

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>

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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