

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** FW: Councillors remuneration

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

From: Lakewood Beach Community Council [mailto:lakewoodbeachcc@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 01:25 PM

To: Caterini, Rose

Subject: Councillors remuneration

Rose, please add correspondence to Fridays's Council Agenda

Dear Honourable Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of the Lakewood Beach Community Council, we would like to comment on the recent 8 - 5 vote during Mondays GIC meeting which will come before Council to ratify.

It is highly questionable to us to have our elected officials vote on such a significant change that will have a far greater impact on our property taxes than what is being reflected in the Staff Report. You might wish to review the 2006 Staff Report on the same subject which was much more transparent as well as the outside consultants report in 2010, which both recommended the status quo we believe.

While we understand this term of Council will not realize the full pension increases shown in the Staff Report should you not be re-elected in 2018, there are still some very significant increases to those who voted in favor of this amendment based on 2016, 2017 and 2018 increased pensionable earnings. We've calculated these amounts to be approximately the following increases in pensions at the end of this term of Council:

Mayor Eisenberger + \$20,000 per year indexed for life Councillor Jackson + \$40,000 per year indexed for life Councillor Pearson (and Collins who was absent ) + \$31,200 per year indexed for life Councillor Merulla + \$23,400 per year indexed for life Councillor whitehead + \$19,500 per year indexed for life Councillor Duvall + \$15,600 per year indexed for life Councillor Farr + \$10,400 per year indexed for life Councillor Aidan Johnson + \$5,200 per year indexed for life

We believe a more fulsome transparent discussion on the very significant impacts should be occurring on this topic and not what is unfolding to be a very, very hasty, misleading and more confusing discussion on Council remuneration.

We would like to see information being provided to the public that is inclusive of the exact benefits/costs with respect to pension increases along with the other enhancements to your benefit packages as a result of the proposed changes.

For example, increased disability coverage life insurance etc etc. Those increased benefits to you, as our elected officials, also come as an added cost to the taxpayer, along with us paying the income taxes on a "more transparent" pay structure.

To be clear, no one on Council will actually be paying the provincial and federal taxes. The citizens of Hamilton will be paying the taxes on your behalf. As such, we believe the citizens of Hamilton should have a voice in these discussions. Once it is changed, we can never go back under the Act.

Sincerely,  
Lakewood Beach Community Council