

November 16, 2020

Karl Grotke

Fred Eisenberger
Hamilton City Hall
2nd floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing as a Hamilton Mountain resident that is highly concerned that city council is considering a property tax increase yet again this coming year – 2021. I am writing to say that raising the burden yet again on the homeowner is unacceptable as it is proving to yet again be unsustainable.

For the last few decades the Hamilton home owner has had to bear the bulk of the tax base in this city. The homeowner can not take on more and more as each year passes. As I understand it, during the 1970's, homeowners made up 11% of the tax base for the city of Hamilton with the private sector making up the remaining 89%. We need to return to this ratio over time. I was pleased to learn that Stelco has acquired more land in the north end recently which will add some significant funds to the city's tax coffers. Although this is a start, much more work needs to be done to correct the imbalance. The city of Hamilton **MUST** attract a much larger corporate tax base to support infrastructure and other programs. In addition, cities must come together to insist the provincial government improve their transfer payments to municipalities. These are the only ways to realistically sustain this city over the coming years. Homeowners **can not** carry any more of the tax burden on their backs.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor for hearing my concern. I hope this concern will be shared with the rest of city council during future council meetings.

Sincerely,

Karl Grotke