

From: Anne Washington
Sent: February 19, 2023 5:55 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: letter to members of council re living wage.

Dear Madam Mayor and Hamilton City Councillors:

As our elected officials, you are faced with a myriad of challenging budget decisions on how to efficiently and effectively operate this great City of Hamilton at a time when the cost of everything needed to do that, is rising exponentially. This is not an easy task!

Some of your staff, particularly those raising a family, are similarly faced with increased expenses with no added income to meet them. So they struggle to stretch their current earnings by taking on another job, omitting items from their grocery list or trying to find cheaper housing of which there is a very limited supply locally. A treat out to eat or tickets for a game become out of the question. "Sorry, Kids. Maybe next month!"

I understand that a living wage for Hamilton has been calculated at \$19.05 an hour. You must surely want Hamilton employees, whether part time, full time, casual, or students to earn a wage that provides a decent standard of living for themselves and their dependents, but those costs may be inhibiting given the other demands on tax payers dollars. So I suspect that your sense of what is right, pulls you to want to solve this issue of giving your staff a living wage but not now. Let's do it next year when you **think** things may be better. Will they?

Congratulations to those Councillors, whose knowledge and understanding of this issue with its impact on the operation of the City and its workforce support a living wage for its workforce in 2023. For those of you whose understanding has lead you to an opposite conclusion, I ask and urge you to reconsider this situation and based on that, join your colleagues in making Hamilton a Living Wage Employer.

Happy Family Day.

Respectfully,

Anne Washington
Hamilton, Ontario