ward 14 Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15 Councillor Ted McMeekin

(e) STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 6)

(i) 2024 Recommended Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget (FCS23100) (City Wide) (Item 6.1)

(i) (Kroetsch/A. Wilson)

- (a) That the metered water consumption charges for average residential properties (meters < 25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Monthly Water Consumption (m3)	Rate (\$/m3)
0 – 10	1.07
> 10	2.13

- (b) That the metered water consumption charge for commercial, industrial, institutional and larger residential properties (meters = >25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the rate of \$2.13 per cubic metre, effective January 1, 2024;
- (c) That daily water fixed charges for all properties in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Meter Size	Daily Water Rate
15 mm	\$0.48
16 mm	\$0.48
20 mm	\$0.48
21 mm	\$0.48
25 mm	\$1.20
38 mm	\$2.40
50 mm	\$3.84
75 mm	\$7.68
100 mm	\$12.00
150 mm	\$24.00
200 mm	\$38.40
250 mm	\$55.20
300 mm	\$81.60

- (d) That the wastewater / storm treatment charges for average residential properties (meters < 25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Monthly Water Consumption (m3)	Rate (\$/m3)
0 – 10	1.08
> 10	2.15

- (e) That the wastewater / storm treatment charge for all commercial, industrial, institutional and larger residential properties (meters = >25mm in size) in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the rate of \$2.15 per cubic metre, effective January 1, 2024;
- (f) That daily wastewater / storm fixed charges for all properties in the City of Hamilton be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Meter Size	Daily Wastewater / Storm Rate
15 mm	\$0.52
16 mm	\$0.52
20 mm	\$0.52
21 mm	\$0.52

25 mm	\$1.30
38 mm	\$2.60
50 mm	\$4.16
75 mm	\$8.32
100 mm	\$13.00
150 mm	\$26.00
200 mm	\$41.60
250 mm	\$59.80
300 mm	\$88.40

- (g) That the residential non-metered annual water rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$777.45 per annum, effective January 1, 2024;
- (h) That the residential non-metered annual wastewater / storm rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$784.75 per annum, effective January 1, 2024;
- (i) That the residential combined non-metered annual water and wastewater / storm rate be imposed at the flat rate of \$1,562.20 per annum, effective January 1, 2024;
- (j) That the Private Fire Line rates be imposed at the following rates, effective January 1, 2024:

Connection Size		Monthly Rate
mm	inches	
25	1	\$4.67
38	1.5	\$10.74
50	2	\$18.68
75	3	\$42.02
100	4	\$74.70
150	6	\$168.08
200	8	\$298.81
250	10	\$298.81
300	12	\$298.81

- (k) That the 2024 Water, Wastewater and Storm Proposed User Fees and Charges be imposed as per Appendix "G" to Report FCS23100, effective January 1, 2024;

- (l) That the 2024 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Operating Budget in the amount of \$303,338,939 be approved as per Appendix "A" to Report FCS23100;
- (m) That the long-term financing plan for the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater programs and related rate increases required to meet sustainable financing as identified in the 2024 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Operating Budget forecast 2025-2033 (Appendix "A" to Report FCS23100) be approved, in principle;
- (n) That the 2024 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Capital Budget and Financing Plan in the amount of \$285,872,000 be approved as per Appendices "K", "N", "Q" and "S" to Report FCS23100;
- (o) That the 2025-2033 Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Capital Budget forecast and financing plan (Appendix "I" to Report FCS23100) be approved, in principle;
- (p) That the City Solicitor be authorized and directed to prepare, for Council approval, all necessary by-laws respecting the 2024 water and wastewater / storm user fees, charges and rates set out in Recommendations (a) through (k) of Report FCS23100;
- (q) That the 2024 Rate Supported Staffing Summary, inclusive of the proposed Business Cases, be approved as per Appendix "F" to Report FCS23100;
- (r) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, be authorized and directed to negotiate and confirm the terms for the placement and issuance of all debenture issue(s), and / or private placement debenture issue(s), in either a public or private market and / or bank loan agreements and debenture issue(s) and / or variable interest rate bank loan agreements and debenture issue(s), in an amount not to exceed \$70,439,684 Canadian currency as attached in Appendices "K", "N" and "Q" to Report FCS23100, which includes \$39,869,133 in Rate Supported municipal debt and \$30,570,551 Rate Supported Development Charges municipal debt;
- (s) (i) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, be authorized to engage the services of all required professionals to secure the terms and issuance of the

debenture issue(s) described in Recommendations (r) and (t) including, but not limited to, external legal counsel and fiscal agents;

- (ii) That the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, is authorized and directed, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, to enter into and / or execute, all agreements and necessary ancillary documents to secure the terms and issuance of the debenture issue(s) described in Recommendations (r) and (s) and conditional upon the by-law being enacted as described in Recommendation (t) to Report FCS23100, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (t) That staff be authorized and directed to prepare all necessary By-Law(s), for Council's consideration, for the purpose of authorizing debenture issue(s) described in Recommendation (r) to Report FCS23100;
- (u) That the City of Hamilton appeal to the Provincial Government of Ontario and the Federal Government of Canada for financial assistance in addressing the infrastructure deficit in the water, wastewater and storm programs.
- (ii) **(Danko/Cassar)**
That Report FCS23100, respecting 2024 Recommended Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Rate Supported Budget, **be amended**, by adding an additional sub-section (v), as follows:
 - (v) ***That staff be directed confirm and differentiate between the component of the rate budget increase is due to provincially mandated regulations (both through Bill 23 exemptions and statutory exemptions) and City initiated rate increases due to operating and capital increases and reflect these two components on individual line items on both the rate budget bill and accompanying communications materials.***

Result: AMENDMENT, CARRIED by a vote of 14 to 0, as follows:

Yes - Mayor Andrea Horwath
Absent - Ward 1 Councillor Maureen Wilson

**General Issues Committee (Budget)
Minutes 23-032(a)**

**November 27, 2023
Page 15 of 16**

Yes	-	Ward 2	Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3	Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4	Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5	Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 3.

(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

(Tadeson/Pauls)

That there being no further business, the General Issues Committee (Budget) be adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Result: MOTION, CARRIED by a vote of 15 to 0, as follows:

Yes	-	Mayor Andrea Horwath	
Yes	-	Ward 1	Councillor Maureen Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 2	Councillor Cameron Kroetsch
Yes	-	Ward 3	Councillor Nrinder Nann
Yes	-	Ward 4	Councillor Tammy Hwang
Yes	-	Ward 5	Councillor Matt Francis
Yes	-	Ward 6	Councillor Tom Jackson
Yes	-	Ward 7	Councillor Esther Pauls
Yes	-	Ward 8	Councillor J. P. Danko
Absent	-	Ward 9	Councillor Brad Clark
Yes	-	Ward 10	Councillor Jeff Beattie
Yes	-	Ward 11	Councillor Mark Tadeson
Yes	-	Ward 12	Councillor Craig Cassar
Yes	-	Ward 13	Councillor Alex Wilson
Yes	-	Ward 14	Councillor Mike Spadafora
Yes	-	Ward 15	Councillor Ted McMeekin

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor John-Paul Danko
Chair, General Issues Committee (Budget)

Angela McRae
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Letter to Council re: 2024 budget

From: Joshua Weresch
Sent: November 20, 2023 3:41 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Letter to Council re: 2024 budget

Dear Clerk,

Hope this finds you well.

Below, please find a letter to Council regarding the 2023-4 rate-supported and tax-operating budgets. Thank you for your time and attention in these regards.

Kindly,

Joshua Weresch

To the mayor and councilors of Hamilton, Ontario:

Hope this finds you well. I write as a life-long resident in Hamilton, regarding the budgets to be considered and passed later this and early next year. I am encouraged to read of Council's endorsed priorities between last year and 2026, priorities for sustainable economic and ecological development, safe and thriving neighbourhoods, and responsiveness and transparency (see <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-council/council-committee/2022-2026-council-priorities-outcomes-measures-success>).

An outcome for sustainable economic development is the reduction of the burden on residential taxpayers and as a resident in the city it is a reduction I am hopeful to see reflected on property tax bills. While the reduction of storm-water fees for residences whose storm-water foot-print is reduced by the use of rain barrels and de-paving and the use of permeable surfaces is one I hope to see reflected in the budget, as well as an equalization of the tax burden between other sectors be they institutional or commercial, and an end to the subsidy of single-family dwellings by multi-residential units whose taxes are almost three times as high, I am most deeply concerned with the percentage of each tax dollar that is directed toward policing services. It is the largest budget item in the 2023 budget, \$717 of \$4784 dollars, \$0.14 of every tax dollar. The other outcomes in sustainable development can handily be addressed as more money is diverted from policing services toward an accelerated response to climate change, further investments in public transit and a reduction in GHG emissions by lowering the use of private transit, the protection of green spaces and waterways by planting more trees, and the growth of key sectors in the city by enhancing the city's reputation as it lurches toward flourishing.

Safe and thriving neighbourhoods can also be garnered by the immediate expropriation of any and all available housing for people in need on a temporary, emergency basis. Under the province's Expropriations Act s. 5(1)(a), the council of the municipality is legally authorized to expropriate land for municipal purposes and I can think of no better way to increase supportive housing and reduce chronic homelessness, short of petitioning the province to increase welfare and disability-support payment rates and to tie further increases to the cost of living in a given municipality. The safe and

efficient movement of people can again be had by a continued investment in public transit and the re-direction of 90% of the provincial gasoline tax revenue into public transit and not into road maintenance, roads which are already \$100,000,000 behind in repairs. Increasing public transit supports will lead inexorably to the support, growth, and use of public space.

Responsiveness and transparency can be helped by the clear, safe, and dignified organization of city-run town halls. As the recent town halls on the tiny shelters have demonstrated, it remains important for the city's staff and councillors to talk with and to neighbours about placement and care for all neighbours. Establishing a network of neighbourhood associations which can meaningfully engage both with neighbours and with councillors, sharing information openly and democratically so that those who are most impacted by decisions have the most say over how those decisions happen are ways that such transparency can be had. As trust improves in institutions, as councillors are shown to be reflective of all residents' concerns in a ward, this priority, too, can be met.

I hope that the budget passed by Council with community input, direction, and over-sight is a budget that reflects the lived experiences and concerns of many residents in the city, particularly those who are poorest and have the most deeply-felt and lived concerns of all.

Respectfully,

Joshua Weresch

From: Elizabeth
Sent: November 28, 2023 10:01 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Francis, Matt <Matt.Francis@hamilton.ca>
Subject: property tax

To whom it may concern,

My name is Elizabeth Aquila, I am a retired Registered Nurse who was born, raised, schooled and worked in Hamilton and I am writing to express my outrage regarding the proposed reality tax increase of 14.2 % in this city

Hamilton reality taxes have consistently and chronically been scandalously higher compared to other municipalities and neighboring cities even though our property values have been lower, in comparison.

There are countless hard working individual and families already struggling to keep up with the cost of living, how can they continue to be stressed with continued high tax hikes? Many are already unable to pay these high taxes how can you expect more, especially for those on fixed incomes, unless forced to abandon their homes and add to the homeless (already placed in public hotels and other facilities). I think the spending in this city is unreasonable and not well prioritized.

I do not think, as many agree, that the bike lane project enquires to be expedited at outrages costs.

I also do not agree or fair that counselors/city staff decide where my tax dollars should go regarding charities. I have my own personal charities that I prefer to contribute to. In fact with continued financial strain the city is forcing on citizens is adding to the limits of what I can contribute to the charities of my choosing!

Climate initiative cost of up to 2.5 million is certainly unreasonable. Do counselor and other city staff bike to work or do they take public transportation or car pool?

I also think, as many agree, that six digit incomes are absurd. Perhaps these numbers can be re evaluated and funds distributed appropriately where needed.

I suspect that the counselors who voted in favour of the proposed property taxes increase do not live in our city of Hamilton.

I am frustrated and tired of the poor management of this city and employ you to look long and hard with intelligence and unbiased at the decisions you are making and how these decisions impact on individual lives in this city.

Thank you for reading

Regards

Elizabeth Aquila

From: Bob Hooshley
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 8:05 PM
To: McRae, Angela <Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca>
Subject: 2024 budget - waste collection costs

Hamilton is behind the times regarding residential waste collection.

I've recently moved to Waterdown from Peel Region and realize how inefficient and excessively costly Hamilton's collection routine is. Hamilton's tax rates are significantly higher than Peel Region's so ways to reduce Hamilton taxes must be pursued.

Many municipalities have moved to larger wheeled collection bins which allow bi-weekly pickup which saves collection time, fuel and fleet maintenance, resulting in lower costs and less diesel truck exhaust pollution. Waste and recycling are picked up on alternate weeks, as opposed to both every week in Hamilton. Reducing pickup frequency also encourages residents to produce less waste and recycling as it becomes more top of mind as they manage it for 2 weeks versus 1 week.

Hamilton must modernize its waste collection system to save taxpayers' money and reduce toxic diesel pollution at the same time.

Thank you in advance for having this matter reviewed during the current budget discussions.

Robert Hooshley,
Waterdown

From: Katrina Jackson
Sent: January 10, 2024 2:21 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Property tax

Good afternoon,

The 14% raise to property tax would create a great struggle for my family and many other families in Hamilton. With inflation we are already struggling to pay our bills and this would make it much worse. As a teacher and my husband as a construction worker, we should be able to afford our bills but this increase we would make it hard to even put food on the table for our 3 kids. Where would this extra money for the city even go?

This is greatly inappropriate on your behalf.

Katrina Jackson

From: nola stewart

Sent: January 11, 2024 9:28 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Tax Supported Capital Budget

I would like to participate in Hamilton's Annual City budget. I am a homeowner in Ward 3 -Stipley . I am very disappointed of emphasis of use of vacant King George school for parking for Tiger Cat games and other venue events and revenue I believe is controlled by an outside source? I very much believe a children's playground is needed. The closest park is Gage & Main St. I reside Gage & Barton area.

There was past but gone to the wayside of a park designation on Lloyd St (behind Freshco) . Our children need a safe place for interaction with nature and outdoor fun. So much emphasis is on technology and I believe nature and exercise is very important too.

There is a wonderful green space beside school and ideal for a park.

I look forward to your feedback on matter.

Nola(I question if this is for 2025 budget also?

From: Daniel Innis
Sent: January 11, 2024 2:22 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Constituent Questions for Next Meeting (1/24/23)

Hi There,

I would like to address the concerns/questions below on behalf of a senior I know who also lives in the City of Hamilton. He would like his questions addressed, if possible, at the next city council meeting- please confirm that it is on 1/24/23. I have shared this constituent's concern at bottom.

Is there an opportunity to share these questions/concerns in-person during the meeting, or must they be submitted online? Thank you for your clarification.

Sincerely,

Daniel Innis

Constituent Concerns/Questions:

1. What plans does the city have to relieve those outlying communities that are burdened to pay for services that they will never use? i.e. LRT, HSR to name a couple.
2. Why is the city council willing to spend \$26 to convert Main St. to a two-way street? Many intersections have already posted "no right turn on red" signs on several intersections to reduce pedestrian accidents. Why can't Hamilton traffic rule violators be sanctioned using existing traffic laws and enforcements instead of imposing a backward way to solve a concern. Slowing down traffic throughout Hamilton will also cause more pollution from idle vehicles. Environmental targets that the city has set will be challenged by bumper-to-bumper traffic throughout Main Street's thoroughfare.
3. What audit considerations (or scrutiny) has been applied when the different departments have presented their 2024 budget numbers to council? Example: Does the police budget get an automatic pass for the sizeable increase proposed? Is this just a matter of them presenting their budget, answer a few questions, then move on....? Continuing to increase taxes beyond sustainable numbers is not a solution.
4. I fear that the value of my home/property is depreciating in value because of the crazy high taxes we pay in Carlisle. If my house was 1 KM away in Halton Region, my taxes would be at least 20% lower! How is this possible? Why has Hamilton let this get so out of hand?
5. Amalgamation was a disaster! Plain and simple. When we had our town Hall in Waterdown, budgets were scrutinized with a fine tooth comb and with the taxpayer in mind. What happened to common sense?

6. Finally, I am a retiree on a fixed income and have never seen a 14.2% increase in my pension. How is it that I am expected to support a tax increase that is eroding my revenue every year?

From: Rose Janson
Sent: January 11, 2024 5:45 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Yes! Courage for substantial Tax Increases

Just a brief message-

We would like to recognize the hard work that City Council has been doing. Thank you.
And yet your hands are tied-

Critical services for citizens need investments. Tax increases must be levied.
The needs are so great; never have there been more homeless and hungry.

Every homeowner must contribute more--
Please take courage! You will have more support than you think-

R. Janson

From: Michele Gallagher
Sent: January 12, 2024 7:19 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Written Submission

Good afternoon, my name is Michelle Gallagher, and I am a concerned citizen of Ward 2.

I can no longer recall a time before all these so called "unprecedented times". Perhaps the City of Hamilton has forgotten what kind of world we live in right now. If any of you have forgotten, I invite you to spend some time walking through the downtown.

Our city is beautiful. The people are beautiful. But far too many people in our city are living outside, exposed to the elements, because the city is unable or unwilling to house them.

And in the midst of this sobering landscape of both reality and the mind, Hamilton Police has the staggering audacity to request a 13.3 million dollar increase in their budget.

For what? For what, I ask you? What are the police doing to house our citizens? To address the cost of living crisis? To assist the disabled and elderly in our community?

If we cannot afford to house our fellow humans, we most certainly can't afford to increase funding to the police.

I had a very privileged upper middle class upbringing. I am white. I went to University. And still, because of this cost of living crisis, I sleep on the floor next to my child's bed because I can only afford a one bedroom apartment. I am only a few strokes of bad luck away from being unhoused myself.

If we continue to funnel city funds away from housing, away from people who actually need it, more and more people will find themselves in my situation. Maybe, god forbid, you might find yourself in that situation, or worse. It's not impossible.

I urge you to consider the future you are building for the people who will come after you, including your future selves. What kind of Hamilton do you want to live in as you grow old? Do not rely on privilege to protect you. Privilege can be a fickle beast.

A better Hamilton is still possible. And that better future is inextricably attached to defunding the police and investing in its people.

Council, it is your responsibility to house the people of Hamilton and we will not stop holding you to that.

Regards,

Michelle Gallagher
Ward 2

Angela McRae, Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk
1st Floor, 71 Main Street West, Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5
Fax to 905-546-2095

January 12, 2024

Dear Councillors,

My name is a Melissa Stark. I am a lifelong Hamiltonian and I currently live in the Kirkendall neighbourhood. I wish to express my disappointment with the drastic price increase for 2024 on-street parking permit fees.

We have no driveway or onsite parking available and for our two cars, the total fees for the on-street parking permits for the last few years (2022, 2021, 2020) have been \$212, \$212, and \$210, respectively.

The 2024 fee for our two cars is \$355.95. This is nearly a 68% increase in one year, which I find extremely unreasonable. There was no explanation in the letter we received, and even with inflation, this level of increase is completely unacceptable.

I first reached out to the City of Hamilton (Joanne Starr, Acting Manager, Parking Operations) and my ward councillor, Maureen Wilson, and have received the following explanation:

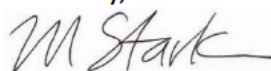
- "In establishing the current pricing, considerations included a comparison to other municipalities as well as the recognition that on-street parking is seen as a valuable resource by most residents"- Joanne Starr
- "I voted in favour of the increase following the comparative analysis and the shift that all cities are making in terms of trying to identify the real value/cost of parking." - Maureen Wilson

While I understand the need to increase costs annually, such a drastic increase in one year is completely outrageous. I would have expected a staggered increase over a couple years or at the very least, a notice to existing permit holders such as myself to let us know that this change was coming.

I am requesting a repeal of the 2024 fees to better align with reasonable increases and a review of the fees for 2025.

Thank you for your consideration of my feedback.

Sincerely,



Melissa Stark



From: Mike Chiarelli

Sent: January 12, 2024 2:20 PM

To: Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>; Danko, John-Paul <John-Paul.Danko@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>

Subject: 2024 Budget Input

Greetings:

Here again is my submission for consideration in the next budget deliberations with minor revisions

Property taxes in Hamilton are significantly higher than many of our surrounding communities and the provincial average (according to Zoocasa and Realtors.com). Out of the 32 communities (1 representing lowest property taxes, 16 the median, and 32 the highest), Hamilton ranked 22 out of 32, well above the provincial median.

Consider that:

Property tax increases during the past decade exceeded inflation most years with the exception of the past year.

Property taxes are regressive in nature, hurting people on fixed incomes, seniors, and retirees who have spent a lifetime paying for their homes and now living on lower incomes. (this is a growing demographic – aging baby boomer/retiring on lower income) - the real effect being a deterioration of quality of life after years of sacrifice and hard work!

Recent annual inflation rate was 3.3.% as of July 2023 and is now projected to fall around or under 3 %

Bank of Canada is working toward an annual 2 % inflation target.

Growth in household income (before taxes) at approximately 4 %.

Average Household income in Hamilton is approximately \$108 000 (2020 Stats Canada) before taxes and approximately \$70 000 after taxes. Average income is around \$60 000. This doesn't leave enough to pay for increases in basic necessities let alone tax increases.

An increasing amount of disposable income is going towards property taxes and municipal fees thus lowering the quality of living and putting additional financial strains on many households.

In other words, property tax increases exceed average income gains, and for many families (like retirees, seniors and those whose income are not keeping pace) this is placing greater financial hardship to make ends meet.

Tax levels across the city of Hamilton are inequitable - with homes in ward 8 for example paying significantly higher annual property taxes than other parts of the city for similar homes & property values.

When compared to friends in Burlington, Oakville, Milton, & Mississauga - I pay between \$1000 and \$2000 more per annum in property taxes for a home 500 to 1000 square feet smaller and for a much lower market value. The same holds true in comparison to friends/relatives in Kitchener/Cambridge/Guelph and parts of Brantford & Haldimand/Norfolk.

Despite the above, this city has essentially ignored ratepayers, the impact of decisions on ratepayers, and continues to spend beyond our means. The road to hell is paved with good intentions, but a modicum of fiscal responsibility and relief to taxpayers is well past due!

Furthermore, the city has done little to curb spending - non essential spending, nor to find efficiencies, to set service levels commensurate with demand (in all areas). When the City of Toronto and cities in Halton, Peel, feel a budget crunch, they are quick to lobby the provincial government & often cut services or lay off staff temporarily -- placing the blame squarely on provincial downloading or cutbacks. These cities are reluctant to impose the burden on their ratepayers, and only do so with great hesitation and as a last resort. For Hamilton which has higher property taxes, even modest increases in a higher base result in a greater financial burden.

In Hamilton, it's spend and tax --- then repeat, with virtually no regard to the impact on average families and ratepayers. It's got to stop!! It's all about setting priorities and then budgeting accordingly. Not everything can be done & less essential services have to be paused, cut or eliminated until appropriate funding (not tax revenue) can be found. Also, once a budget is set, no new spending should be permitted unless commensurate savings elsewhere are found. Finally, council and department heads should spend time rigorously reviewing what items to cut, reduce or pause every year to help provide relief to ratepayers. Council needs to ask - do we really need to spend in a certain area or can it wait or be scaled back? other than specific emergency type services, snow removal, waste collection and major infrastructure repair --the answer is no. And for these areas, reasonable metrics ought to be established.

One example that illustrates my point -- let's take a look at public transit ---(just one area where prudent management would see reduced costs to ratepayers) --

According to a recent report from the Toronto Region Board of Trade the following metrics are interesting to note:

The document reports that only 47 per cent of public transit operating costs in Hamilton are recouped by fares. In comparison, 66 per cent of transit operating costs in Toronto are covered by fares. In my opinion, both transit services are relatively robust for communities of their size.

And, although service in Hamilton has experienced 17.18 per cent growth between 2010 and 2019, ridership reportedly decreased by 7.87 per cent in that same time frame.

The above points to questionable planning and decisions over the past decade, much to the detriment of ratepayers.

I share this with you as just one example of taxpayers bearing a higher burden than necessary & an area of spending that should be closely investigated to balance demand with the interests of taxpayers.

Tip of the iceberg!

Conclusion and facts:

- property taxes in Hamilton are much higher than most cities in Ontario
- property tax increases have exceeded inflation most years in the past decade
- property tax increases have outstripped average gains in income
- property tax hikes are regressive, make home ownership less affordable & more costly & unfair to a growing segment of the population
- cost of living and affordability is the quintessential issue facing most families - hear the people please!! not the squeaky wheel!
- greater effort must be made to limit tax hikes to below the lesser of the rate of inflation or average gains in income in this city
- impact on ratepayers need priority consideration in all budget deliberations & a true effort to curb spending must be part of the process.
- property tax levels in Hamilton should be lowered over time to at least the provincial median & more importantly reflect ability to pay & relative household income levels & growth

thank you

Michael Chiarelli

From: Montana M
Sent: January 12, 2024 3:30 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Jan 16 General Issues Committee - Budget deliberations

Dear Clerk,

I would like my written response to be included in the Jan 16th General Issues Committee meeting on Budget deliberations.

My name is Montana Mellett and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Landsdale. As a concerned constituent, I am writing to express objections to the proposed increase in the Hamilton Police Services (HPS) budget. The suggested addition of \$13.3 million to an already substantial budget, raises significant concerns regarding the appropriate allocation of resources. I implore you to reconsider this proposal during the upcoming budget deliberations and advocate for a more responsible distribution of funds.

In light of recent information from a report by The Hamilton Spectator, which highlights a staggering 2,000-applicant housing backlog waiting to get affordable housing, it becomes even more critical to reassess our budgetary priorities. This backlog underscores the serious need for increased investment in essential community services, rather than expanding the police budget.

City council should re-allocate the existing HPS surplus and the \$13.3 mil they are asking for towards community-led initiatives. These initiatives should prioritize existing organizations that cater to vulnerable communities, which have been disproportionately affected by the lack of action from governing bodies. Essential steps include the allocation of resources to community-led organizations offering vital services and the creation of alternative services, such as crisis intervention, mental health centers, safe consumption sites, and housing programs.

Also, I call for a demilitarization of the HPS and a redirection of tax dollars toward initiatives combating issues like food insecurity. It is disheartening to witness public funds being directed towards the acquisition of highly militarized equipment and sophisticated surveillance tools rather than addressing the urgent housing needs of our community.

The current emphasis on policing disproportionately affects communities consisting of poor, disabled, Black, Indigenous, racialized, queer, and trans individuals. Increased police presence does not ensure safety, if anything they have constantly been proven to escalate situations, and make matters worse. Policing, as it stands, perpetuates systemic issues of racism, ableism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism. City council needs to recognize the inherent flaws in this system and take decisive action against the unwarranted spending of public funds.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing the budget re-allocated to more important community initiatives.

Sincerely,
Montana Mellett

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 14, 2024 3:19 PM
To: McRae, Angela <Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Tax increase

My name is Brian Murray I live [REDACTED], I object strongly to the property tax increase in Hamilton ...last year 6% this year 10-14 %that's 20 percent in two years I'm am a pensioner living on a fixed income .That means in 5 years we would be facing A 100% increase ...this is madnessThis is not why we elect people to put us out on the street !You must find areas to cutthe first I suggest is the farcical elevated tram ..This is an unjust increase with no fair reason.....Signed Mr and Mrs Murray

Sent from my iPad

From: KK Z
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2024 5:39 PM
To: Pilon, Janet <Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Mayor Horwath : "I encourage Hamiltonians who live or work here to participate in this year's budget process through public delegations."

Hello Janet I forgot to cc you on this. Please read and any questions please feel free. Thank you. Kim

Subject: Mayor Horwath : "I encourage Hamiltonians who live or work here to participate in this year's budget process through public delegations."

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>, Office of the Mayor <Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca>, Cassar, Craig <craig.cassar@hamilton.ca>
Cc: <maureen.wilson@hamilton.ca>, <ward2@hamilton.ca>, Nrinder Nann <ward3@hamilton.ca>, Tammy Hwang <ward4@hamilton.ca>, Matt Francis <matt.francis@hamilton.ca>, Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>, Esther Pauls <esther.pauls@hamilton.ca>, John-Paul Danko <ward8@hamilton.ca>, Mark Tadeson <mark.tadeson@hamilton.ca>, Alex Wilson <ward13@hamilton.ca>, Mike Spadafora <mike.spadafora@hamilton.ca>, Ted McMeekin <ted.mcmeekin@hamilton.ca>, Jeff Beattie <jeff.beattie@hamilton.ca>, Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>

Dear Mayor Horwath

With all due respect, you were hired to manage the city. To ask citizens for input, particularly at this point in time, seems senseless. However I am sure you have your reasons.

I did provide input earlier this year, and other than Councillor Ted who challenged me to a debate, I received no feedback. I will provide you once again with my input for consideration and questions for you and Council to answer. Unfortunately I have a personal issue that prevents me from providing a video or attending in person. I respectfully request that my Councillor, Craig, read this on my behalf or if not, the Public Clerk, into record during the GIC meeting.

May I submit to you that the greatest challenge Hamiltonians are facing is the continual erosion of their standard of living.

Visibly we can see it all around us: increasing homelessness, food banks overwhelmed, hospital decline, etc. But here are a couple of examples that are not visible and there are thousands more examples across this city. You all impact these people whether you realize it or not:

- The grocery clerk whose wife was recently disabled who is raising his son, single mother daughter, and her daughter. He opens his first pay cheque of the year and sees

his take home pay is less, due to increases in CPP contributions. His mortgage is coming due in April.

-The senior single father on a fixed income supporting his 35 year old schizophrenic son and ensuring he takes his meds, stays off drugs and does not wind up on the street.

You Are Accountable

1. Every time you increase taxes you lower citizens' standard of living. It is that simple. You were elected to run a billion plus operation efficiently. We are living in tough times and it is not the time to waste taxpayers money frivolously.

2. Why is there not an immediate hiring freeze...no replacements for retirements as well? How many FTE's have been hired on your watch and costs/benefits analysis? How many in the last ten years and ratio to population increase?

3. Budget process and input from citizens. You present a series of tax increases showing consequences of those options. Starting at zero, 1%, 2%....14%. At least citizens would know what to engage with. (yes it is a lot of work which senior management must be capable of doing). **For example if the Parks & Recreation get no increases what is the impact? User fee increases? Less hours? etc.**

4. Hamilton has one of the highest costs of living in the country to wages earned. Yet in 2014 Council declared Hamilton a "sanctuary city". Can we afford to continue on this path when we have our own citizens living in tents, our food banks overwhelmed, our hospitals in dire shape? **Mayor Horvath and Council you can do something to end this. People that are in the country illegally should not be provided services. They should be dealt with by federal authorities. At the very least you have an obligation to debate this, engage with local federal MPs, and look for alternatives and equitable distribution across the nation.**

5. The federal and provincial governments are broke. Feds are paying more in interest (\$40 billion) on the debt than they do on medical transfer payments to the provinces. Looking to them for help is like robbing Peter to pay Paul. It's up to you to manage our issues. Although I do agree the Linc should be under provincial jurisdiction as it relieves 403/QEW. Which brings up a non budget issue....LRT debate should not be non grata. You want citizen engagement, transparency and trust set up a referendum and let the people speak. Bold leaders do bold things. Following the current path will lead to red bands on your arms. In the event you are ignorant of history please watch this short video to understand. <https://youtu.be/qnpATXvwWrl>

Your comments, feedback, etc. are welcome and appreciated.

Anyone on my bcc list feel free to respectfully add your comments to your elected Councillor and mayor.

Janet please attach for the GIC/Budget meeting and ensure someone reads it on my behalf for public record. Thank you.

Kind regards,
Kim Zivanovich Ward 12

January 12, 2024

Hamilton, Ontario.

City of Hamilton,
71 Main Street St. W.,
Hamilton, Ontario.
L8P 4Y5

Attention: City Clerk

Dear Sirs:

Re: Comment & Opinion on 2024 Tax Operating & Capital Budget

This letter constitutes my opinion in regard to the above-mentioned topic to be reviewed and taken into consideration as a property tax owner & payee, whereby, a significant amount of the income & expenses incurred by the City of Hamilton are supported from my residential property.

The current city council needs to and **must** exercise extreme fiscal restraint in considering this budget. **They need to differentiate between 'essential & must have' and 'would like'**. It has become very obvious from watching city council meetings that some councillors (we know who you are) seem to think there is a bottomless pit of money to cover everything they would like at property owner's expense. They should be running the city as they should be running their own personal finances in a prudent manner by identifying the 'essential items & fixed expenses' and only considering purchasing 'would like' items if they have any extra money left over. We cannot make-up in a few years for a large financial

shortfall in infrastructure & capital projects that have been neglected or put-off and continue to accumulate for many years while simultaneously continue to fund a multitude of often frivolous 'pet projects/causes' that they personally feel strong about. If they care so strongly about a specific cause perhaps they should be working instead for a private agency or organization that addresses that cause instead of expecting homeowners to fund it directly from their property taxes and at the expense of other more important & urgent city requirements. I often wonder if these councillors personally contribute financially to their 'pet projects/causes. I know I financially contribute with my limited income to a few causes including women's shelters & addiction recovery services, but do they.

The \$750,000. cost to expand the number of E-Bikes is another 'would like' being covered by reserves and are only available to a small proportion of city residents.

winterizing washrooms in public parks (no one feels safe going to any park these days (in the daytime & definitely at night), whereby, they will just be destroyed & repaired or replaced at great expense again & again (constantly throwing bad money after good), the parks are virtually empty of families all the time no matter what month it is throughout the year because they do not feel safe because of the homeless who have taken up residence in them or someone has vandalized the equipment and no one would even dare to use the washrooms so we basically are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to winterize them for the homeless who just destroy them (replacing with metal fixtures would make no difference as it would just be ripped out to sell as scrap metal) or use them for illicit purposes),

City run fireworks or laser displays (at least the city councils of the cities of Montreal & Vancouver have had the foresight & fiscal prudence to eliminate this unnecessary expense due to budget constraints).

We should not be financing various & multiple street festivals due to the significant cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars to cover policing, traffic control, maintenance & clean up at this time. There are nice for some, but, not essential and must have.

I feel only a nominal amount should be provided to services that are supposed to be shared with the Province due to the Province being remiss or providing limited

funding even though the various items e.g. Publicly Funded Health Care, L.T.C., Housing & Children's Services etc. are very important issues. We have over the last couple of years spent double on housing than what the Federal & Provincial governments have provided to us. **As quoted by Mayor Andrea Horwath in a recent council meeting & printed in the Hamilton Spectator on December 21, 2023 We certainly are not in a financial space, as we all know, to be able to pick up the slack as other orders of government withdraw**". The City of Hamilton should be going after the Provincial government (and Federal government) by pressuring them through their local representatives to live up to their responsibility and provide their share of appropriate funding required and not leaving the Hamilton property owners paying the shortfall directly for which the Province should be doing. The Provincial government will not change their stance as they realize that the City of Hamilton continues to fund these items for which they should be doing as they will just feel it's money that they do not have to spend as we are doing it for them.

Public safety on the escarpment stairs has come up recently with council deferring this item to budget deliberations an estimated cost of \$400,000 for possible cameras which experts have already said would probably not provide an identifiable image of the culprit. I feel Improved lighting and significant brush cut-back from the stairs would be helpful. The city is considering a one-year 'pilot project' on perhaps one stairwell which any potential culprit would instead just use one of the other four remaining staircases so I cannot see how effective that would be. Why spend a considerable amount of money on a partial 'pilot project' to see if it works or not and, if not, just remove it and waste the financial expenditure. The city has a habit of trying different 'pilot projects' at a significant amount of money which I equate to throwing spaghetti on the wall to see what sticks. Some measures may or may not possibly deter these individuals. Other than having armed security stationed at the top & bottom of each staircase 24 hours a day which would be unrealistic and financially impossible there is no way that the stairwells can be totally safe. Individuals, in particular females, using these staircases should be accept some responsibility under these isolated conditions and carry personal alarm system which, hopefully, in most cases would scare the culprit away.

I also feel that the city should stop frequently spending such a significant higher cost on outside consultants to study and provide feedback on a multitude of issues. The city should have enough qualified and competent staff to cover most issues unless it is an extremely specialized matter.

Stop using reserves for 'frills' or 'pet projects' i.e. e-bikes or eventually we will have little to no reserve in case of an emergency etc.

The estimated \$26 million price to convert Main St. to two-way is a complete waste of money and once, if ever, the LRT (another wasteful project that is just essentially replacing the B-Line and the revised cost to the city to operate I'm sure will be astoundingly higher (just look at the revised cost to operate either the Finch West or Eglinton Crosstown in Toronto which are still under construction)) Main St. will just turn into a parking lot with only one lane for traffic east and west, the LRT taking up another line and bike lanes (another waste of money) taking up another lane. I've been around long enough to barely remember when & why it was converted to one way to create an easy flow of traffic and reduce the bottleneck of traffic. So essentially no one will be going anyway any time soon. People will just avoid it and create heavy traffic along Cumberland Ave/Lawrence Ave. and Cannon St. which many are already doing so they will also become congested. Adjusting the traffic light signals would slow traffic down and the main areas that need to be addressed are the intersections of Dundurn St./Main St. & Dundurn St./King as those are the problematic intersections.

No city sidewalk clearing. The city already does a terrible job on major street corners and at bus stops which they are required to do which are either not done at all, half done or still difficult to traverse by foot and impossible by scooter, walker or stroller so clearing of sidewalks would not be any better and not meet the city's snow clearing requirements for city sidewalks and would only be done if a certain amount of snow has fallen. Do you really think they would clear the entrances to driveways initially or come back repeatedly when snowplows plow the driveway entrance in again?

Homeowners, especially those on fixed incomes & seniors with the continuous rise in the cost of living, utilities, food and transportation are finding it

increasingly difficult to maintain and remain in their homes with the added cost of the significant & continuously increasing property taxes. If you think you have a problem now with the number of homeless you could possibly end up with even more from the aforementioned. For your information according to the 2021 Census 18.3% of the residents of Hamilton are 65 and over and I'm pretty sure it would be significantly higher now. That is almost and probably now is closer to 20% or 1 in 5 so think about that.

Of the property tax taken in by the City of Hamilton approximately 86% is generated from residential homeowners and only 14% is generated from commercial and industrial owners. This proportion is severely flawed & atrocious on so many levels & needs to be addressed as very few people can now or will be able to afford to own a home in this city due to a disproportionate amount of city taxes that are carried on the backs of homeowners. This equation is so extreme from other municipalities throughout the province and needs to be addressed and efforts made to fix it.

I would prefer that my tax dollars are spent on essential and must have items such as infrastructure, capital projects, policing services (although certain councillors (again we know who you are) pretty much would prefer at minimum a reduction of policing services due to a seemingly personal & biased grudge against them) (we need policing services more ever now with more crime & expanding development), emergency services & waste water & storm water management.

Again, I reiterate unbiased & very extreme and hard decisions must be made.

I am requesting that you take my opinions and comments into consideration as a life long resident of this and a property tax paying homeowner.

Any questions or concerns you may have regarding this matter you can contact me at the above address or by telephone at .

Sincerely,

Sylvia C. Perrone

From: Hollie Pocsai
Sent: January 13, 2024 1:57 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Request for Written Delegation - January 16 2024

Hello,

I am writing to request that the written delegation below be shared at the council meeting on January 16, 2024 regarding the tax operating budget.

Kindly,

Hollie Pocsai she/her
(prn: POH-chai-ee)

My name is Hollie Pocsai and I am a resident of Hamilton, living in Ward 2. I write to express my deep concern and opposition to the proposed \$13.3 million dollar increase in the Hamilton Police Services budget for the fiscal year 2024. I believe it is crucial for our city to reevaluate its priorities and investments in light of growing concerns surrounding the increasing militarization of our communities.

In every other service sector, and especially in non-profit and social services, there is an expectation to scrupulously account for every dollar spent. However, it is concerning to note that HPS lacks transparency and accountability in its financial practices. A glaring example of this is the request for \$530,000 for a new armoured vehicle, despite the service already possessing one, and the absence of any documented information about its usage over the past decade.

The lack of a tracking system to monitor the deployment, usage, and reasons behind the use of such equipment raises serious concerns about the responsible allocation of resources. It is unreasonable to consider approving additional funds year after year for an organization that has not demonstrated a commitment to transparency and accountability, especially in matters involving the safety and well-being of our community.

How can we, in good conscience, support an increase in the police budget at a time when our city has declared a state of emergency over the opioid crisis, citizens experiencing homelessness, and mental health challenges within our community? It is imperative that we prioritize financial resources towards initiatives that address the root causes of the issues and provide support to those experiencing these challenges.

The disproportionate allocation of funds to the police budget, totalling a staggering \$206 million dollars, while essential services such as public health, social services, education,

libraries, and public transportation remain underfunded is a matter of great concern. Our community's strength lies in its ability to address the needs of all its residents. As it stands, the current budgetary allocations do not reflect a commitment to this principle.

Where does it end? How many more years can we continue to increase police budgets? I ask you to reflect on your notion of the word safety for a moment. Individuals and families experiencing food insecurity or insufficient nutrition are not in a state of safety. Those lacking proper shelter are not safe. Feeling unsafe is common among those who can't access proper healthcare, and experience systemic barriers due to ability, economic status, age, or race. How are any of these very real issues about public safety addressed by the police?

I urge you to reconsider the proposed increase in the HPS budget and instead redirect those funds towards community-strengthening initiatives that truly promote safety, inclusivity, and well-being for all residents. Reallocate these resources in a manner that fosters a stronger and more equitable community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust and have great hope in this refreshed city council to prioritize the best interest of our community in your decision-making process.

January 15, 2024

To Hamilton City Council General Issues Committee,

My name is Christie McNabb and I am writing as both a resident of Hamilton and as a member of the Council of Canadians, Hamilton Chapter and our collaborative effort with Hamilton 350: Hamilton Transit Matters. I am delegating in support of a robust, reliable, and eventually fare-free public transit system.

Orangeville is now in the second year of their two-year pilot project “aimed at removing barriers to make the transportation system more affordable and effective,” especially for seniors and students. Ridership in the first year there has doubled from pre-pandemic numbers. Further, the increased ridership and the construction of a new transit terminal has peaked the interest of Go Transit and jumpstarted discussions around additional transit routes between the town and Brampton, putting a dent in commuter traffic, and boosting transit reliability and accessibility.

“It’s great to see that on top of the social benefit that we’re seeing within our community, we’re seeing economical investment as well.”

Orangeville Mayor Lisa Post.

As many critics note, fare-free or subsidized transit rides does not mean no one has to pay. Just as toll-free roads, free parking, sidewalks, and bike lanes are not pay-per-use, so too would these rides be provided by all of us (barring funding that could be brought in with advertising). Sadly, many residents, critics and city council members are quick to question why those who don’t use transit should help pay for a service that (on the surface) provides them no benefit. Further, prejudices about who uses public transit impacts public support for any policy that looks like a “hand-out”.

Before the ubiquitousness of cars, it would have been easy to recognize public transit as an invaluable investment for a city’s economic functioning: boosting visits to local establishments, ensuring people get to work reliably, providing access to parks and recreation. These are the same considerations that now garner support for more and cheaper parking, and toll-free, well maintained roads.

While this made sense in the decades that saw car ownership increase quite dramatically, we are now facing the economic and environmental impacts of climate collapse. More and more residents will be unable to afford the luxury of a car and the increasing price of gas; they will need to adapt by turning to alternative modes of transportation. And the growing number of voices concerned with mitigating the climate crisis is shifting public opinion about fossil fuels and transportation.

It is absolutely time to stop developing our city for the car and recognize public transit, not simply as an alternative to car ownership, but as that invaluable investment for Hamilton’s economic and environmental future that will, in fact, benefit us all. And far from a simple “hand-out”, providing as many people as possible with a way to get around bestows all of the benefits on our city that we so easily attribute to car ease-of-use.

Hamilton is not Orangeville; it is likely too large to implement a fare-free pilot as Orangeville has, but the HDLC has proposed CareFare, an incremental strategy to get more people riding public transit starting with providing free rides for those people in our neighbourhoods that currently cannot afford to use the system. I support this initiative. As a first step, providing

transportation for people who could not otherwise afford it is ideal: it takes nothing from the fare-box.

But sadly, Hamilton will be taking a step in the opposite direction this June by removing the fare-free option for those Hamiltonians using personal mobility devices and CNIB card holders on buses and DARTS. The replacement program offering a 30% discount may not be enough to ensure affordability for many who relied on the free transit rides.

For this reason, I also support the formation of a committee of council to evaluate the benefits and feasibility of a fare-free transit system in Hamilton, as they are currently doing in Burlington. This committee could also study the positive impacts that frequent and reliable transit has on ridership, as well as considering the transition to an electric fleet. But importantly, the committee should include voices for those who most rely on public transit as well as those who are currently (or are at risk of becoming) unable to afford to ride.

Thank you for your time,

Christie McNabb, Ward 3

<https://citizen.on.ca/orangevilles-fare-free-transit-doubles-ridership-through-spring-despite-mechanical-issues-with-buses/>

Madam Mayor, Members of City Council and city staff and members the public:

My name is Bill Johnston and I am a resident of Dundas, Ward 13.

I begin by recognizing the budget challenges city council faces. You face criticism for doing nothing and criticism for raising taxes to do something. And a whole series of problems are worse today—from lack of affordable housing and homelessness to infrastructure to climate—because of lack of action or inadequate action in the past.

My focus is the city's housing crisis and the related crisis of homelessness. At least 28,000 Hamilton households are in core housing need. That Census number is a significant **underestimate**. Some are households in overcrowded housing or housing that needs major repairs. Most are households who pay too much for their housing and there aren't more affordable homes in the city to which they could move. Those in core need—mostly renters—face the constant stress and worry of trying to pay their rent and other, rising costs, and the constant fear of eviction. We need to prevent the loss of any existing affordable housing and build more.

I commend council for two significant housing-related decisions made in 2023:

- The unanimous approval for improvements to the vital services bylaw, creation of the Tenant Support Program and funds for the Tenant Defence Fund.
- and creating the Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap. You now have a strategy. And you created the Housing Secretariat to coordinate and expedite the work.

I have three proposals for council's consideration.

First, I urge council **not** sell city-owned land on which housing could be built. By owning the land, forever, the city maintains control of how it is developed and someday redeveloped, and the city can insist that developers provide higher proportions of affordable units than the province's very limited inclusionary zoning rules allow.

Second, I urge you to provide the needed funding, in the 2024 budget, to make your tenant protections actually work. As you recognize, those protections need both education, for landlord and tenants, and enforcement, which requires staff.

Third, I urge you to fund the first third of the three-year, \$31 million Multi-Year Housing Reserve Fund which you approved in principle last year. Without those funds, the city won't be able to attract federal investments to build new housing units. Rightly or wrongly, the federal government requires co-investments. And the key to solving the crises of unaffordable housing, homelessness and encampments is new non-profit affordable and/or supportive housing.

The non-profit housing providers that have come together in the Hamilton Is Home Collaboration are ready to build, almost immediately, at least 600 affordable units to help the city start to solve those problems. We need city investment to attract the federal investment to make that happen, and we need it now, in the 2024 budget.

We have no guarantee the federal funding will still be available after the next federal election, in 2024 or 2025, so there is an extra urgency—beyond the desperate need in our city—to maximize use of the funding that is available.

Thank you.

My name is Zoë Hayes and I live in Hamilton, Ontario in Ward 3. I am reaching out to express my outrage regarding the already astronomically high Hamilton Police Services budget of \$193.60 million dollars, and the requested increase of 9.5% (to \$213 million) for 2024. This is well beyond the allocated funding for any other social service in the city which is outrageous given the housing crisis we are currently in and the tremendous need that the residents of my community and this city face in regards to housing, shelter, mental health, harm reduction and other services not to mention infrastructure. Money desperately needs to be invested into the community, not into policing.

Living and working on Barton st E. I see first hand the impacts of our city's housing and healthcare crisis every day. Access to affordable housing in my neighbourhood has become almost impossible, the number of people resorting to living in tents because of lack of appropriate shelter and housing is increasing and I am regularly reminded of the need of health and mental health services especially those with a trauma informed and harm reduction approach. These should not be services that are delivered by and/or with police.

Increased police presence does not keep us safe. It threatens the lives of our most vulnerable communities (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour, the LGBTQ2S+ community, unhoused people, street-based sex workers, people with disabilities, people experiencing poverty, etc.). Police continue to discriminately target Black and Indigenous communities through tactics of racial profiling, implicit bias, algorithmic bias, etc. In addition to being extremely racist, policing is an ableist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, and a classist institution that necessitates these varied oppressions to function.

It is important to remember that the police do not prevent crime. Nor are police equipped or meant to be delivering mental health, social work, housing or healthcare services. There are others whose training and experience is actually suited to these purposes and instead of providing them with adequate resources we continue to fund the police and unnecessarily criminalize the most vulnerable in our communities. Investments into policing will not protect community members experiencing mental health distress, address a culture of dismissing sexual assault and missing person inquiries, nor prevent the criminalization of certain identities and need-based acts. Reform is a failed tactic. Reform tactics such as body cameras have had little to no tangible effect on reducing police brutality.

We need investment in robust services that can effectively respond, such as mental health outreach workers, community and housing centres, and accessible educational/prevention programs. I am urging you to reallocate the budget to existing community-led organizations that are offering services to vulnerable communities, and create effective alternative services such as crisis intervention, community health and mental health centres. And I am calling for you to vote *against* the proposed 9.5% increase to the Hamilton Police Services budget.

**Sincerely,
Zoe Hayes
Ward 3**

-----Original Message-----

From: Francesca Morreale

Sent: January 15, 2024 11:04 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Written delegation — police budget increase

Hello Clerk & Council,

My name is Francesca and I live downtown near Gore Park.

I care deeply about this city and am constantly disappointed by council's refusal to take steps toward meaningful change when it comes to social service, housing and climate change policies. Choosing to accept the police budget increase request would be yet another let down.

I strongly opposed the police budget increase last year when it was only a 6.71% increase. When a need for affordable housing is at an all-time high, 13.3 million dollars could do a lot to prevent even more people from slipping into the crumbling shelter system or living outside. I've watched numerous delegations of fellow constituents pleading with council to reallocate police budget funds to REAL housing solutions and we've been met with countless excuses and cognitive dissonance. This year I'm still hoping for better. It's time to stop using lack of funds as an excuse for not taking care of the most vulnerable in this city. Declining housing and food security is due to the inaction of governing bodies, and you have the power to do something about it. No more stretching funds for the police service and setting the precedent that police get whatever they ask for from council. The police budget does not quantify our safety.

Sincerely,
Francesca Morreale

Hello, Councillors. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you regarding Hamilton's budget priorities.

2023 highlighted an often overlooked aspect of municipal policy making, in how the policies act as a signal beacon to higher levels of government about the priorities and concerns of constituents at a grass roots level.

For example, on the green belt file, your collective leadership was instrumental in achieving a spectacular provincial walk back.

And when you, and other municipalities, moved to regulate short term rentals it helped light a fire under the federal government to, hopefully, bring in nation-wide short term rental regulations.

And, during a year that featured heat that smashed all previous global records, fires and smoke that kept students indoors during their final days of school last June, unprecedented weather disasters that [cost Canadian insurers \\$3.1B](#) and inflicted a direct loss of revenue on 44% of Canadian small businesses [recently surveyed by KPMG](#), you underscored your 4 year old climate emergency declaration by creating an office of climate change initiatives.

Its budget, however, is far from emergency status, currently resting at merely 0.1% of the city's \$2B budget. Which, given the scale of the challenge, represents a token sliver. Meanwhile the recommendations brought forward by its staff get put under a fiscal microscope, extensively debated and barely and begrudgingly approved.

Which, in terms of political signals, sends one that says that no matter how small the tax, there's an appetite to "axe it". Especially if its aim is to mitigate carbon emissions. And that these budgetary slivers, are most useful as political wedges.

This was witnessed during the aftermath of the contentious council debates, causing some local media pundits to write things like, "Surely councilors didn't imagine that 4 years after declaring a climate emergency they'd spending \$700K (0.03% of the budget) on an e-bike scheme".

Which begs the question, what did councillors imagine they'd be spending money on 4 years after? And if they knew it amounted to 0.1% of budget, would they be surprised that Hamilton emissions would still be going up at the largest rate in the GTHA?

Also, how do we determine what budgetary items get put under a microscope?

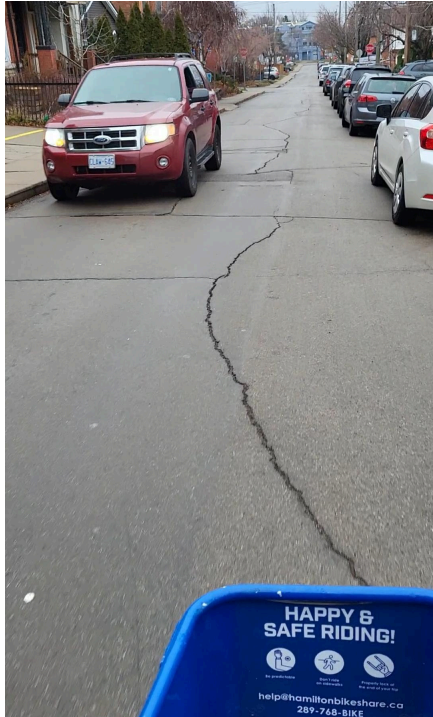
I don't recall hours of debate on the \$5 million spent on Claremont access restoration or the \$1 million spent on rock fall meshing recently added to Kennilworth access.

No one demanded to know how these projects would pay for themselves and be "zero cost to the taxpayer". Why? Because we understand that safe, personal mobility is essential to a city and given so many decades of climate indifference, we know that personal mobility means cars. And so we assume that these projects have enough intangible benefits to outweigh both its financial and environmental costs. This assumption no longer applies, if we're honest.

Alternatively we demand expenses like Hamilton Bikeshare present tangible evidence that it is "zero cost to the tax payer" like it doesn't have its own intangible value.

For example, what value do residents put on being able to find a parking space in front of their house or local shop because their neighbor or fellow shopper's second car is actually a Sobi bicycle? Or what dollar amount

do you put on residential side streets being turned back into the 2 lane/2 way streets they once were, because one the commuters using that street was riding a bicycle occupying a shoulder-width amount of space? Or on a local business being able to access people for customers and labour who are free from vehicle ownership expenses?



It's time to get serious on climate which is why I'm calling for the OCCI budget to be greatly increased.

Briefly on housing, as a supporter of Indwell and contributor to HATS I believe it's time to please stop relying on charity and faith groups for public housing. Get what you're able to afford, built, and if they end up looking like storage containers like Peterborough's Wolfe St tiny shelters then let that shame the provincial and federal governments into action.

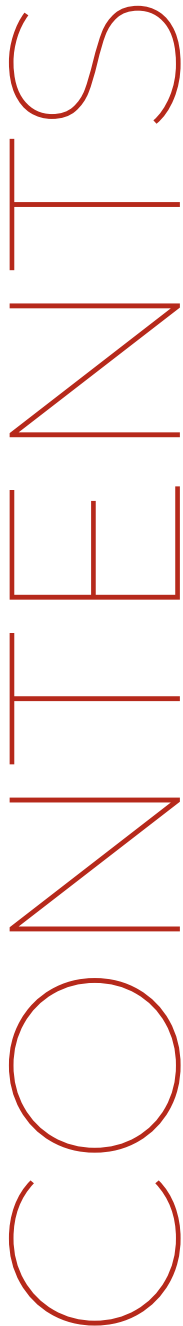
Thank you for your time and attention.

Jon Davey

2024 Budget for Tenants



Communication for the January 16th
General Issues Committee



What is ACORN?	_____	02
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WHAT IS ACORN?

ACORN Canada, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, founded in 2004, is an independent grassroots organization that fights for social and economic justice for low and moderate income communities. We believe that social and economic justice can best be achieved by building community power for change.

ACORN has over 168,000 low-to-moderate-income individual members in 24 neighbourhood chapters in 10 cities across the country. ACORN started organizing in Hamilton in 2017 and has grown to have four neighbourhood chapters: Downtown, Mountain, East End and Stoney Creek.



BACKGROUND

Hamilton is in the middle of a worsening housing crisis. One of the key contributing factors has been a sharp increase in the number of renovictions. Housing is a human right. Yet renovictions are forcing tenants out of their affordable homes to give way to higher rent apartments. In Ontario, when tenants move out, landlords are free to increase rents by as much as they want, creating an incentive for landlords to push out long-term tenants. There are many buildings in Hamilton, of a similar age to the ones where tenants are being renovicted, where the landlord is not forcing tenants out and are instead doing ongoing maintenance and major repairs without tenants moving out. Once displaced, these tenants are thrown into a housing market where they are not able to afford the rent or are forced to cut back on spending for essential services just to be able to pay for their housing.

Since 2017, ACORN Hamilton has been advocating for strong municipal policies and programs to support and protect tenants in the City of Hamilton. Over the past six years, our members have led organizing in their buildings to defend their homes from predatory landlords who circumvent the law and exploit loopholes in legislation in the name of maximizing their profits.

ACORN commends Council's support for the creation of the Safe Apartment Bylaw, Tenant Support Program and a local bylaw to restrict renovation and now these programs need to secure funding in the 2024 budget to make them a reality.

ACORN PLATFORM FOR THE 2024 BUDGET

01

Fund the Safe Apartment Bylaw

Proactive property standards enforcement program. Require landlords to register with the city.

02

Fund the Renovation License and Relocation Bylaw

The goal of the policy would be to disincentivize landlords from pursuing eviction under the guise of renovations but still allow legitimate renovations to proceed (with tenants protected).

03

Fund the Tenant Support Program

The Hamilton Community Legal clinic would take over the current Tenant Defence Program. Expanding the program to support more tenants.

04

Fund next steps to develop a max heat bylaw

In May 2023 this motion was passed: 2024 budget allocation for allowing the licensing and by-law division to develop, update and enforce city by-laws to protect tenants.

TENANTS ARE TAXPAYERS

Hamilton tenants pay taxes through their rent and those renting in an older apartment/multi-residential building pay more than twice the property tax in their rent as that of a single-family home or new condominium. While the Residential Tenancies Act does permit extraordinary property tax increases to be eligible for an Above Guideline (pass costs down to tenants), since Hamilton already taxes multi-residential apartments higher, the city is not allowed to pass any budgetary increase to the multi-residential property class, this class will not see an increase in their taxes as a result of any 2024 budget increases. Tenants pay taxes and deserve to see their interests represented in the budget. Furthermore, vulnerable low income tenants (who live in rent controlled buildings) will not face a rent increase because of the proposed 7.9% increase but stand to lose if the tenant programs Council committed to in 2023 are not properly funded.

SAFE APARTMENTS BYLAW

In August 2023, Council endorsed the creation of a landlord registration program based on the MARC program in Mississauga and RentSAFE in Toronto. The Safe Apartment bylaw requires landlords to register with the City of Hamilton and fulfil a comprehensive set of requirements to ensure health and safety in apartment buildings with 6 or more units with 2 or more stories.

Right now Hamilton bylaw operates on a complaint based system. Many Hamilton tenants do not know who to call when they are having issues in their home with lack of repairs or pest control, not to mention barriers like language barriers, disabilities and general fear of speaking out against their landlord.

The Safe Apartment Bylaw will work towards improving conditions in the thousands of purpose built rental units in the City of Hamilton.



TENANT SUPPORT PROGRAM

Funding the Tenant Support Program is crucial to keeping tenants housed. Many tenants don't know their rights or how to navigate the legal system, leaving them susceptible to exploitation from landlords circumventing the law. It encompasses four key program areas: the Tenant Support Program (hosted by the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic), tenant organizing and capacity building, and tenant education. The Tenant Support Program would continue to give low-income tenants access to legal representation that they would otherwise not be able to afford, while removing the current barrier of requiring them to source their own representation. The tenant organizing and capacity building to be led by ACORN and the Housing Help Centre are equally important. ACORN members have organized tirelessly through building and neighbourhood tenant meetings, actions, town halls, and workshops to ensure fellow members and tenants city-wide know their rights and how to work with their neighbours to defend their homes. Currently ACORN is organizing and supporting tenants at over 10 multi residential buildings in the city facing renoviction or AGI. The additional funding allocated via the Tenant Support Program will allow ACORN to continue and expand this work and reach a greater number of tenants in the Hamilton community.

RENOVATION LICENSE AND RELOCATION BYLAW

If passed at the January 17th General Issues Committee (ratified at January 24th Council meeting), the Renovation License and Relocation Bylaw would be the first of its kind in the province of Ontario, and the policy is desperately needed. Protecting Hamilton's affordable housing is more important now than ever. The average market rent in Hamilton for a one-bedroom apartment is currently \$1755, compared to \$875 just 7 years ago. Hamilton has lost 15,000 units that rent for less than \$750 a month in the last decade.

Renoviction shatters the lives of families, breaks long-held community bonds, drives up rents in the neighborhood, increases homelessness and strain on social services, incentivizes landlords to allow their buildings to fall into disrepair and destroys existing stock of affordable housing. While tenants do have the legal right to return to their unit at their current rent once renovations are complete, ACORN has yet to see a landlord follow the law and honour these requests. The Renovation License and Relocation Bylaw aims to address this in many ways, most notably by requiring that landlords provide returning tenants with either suitable alternative accommodation for the duration of the renovations or compensation in the amount of the difference in rent.

ADDRESSING THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF TENANT PROGRAMS ON THE BUDGET

The City of Hamilton has acknowledged the housing crisis we are currently facing and highlighted affordable housing and homelessness as a priority of the 2024 Tax Supported Budget. Homelessness is extremely costly to the city. More unhoused individuals results in increased use of emergency rooms and healthcare resources, policing services, increased need to fund shelters and transitional housing, and increased strain on food banks. The 2024 budget outlook allocates \$10.2 million to treating the symptoms of the homelessness crisis, split between encampment protocol and addressing the needs of unsheltered individuals. It allots another \$4.1 million to ending chronic homelessness.

Investing in preventative measures is key to reducing remedial expenditures in the future and eventually resolving the homelessness crisis. Keeping tenants in their homes protects some of our community's most vulnerable members and helps alleviate the current homelessness crisis; almost all of the tenants being evicted by renoviction are long-term tenants paying well-below market rent, sometimes on fixed incomes, who cannot afford to move and would be evicted into homelessness.

The Safe Apartment Bylaw, Tenant Support Program and Renovations Licence and Relocation Bylaw will work in tandem to preserve the city's market affordable housing stock.



TENANT TESTIMONIALS

Tracy - Tenant Defence Fund for Renovation

“It’s not great to be sitting here for 10, 12, maybe even 13 years and get an eviction notice. ACORN helped; I probably would have left if it weren’t for them. I didn’t know my rights. You get a letter like that and you think ‘oh, I’ve gotta get out’, but then I found out about ACORN and it was like ‘wait, I don’t have to get out’. The landlord never took anyone to court, but they sent out the notices and got a few people out. Thanks to ACORN and the Tenant Defence Fund I was able to stay in my housing but it doesn’t make you feel great when you’re in a place where you know you’re REALLY not wanted because they want your apartment. But we won for now.

Having access to the Tenant Defence Fund definitely had an impact on my landlord’s decision to back down. I don’t think he wanted to have problems. He just wanted us to go quietly. The first step was calling ACORN. They explained my rights to me and connected me with a paralegal funded by TDF. I went to a few meetings with the paralegal where they explained the situation to me and all the steps that needed to be taken. They emailed the landlord introducing themselves as my legal representation. Just the fact that I had access to legal representation was threatening enough. With ACORN, we did lots of actions and brought press attention to the situation and I think that swayed the landlord too.

The Tenant Defence Fund can save your life— save the way you’re living. Otherwise people are going to stomp all over you and do as they please— disrupt your family and your life and throw you out the door. People have to know that they just can’t do this to other people and walk away. It’s just not fair. The tactics landlords use to get tenants out no matter what make us feel like we don’t matter at all. We the tenants do matter! Landlords matter too, in a way, but it’s not an even playing field and they shouldn’t be allowed to spit on us. Expanding the Tenant Defence Fund to include more LTB applications would be beneficial for everybody. This’ll keep people even, instead of one side trying to stab the other in the back. That’s what we need”.



Colleen - Renoviction

"I was served an N13 August 18th, 2023, after over 12 years of living there, with a move-out date of December 18th, 2023. There are eight units in the building total and all of us were served. Only five are left occupied. The landlord has used many tactics to try to force us out. They are not doing any interior maintenance. They didn't do any garbage disposal for roughly two months. We called the city several times.

If I am evicted, I don't have anywhere else to go. Basically I'm going to be homeless. I can't afford market rent. Even room rentals are above my ODSP payments, plus that would put me in shared accommodations that wouldn't last because of my disabilities. The system is overburdened. I've even tried to get the portable housing benefit but they aren't accepting anyone who is already housed. They're strictly accepting people who are already unhoused, so I have to wait for that to happen, which will be the literal death of me. I can't even walk a significant distance by myself.

I haven't talked to them about my right of first refusal yet. I would take an alternative accommodation if they could offer me one that's affordable. I highly doubt they can find me one though because, like I said, even rooms are too expensive and I come with a lot of equipment: my scooter, my walker, my prosthetic, my elevator, my bath chair, etc. Even when I do ask, there is a zero percent chance they would honour the request.

Hamilton needs stronger protection against renoviction because honestly it's only a cash grab for landlords. I'm not saying anything should be left to ruin, but it takes advantage of the most vulnerable people in our city—ones that don't have anywhere to go, like myself. There isn't a big enough social safety net to catch everybody. Everyone deserves somewhere safe and warm that keeps them protected and out of the elements.



Ocean - Tenant Defence Fund, AGIs, and Healthy Homes

“A new, larger company took over our building around 2017 and started issuing yearly AGIs. Now, they’re asking for 5.5% above the guideline for unnecessary balcony renovations after annual AGIs for any and everything under the sun. We were issued one for fixing the roof, but tenants on the 12th floor are still experiencing leaks and doubt whether the roof has actually been fixed. Even if tenants know the increases are illegal, they don’t have the resources to fight them. After we got involved with ACORN, the burden was lifted off our shoulders. It’s really wonderful to know that we can have some kind of representation that’s fair. The Tenant Defence Fund is important because a lot of these landlords are doing stuff they aren’t supposed to do. The companies taking over these buildings have a lot of money, so they can afford the best lawyers. They can basically do whatever they want. For us tenants, it’s not so easy and it’s really unfair. It feels like the law is only for rich people; if you don’t have money to pay for a lawyer, too bad for you. If more people start fighting back going forward, it could deter landlords from trying to do this to people as often because they’ll realize that they’ll face resistance and incur legal costs—they can’t just do and get whatever they want anymore. An expansion of the Tenant Defence Fund would be really wonderful because a lot of people are being bullied by their landlords because they don’t know how the system works and they’re living in really awful conditions.

My landlord is also neglecting a lot of maintenance. I think they’re just trying to drive out old tenants so they can fix up our units and increase the rent. My disabled daughter spends a lot of time in the bathtub to help with pain management for her spinal condition. I’ve been trying for years to get them to replace the bathtub because it’s in really bad shape. It doesn’t come clean anymore, the caulking around the bathtub was black with mildew or mould, and the floor started crumbling and coming up. I asked the landlord to fix it but they ignored me. After waiting for years, I fixed it myself because I have a toddler and I was worried about him crawling on the broken floor and eating broken off pieces. Afterwards, I was throwing up, had a migraine, and couldn’t get out of bed for 3 days. It would lead to a better quality of life if landlords come to expect that all tenants can take them to court. They’d know that they can’t ignore maintenance requests. Right now, if I go to them, they just ignore it and I can’t do anything about it. They have millions to replace our balconies but look at the conditions my children are living in. I think these policies will make landlords think more about where they’re spending their money. Where someone lives is the most important thing. These kinds of issues are the last things you want to be worried about”.

Esther - Healthy Homes

“We’ve had constant issues in my building. They don’t wash the floors at all. They never cleaned the common areas all throughout COVID pandemic. I had a broken refrigerator for over two years. They never pick up the garbage; they do it once then let it pile up for months and that becomes rodent issues. Every time we report any maintenance issues, if we get a reply at all, it’s passive aggressive and belittling. They’re constantly deferring any type of action and go on to say, at least in my circumstance, that I’m harassing them and making false accusations.

We’ve had a bedbug issue in the building since February 2023. Bylaw ordered them to inspect and spray the unit underneath me. There’s no transparency— they won’t tell us whether or not a certain unit has been sprayed. It’s spread to the whole building now. They’re just moving from apartment to apartment. I reported bed bugs in my unit in August later that year. I didn’t get sprayed until the end of November. The bugs in my unit are gone now but I still have nightmares about bed bugs. We have other ongoing maintenance issues: plumbing leaks, my bathtub not draining, the roof, the security door not working, and more. But bylaw officers for repairs won’t come until the pests are gone.

The Safe Apartments Bylaw totally needs to happen! They need to be upheld and there needs to be consequences. Because landlords can say anything and that they’re maintaining the building while forcing people to live in squalor. The mental and physical problems of living in squalor are horrendous but having nowhere else to go is demoralizing. This can happen to anyone: your grandma, your niece. I am a tax paying citizen of Hamilton. I deserve better. It’s exhausting, but someone has to stand up for everyone else”.

”.



Chris - Tenant Defence Fund for AGI

“The Tenant Defence Fund helped us to be able to come together as tenants greatly. We were able to have representation for our first AGI. The paralegal assigned to us was able to negotiate a smaller amount. Our landlord was asking for a 0.87% AGI and it was reduced to 0.48%. Without the TDF, I probably wouldn’t have been able to fight for my rights as a tenant at the LTB. It would depend if I qualified for legal aid from the legal clinic. I’m on a fixed income. I don’t think we would all have been able to do it individually. The other tenants in the building and I filed a group application for a stronger case. The Tenant Defence Fund is important because a lot of tenants wouldn’t be able to have representation without it. I don’t think there is anything else like that out there. If someone is working a minimum wage job they might not qualify for legal aid representation but still not be able to afford it. It’s important to have something that can fight for everybody as a unit.

Our building is going through another AGI now. With the second one, most tenants are not paying the AGI amount before it’s approved. ACORN taught us not to pay AGIs until they’re won. That’s your money and they’re using it when it could be sitting in your account benefitting you. They are threatening tenants and trying to take it from us though— knocking on doors and sending emails telling people they have arrears that are just unapproved AGI amounts and telling people that they’ll get kicked out. The TDF is well needed for tenants not to get taken advantage of. They need to know where they can turn to for help. Landlords take advantage of people— newcomers whose first language isn’t english, tenants who don’t know their rights— and threaten them saying ‘you pay or you get out’. Some people just pay it because they’re scared, you know? We will be using ACORN and the TDF again to fight our second AGI. This time they’re asking for 2.08% above the guideline.

The expansion of the Tenant Defence Fund to the Tenant Defence Program as part of the Tenant Support Program is definitely beneficial because, like I said, it’s not good to go into a court case or the LTB without representation or knowing your rights because they’ll just walk all over you. It’s very important that tenants be able to access that and fight these corporate landlords that have all the money. Facing eviction is usually a really hard time to be going through – you shouldn’t have to go through it alone”.



CONCLUSION

The City of Hamilton is experiencing an affordable housing crisis with average market rents having far outpaced inflation over the last number of years. This has significantly impacted long-term tenants whose annual rental increases are below the market rent in Hamilton, creating an economic incentive for landlords to displace tenants. In addition, Hamilton has an aging physical housing infrastructure creating a significant challenge to ensure safe, adequate, and suitable housing for its approximately 72,000 rental households.

ACORN is urging Council to invest in Hamilton's future and fund the Tenant Support Program, the Safe Apartment Bylaw, and Renovation License and Relocation Bylaw. Hamilton has an opportunity to be a leader in municipal tenant protections. Tenants are counting on bold action from City Hall. If the provincial government is going to turn its back on low and moderate income tenant communities in favour of landlord and investor profit, we need our local government to take a stand and protect the most vulnerable residents of our city.



ACORN HAMILTON CONTACT INFO
56 MULBERRY STREET SUITE 8, HAMILTON ON
ACORNCANADA.ORG
HAMILTON@ACORNCANADA.ORG
905-393-5734



Municipal Pre-Budget Submission January 2024

The McMaster Student Union

Budget Submission Priorities

- 1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING***
- 2. HAMILTON POLICE SERVICE COMMUNITY LIAISON PANEL***
- 3. SUPPORTING HAMILTON FOOD BANKS***
- 4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

Affordable Housing

- Individuals should not have to sacrifice their health/safety to find affordable housing
- Non-compliant, absentee, and exploitative landlords should be held accountable
- Individuals should not be evicted from their living space under false pretenses of renovations

Recommendations:

*The City of Hamilton should adopt the Rental Housing Licensing Pilot Program city-wide with **greater transparency on the escalation of disciplinary actions and required remediation efforts by non-compliant landlords.***

*The City of Hamilton should move forward with the **Renovation License and Relocation Listing bylaw to combat 'renovictions'.***

Hamilton Police Service Community Liaison

- HPS statistics show disproportionate use of force against Black, East/South Asians during arrests and apprehensions
- The Community Liaison Panel should accurately reflect the diverse populations of the city
- Students, student groups, community groups and social services should be members of the committee

Recommendation:

*The City of Hamilton should begin recruitment efforts for the HPS Community Liaison Panel with outreach to the **McMaster Black Students Success Centre, Indigenous Student Services, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre, CMHA Hamilton, Hamilton Centre of Civic Inclusion, and the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council.***

Support for Hamilton Food Banks

- Access to food banks is vital to combatting food insecurity
- Students are a vulnerable population and many are experiencing food insecurity
- Hamilton food banks are under considerable pressure and should be supported to ensure no one is forced to choose between food and housing

Recommendation:

The City of Hamilton should approve the \$1.25 million budget request from the Emergency Food Strategic Planning Committee to provide much needed support to Hamilton food banks.

Acknowledgements

**Light Rail
Transit (LRT)**

**Protected Major
Transit Station
Areas (PMTSA)**

**Sidewalk
Plowing**



Questions?

Abigail Samuels, Vice-President (Education)

vped@msu.mcmaster.ca

Kerry Yang, Associate Vice-President (Municipal Affairs)

avpmunicipal@msu.mcmaster.ca

From: Lyndon George
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2024 11:57 AM
To: McRae, Angela <Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Delegation letter -2024 Budget

January 15, 2024

Dear City of Hamilton, General Issues Committee:

Re: Request for Funding Consideration for the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre, concerning the 2024 Budget Process

As the Executive Director of the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (HARRC), I am writing to request your consideration for the increased funding in the upcoming 2024 budget process.

The Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre plays a crucial role in our community by providing education, resources, and support to individuals experiencing racism in Hamilton. As we strive to create an inclusive community and work toward the elimination of racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and discrimination, your support is instrumental in fostering positive change.

The current polarization and rise of extremism highlight the urgency of addressing issues related to racism. The Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre has demonstrated its commitment to tackling these challenges head-on, but its impact can be significantly undermined without increased financial support.

I am aware of the financial constraints faced by the city, but I firmly believe that investing in HARRC is an investment in the future of Hamilton. Allocating additional funds to this essential resource will contribute to the well-being of marginalized communities and the strength of our city.

I urge that you prioritize funding HARRC in the 2024 budget deliberations. By doing so, we can collectively take steps towards providing key resources and support in the fight against racism.

I appreciate your time and consideration on this matter, and I hope you will support HARRC.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Thank you.

Lyndon George
Executive Director
HARRC

Submitted on Wed, 11/08/2023 - 11:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Carol Andrews

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Policing in Hamilton and the request for more funding.city of Hamilton by laws not being enforced or followed up on

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

Submitted on Tue, 11/07/2023 - 15:30

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee Budget

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Mr. Bryan Kenneth Dittrich

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Issue of living wage of \$20+ in Hamilton vs. \$9.37 for ODSP recipients (re: tent & future tent people)

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Wed, 12/06/2023 - 17:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Jovan Popovic, President & Abigail Samuels, Vice-President (Education)
McMaster Students Union
McMaster Students Union 1280 Main St. W.
MUSC room 201
Hamilton, ON. L8S4S4
president@msu.mcmaster.ca
905-525-9140

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
To delegate before GIC on January 16, 2024 regarding the 2024 City budget process.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

Submitted on Fri, 12/22/2023 - 11:29

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Anthony Marco
Hamilton and District Labour Council

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Regarding the Hamilton and District Labour Council's Care Fare proposal for public transit in the City of Hamilton as it pertains to the 2024 Budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Mon, 01/08/2024 - 11:57

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Michelle Diplock
West End Home Builders' Association
1112 Rymal Road E
Hamilton, ON. L8W 3N7
michelle@westendhba.ca

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
To speak to the positive impacts new home construction & development has to the City's overall property tax base.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

Submitted on Mon, 01/08/2024 - 14:24

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Kayla Leet

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
To delegate to the General Issues Committee on January 16th with regard to the public budget delegation process.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Mon, 01/08/2024 - 15:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Sahra Soudi

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Regarding the 2024 budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Tue, 01/09/2024 - 15:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Stewart Klazinga
ACORN Hamilton

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Speak on public delegation day for the 2024 budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Wed, 01/10/2024 - 11:34

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Katie King

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Regarding the 2024 municipal budget (Tues, Jan 16th GIC meeting)

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

Submitted on Wed, 01/10/2024 - 14:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Mary Aduckiewicz + Troy Thompson
Denninger limited + Thompson pawnbrokers
284 king street east
Hamilton, Ontario. L8M 1W3
marya-z@denningers.com
[REDACTED]

Reason(s) for delegation request
to speak on the 2024 city budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
Yes

Submitted on Wed, 01/10/2024 - 14:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Ted Hildebrandt
Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
350 King Street East
Suite 104
Hamilton, ON. L8N 3Y3
thildebrandt@sprchamilton.ca
905-522-1148

Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

To speak about the City Enrichment Fund (CEF) on January 16, 2024 as part of the 2024 City budget process.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Wed, 01/10/2024 - 15:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Christina Erie
Acorn

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
To talk about Acorn demands

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Wed, 01/10/2024 - 22:51

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Tanya Collins

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
To bring forward concerns about the proposed HPS budget increase.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Thu, 01/11/2024 - 09:36

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Greg Dunnett
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Budget Delegation Request for Tuesday January 16th - GIC Budget Meeting

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Thu, 01/11/2024 - 10:00

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Ke Xu

Preferred Pronoun
they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request
Delegation budget concerning policing

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Thu, 01/11/2024 - 19:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Arianne Dinardo

Preferred Pronoun
they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request
Regarding the 2024 City/Police Budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Thu, 01/11/2024 - 21:08

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Rana Guler

Preferred Pronoun
they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request
Concerns about the proposed police budget increase

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Thu, 01/11/2024 - 22:48

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

Audit, Finance & Administration Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Nicole Tollenaar

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

tax budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Thu, 01/11/2024 - 22:55

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Elizabeth Bloomfield

Preferred Pronoun

they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request

I would like to participate in the city's delegation day to share my perspective on this year's budget. Specifically, I would urge City Council to reject the HPS requested \$13.3M budget increase.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 08:42

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Julie Sergi

Realtors Association of Hamilton Burlington

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

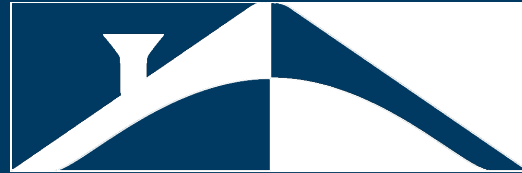
To speak to tax increase impacts on affordability.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

Yes



REALTORS[®]
ASSOCIATION
of Hamilton-Burlington

2024 Municipal Budget



Julie Sergi

2023 RAHB President Elect

Sample Family

JACK

\$75,000

Operations Manager at a Steel Mill

JILLIAN

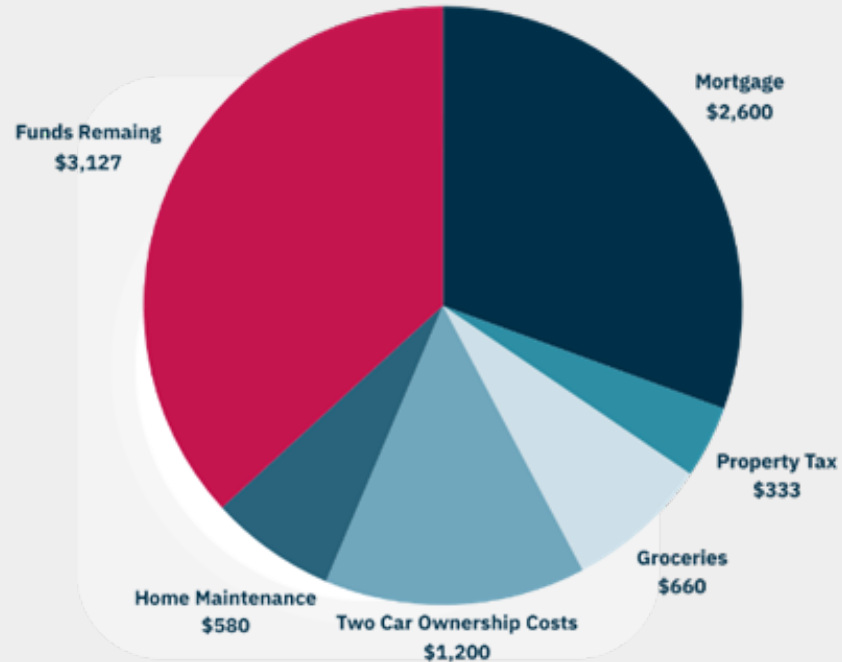
\$75,000

Registered Nurse



Monthly Budget

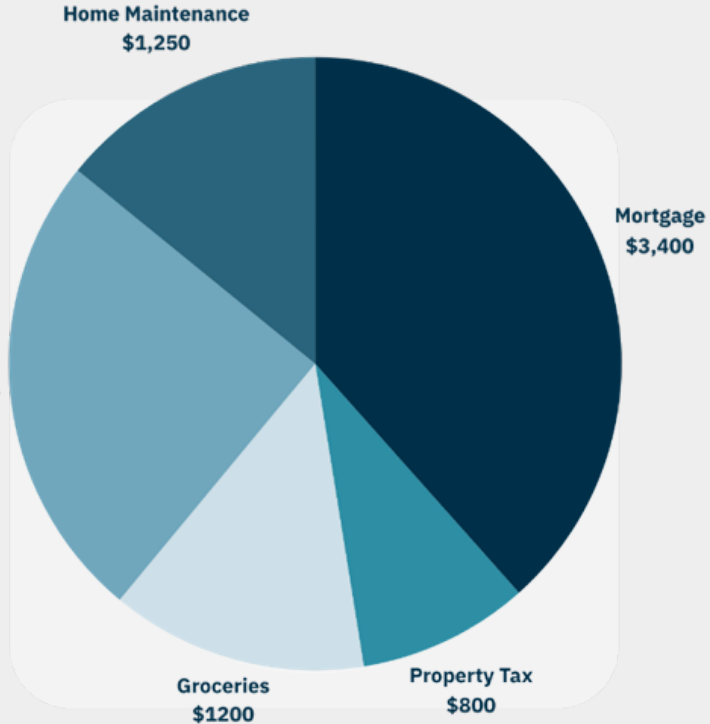
- Mortgage**
\$2,700
- Property Tax**
\$333
- Groceries**
\$660
- Two Car Ownership Costs**
\$1200
- Home Maintenance**
\$580
- Funds Remaining**
\$3,127



Monthly Budget

- Mortgage**
\$3,400
- Property Tax**
\$800
- Groceries**
\$1,200
- Two Car Ownership Costs**
\$2,000
- Home Maintenance**
\$1,250
- Funds Remaining**
-\$50

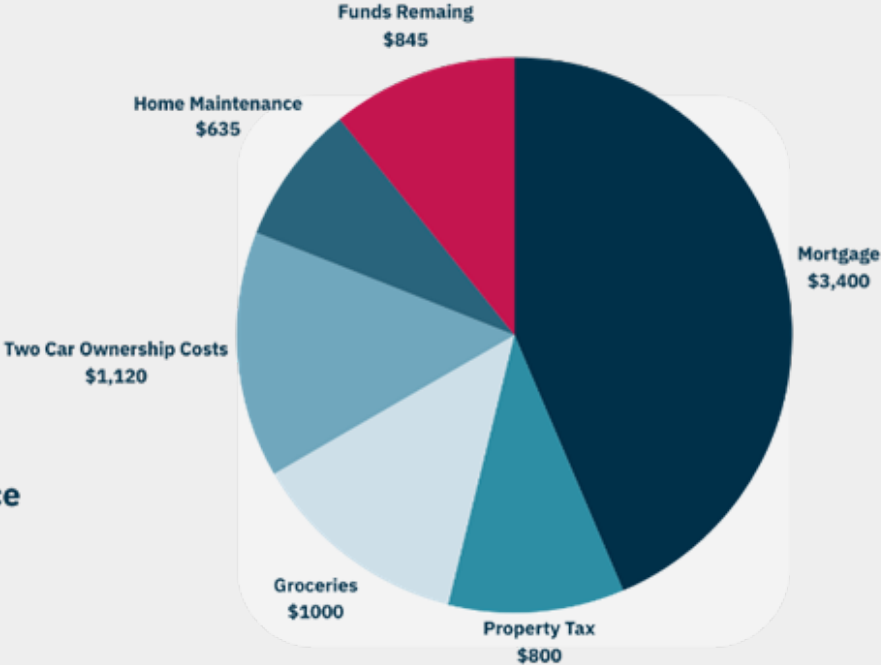
Two Car Ownership Costs
\$2,200



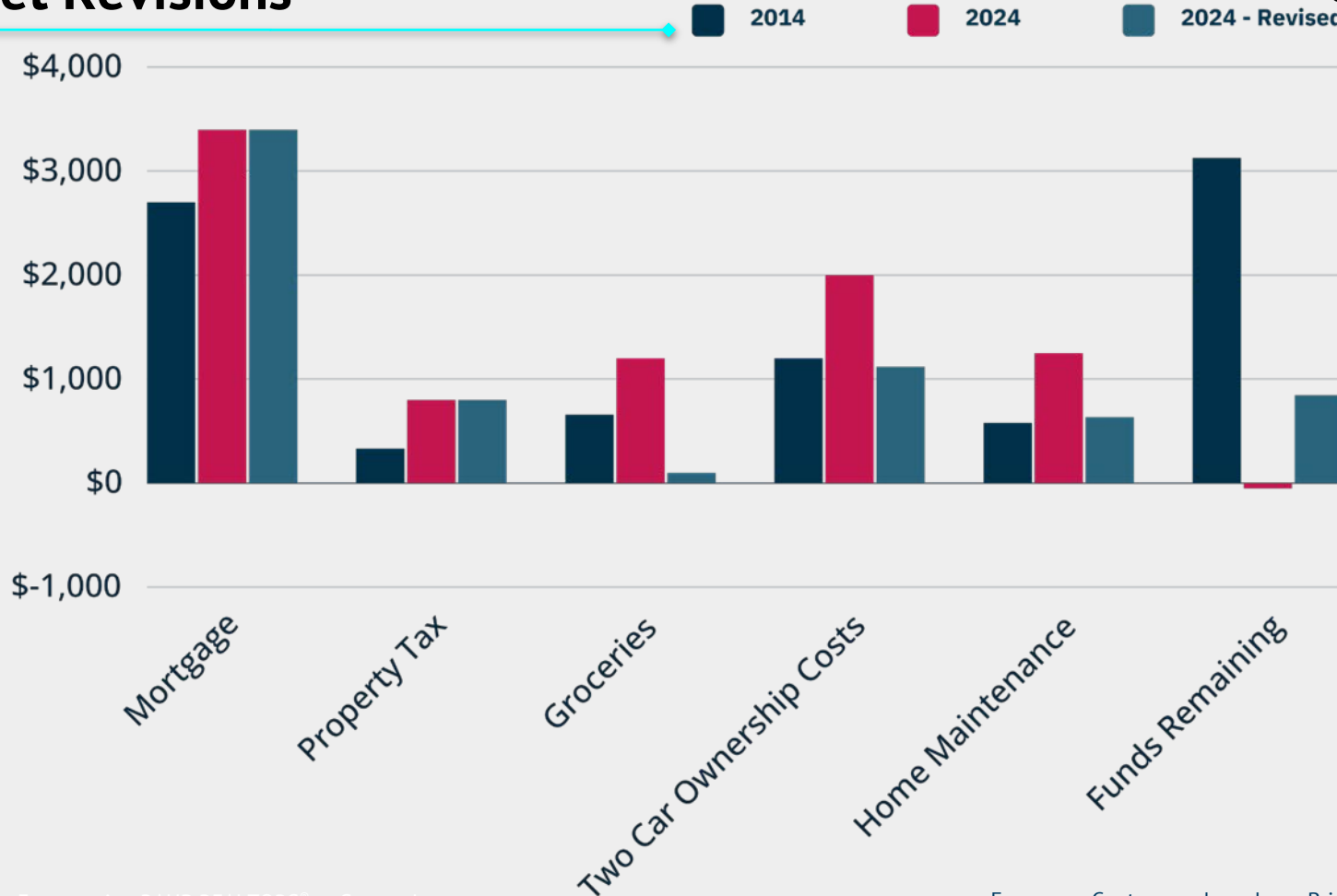
2024 Revised

Monthly Budget

- Mortgage**
\$3,400
- Property Tax**
\$800
- Groceries**
\$1,000
- Two Car Ownership Costs**
\$1000 + 120 HSR
- Home Maintenance**
\$635
- Funds Remaining**
\$845



Budget Revisions



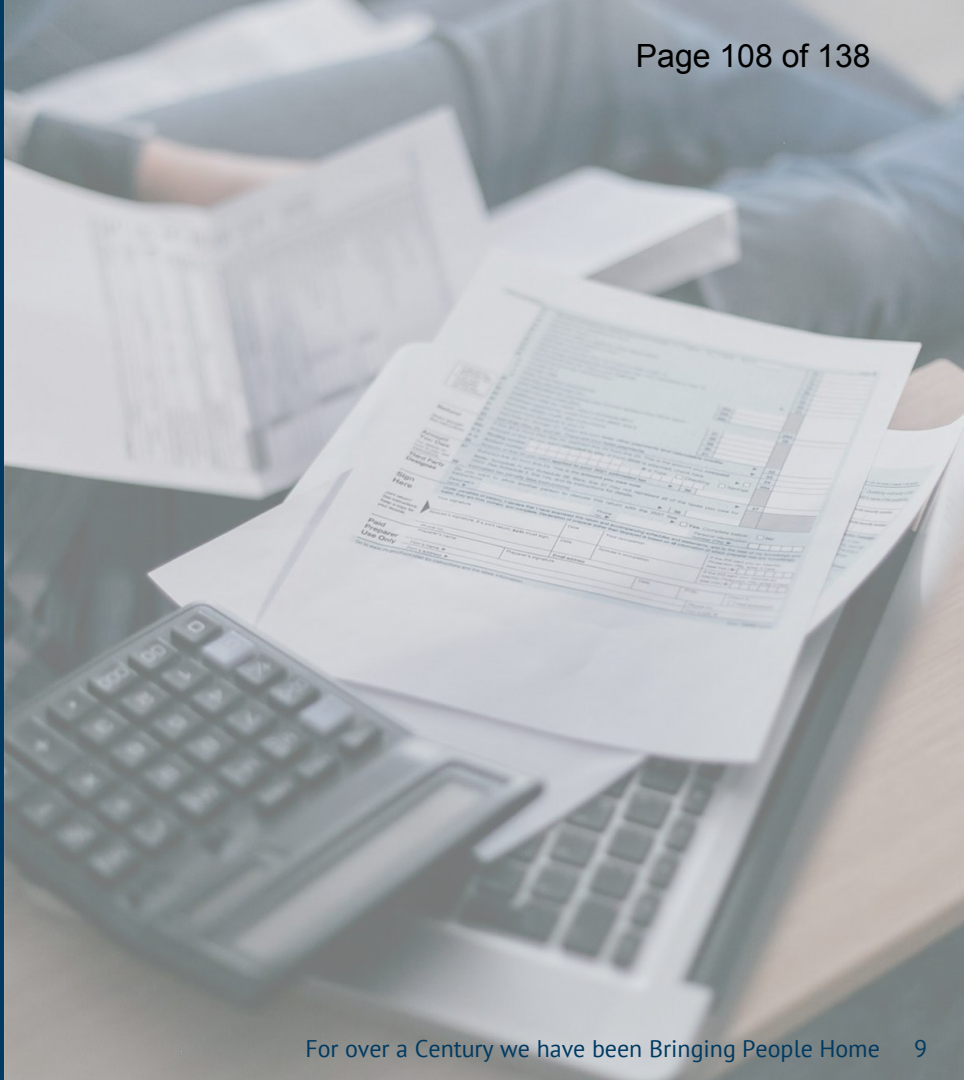
What can the City learn from Jack & Jillian's Budgeting?



Empowering RAHB REALTORS® to Succeed



Budgetary Impacts on Renters and Homeowners



It's not an issue of
WANTS vs. NEEDS.
It's an issue of
WANTS vs. Priorities

THANK YOU!



Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 09:05

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Vic Wojciechowska

Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

Municipal budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

Yes

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 10:23

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Evan Ubene

Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

Hamilton police budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

Yes

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 10:17

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Dr. Emily Scherzinger

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
I would like to speak on the police budget increase.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 10:52

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Becky Katz

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
To provide a convincing argument as to why the budget funding increase request made by the HPS should be spent on other initiatives that are gravely underfunded.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 11:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Adeola Egbeyemi
Environment Hamilton

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Public feedback on the 2024 budget process

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 11:19

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Merima Menzildzic
Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Respecting the 2024 Budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 11:25

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Barbara Sliwa

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Property tax hike

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 11:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Ocean Datiao
ACORN Hamilton

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Submitting a delegation to the January 16th public budget process

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 11:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Marnie Schurter
ACORN

Reason(s) for delegation request
Pre recorded video for Jan 16 budget delegation day.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 11:59

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Mason Fitzpatrick

Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

Police budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 12:18

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Anica Rak
Hamilton ACORN

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Submitting prerecorded delegation for Jan 16 public budget delegation process

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 12:21

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Liz Scott
Hamilton ACORN

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Submitting prerecorded delegation for Jan 16 public delegation process

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 12:13

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Shannon McKnight
ACORN Hamilton

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Submitting prerecorded delegation for Jan 16 public delegation process

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 12:04

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

Yes

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Bill Johnston

Preferred Pronoun

he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request

A presentation as part of the city's public budget presentations on January 16, 2024

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

Yes

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 15:54

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Abedar Kamgari

Preferred Pronoun

she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request

Budget 2024

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Thu, 01/04/2024 - 18:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
R Alex Ballagh
ACORN

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Advocacy in support of the maximum heat bylaw, the need to stop renoviction, rising homelessness, and the Tenant Defense Programs fought for by ACORN.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Fri, 01/12/2024 - 18:35

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Elia Hamelin

Preferred Pronoun
they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request
Tax-supported budget concerns

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Sat, 01/13/2024 - 17:06

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Karl Andrus
HAMILTON COMMUNITY BENEFITS NETWORK

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
To present to the special budget deligation day.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Sat, 01/13/2024 - 21:41

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Laura Katz

Preferred Pronoun
she/her

Reason(s) for delegation request
Police budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Sun, 01/14/2024 - 15:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Christine Neale
ACORN

Reason(s) for delegation request
Delegate at public delegation day(January 16th) on the 2024 budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Sun, 01/14/2024 - 19:15

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Don McLean
Hamilton 350 Committee

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
January 16 GIC budget delegations - respecting the 2024 City Budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Sun, 01/14/2024 - 23:11

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Katherine Walker-Jones

Preferred Pronoun
they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request
Input on this year's tax supported budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Mon, 01/15/2024 - 10:40

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
Budget 2024

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
John Laudonio

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
Voice my concern on the 2024 Budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Mon, 01/15/2024 - 11:03

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

Audit, Finance & Administration Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Steady Easton

Preferred Pronoun

they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request

A disability focused questioning on the police budget.

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Mon, 01/15/2024 - 11:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Ben Cullimore

HESN

Preferred Pronoun

they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request

I disagree with the budget allotment of the Hamilton police .

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Mon, 01/15/2024 - 11:47

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Nala Ismacil

Preferred Pronoun
they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request
to discuss the police budget increase

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No

Submitted on Mon, 01/15/2024 - 11:53

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee

General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?

In-person

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?

No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information

Sherly Kyorkis

HCCI

Preferred Pronoun

they/them

Reason(s) for delegation request

GIC Meeting/Police Budget

Will you be requesting funds from the City?

No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?

No

Submitted on Mon, 01/15/2024 - 11:58

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Committee Requested

Committee
General Issues Committee

Will you be delegating in-person or virtually?
Virtually

Will you be delegating via a pre-recorded video?
No

Requestor Information

Requestor Information
Lyndon George
Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre

Preferred Pronoun
he/him

Reason(s) for delegation request
2024 Budget funding request

Will you be requesting funds from the City?
Yes

Will you be submitting a formal presentation?
No