

From: Hafeez Hussain [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2025 11:10 PM
To: McRae, Angela <Angela.McRae@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca
Cc: Green, Magda <Magda.Green@hamilton.ca>; Trennum, Matthew <Matthew.Trennum@hamilton.ca>
Subject: General Issues Committee (Budget) - Written Submission Request

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Good Morning Angela,

I would like to submit a written delegation to the budget committee for the upcoming General Issues Committee on January 20th.

Please find below my submission. Please advise when it will be added to the agenda. Thank you

My name is Hafeez Hussain and our family we're owners of a property in the City of Hamilton. I would like to share my experience and to let this GIC committee know that the value of money is still not there for the residents of the City of Hamilton. This Municipality continues to spend, spend, spend, and is not transparent to what the residents and taxpayers are saying. It has been a year since the City has appointed a new City Manager and our family has asked staff for what the value of money we get from our property tax roll, we got no answers. In addition, I have asked the City several times why isn't Fraud and Waste at the centre of ensuring that every dollar of taxpayers dollars are being used appropriately and with oversight.

Last year I wrote to the council about what is going to direct the Community Services department on Fraud and Waste with the Auditor General, nothing happens. This council continues to ask for an increase for the ratepayers, however doesn't allocate dollars to internal audit or the Auditor General to recover more funds for the residents to spend on programs. I've also asked what the value of taxpayers dollars we paid for in 2024, no response.

I am addressing the following issues again for council to consider for the budget for 2025:

- a) **Value for Money Audits** - Allocate more dollars for the Office of the Auditor General to appoint more resources to conduct more value for money audits and find more savings.
- b) **Dedicated Fraud and Waste Unit** - Implement a dedicated unit in the city that takes Fraud and Waste Seriously by reviewing procurement, staff FTE, and resident funding request (i.e. grants, support programs, public support) and have a mandate to find \$X in savings from Fraud and Waste. Invest more resources in the Office of the Auditor General.
- c) **Quarterly Reporting to the Public on Where our Dollars being spent** - Have a quarterly report showing where dollars are being spent and have KPI attached to those dollars.

d) **Reduce Council Size for 2026 Municipal Election** - Conduct a Study to have a review of the number of Wards in this Municipality. Since 2001, when this City became a single-tier Municipality, A municipality of this size should not have 15 wards and 15 councillors. Mississauga has 800k residents and 11 wards and 11 councillors, why does Hamilton have 15 when it is a Single-Tier Municipality of 560k residents with no upper-tier municipal responsibilities? There are other single-tier Municipalities that have a population more than the City of Hamilton and have 5 Wards and 5 Councillors. Align Municipal Wards with Federal/Provincial zones. This will save dollars and have the council be more accountable to the residents.

e) **Automate the FOI Request Process @ City Clerk Office** - Invest in Technology and Automation with the City Clerk Office - Digitization needs to be a main focus of the City Clerk Office and the Freedom of Information Request - In 2025, there needs to be investment in automating and requesting FOI online and paying for FOI online without mailing or coming into a Municipal Service Centre and pay for it.

Unless the City and this council invest dollars in finding fraud and waste dollars and conducting value for money audits, the taxpayers for the City are not seeing what we are getting out of the tax roll. Are we seeing progress in investment and growth in this City? This is the question that the residents have for this Budget Committee.

Thank you
Hafeez Hussain