

Paparella, Stephanie

From: David Richter >
Sent: November 11, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Paparella, Stephanie
Cc: Pauls, Esther
Subject: 2020 budget and proposed property tax increase

Categories: GIC Budgets.

Stephanie,

I wish to submit the following written submission to distribute to council on the subject of the 2020 City of Hamilton budget and proposed 5.5% property tax increase.

I have copied Esther Pauls above as she is the councillor for my Hamilton Mountain ward.

As a long time Hamilton resident and tax payer, I must say that I am stunned and shocked by the estimated 5.5 % increase in property taxes for 2020 I am reading about recently.

It is a well known fact that Hamilton has among the highest levels of property taxes in south-western Ontario, and adding another 5.5% for next year is simply unacceptable.

I realize there are many factors that go into the tax rates and the budget process, but there must be some further investigation by city council on how to contain the 2020 tax increase to something manageable for home owners. I'm sure within the city budget are large amounts of money for various grants, groups, non profits, etc. Perhaps these need to be cut back. Or while Holiday parades and such are very nice, perhaps these are a luxury we can no longer afford. Or the staff or operating budgets of city council needs to be cut back. I'm sure there are many ways to reduce spending and control the expenses to help reduce the increase.

I understand that the other higher levels of government are cutting back on what they send to local and regional governments, and I understand the pressure of trying to keep residents happy while trying to run local government and control the budget, but if you indeed approve a 5.5% increase to property taxes next year, I will cause many Hamilton residents hard ship and will have to cut back on other needs.

Sincerely, David Richter