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Sent: January 11, 2025 11:15 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Taxes

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To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to you today to add my comments regarding the cities proposed budget for 2025.

I'm a senior on a single fixed income. I have worked hard all my life and lived below my means so that I might have a secure retirement.

Despite working hard and saving what I could, I find my savings quickly depleting with the high cost of living, inflation and because my property tax bill keeps rising faster than inflation along side every other bill I pay.

It seems that very little regard is given to raising taxes within our city year after year. I could understand if we saw perfectly repaired roads, extremely pro-active clearing of snow, and other services / infrastructure repair that was proof of why an increase was warranted.

We do not see this in Hamilton. We see roads and infrastructure that continues to get worse year after year but the taxes keep going up higher than the rate of inflation.

It would seem to me that we need to rein in spending to at least the rate of inflation and perhaps look for savings within the city budget to allow for a below inflation increase.

I can think of over a dozen ways the city isn't spending tax payers money efficiently and another dozen ways where the city isn't providing excellent value for our tax dollars.

I would ask that instead of your proposed increase you go back and re-examine things like the lack of road repair and the waste in a lot of areas that isn't required. Like hiring a poet for the city as one example.

Having lived in Mississauga for decades before moving to Hamilton 20 years ago, I can tell you that is a city that has their priorities in order and that not only manages tax payer dollars with the utmost care, but it is also a city that is on their "A" game when it comes to infrastructure repair and maintenance of things like their roads.

They don't spend on their roads every 5 years for poor quality asphalt that falls apart and then requires repaving or patching. They spend on quality asphalt that can endure the test of time and lasts for decades so that they can focus their efforts on other areas.

They are also proactive in their snow clearing efforts and have their team of public works folks out before a storm hits, during the storm and after the storm to make sure road-ways remain clear long before and after the storm is over. Something Hamilton does a really poor job at.

And they do all of this on a budget that has never been more than the regular rate of inflation and often times less than inflation.

Please remember all the folks who are counting their pennies like seniors or people with disabilities. We don't have endless cash reserves to fund un-necessary increases.

You need to tighten your belts like I have had to.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments,

Laurie Cedrone