

From: Gabriel Nicholson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 12:49 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Mayor Budget GIC Jan 23 7.2 and 7.3

Can I have confirmation please that this will be on Friday's Agenda

Greetings Chair and Members of Committee,

This year 2026 tax increase could be almost 1% less, around 3.25%.

Imagine the surprise to read on the City of Hamilton website that

" infrastructure investment must continue at a more realistic pace" and

"Infrastructure renewal is a key priority for 2026"

Imagine the shock to learn that, since 2011, Hamilton has a Special Levy on some residents called Special Infrastructure Re-Investment that cashes in \$13,428,870, every single year; in control of council and does not always get spent on Infrastructure Renewal or Re-Investment.

We're double dipping these residents that pay a special levy as the capital book has plenty of projects in each ward that could be paid from the Special Levy yet is taxed through the General Levy.

If \$13,428,870 were to be applied to capital projects in the wards instead of using the General Levy, the tax increase would fall by almost 1%.

Unfortunately, over the 15 years this Special Infrastructure Re-Investment tax has been on the books, relinquishing control of this pot of gold has always been opposed.

Following not only the letter of the law but the spirit as well is something we all must strive for too. A Municipal Act Special Levy never intended that residents get taxed for a service, and then have those monies spent on or given away to others that have nothing to do with Infrastructure, Re-Investment or Renewal.

If we're not willing to do the honest thing and A) Pull the plug finally on this Special Levy or B) Ensure it's spent on city-owned Infrastructure Re-Investment

Then it's time to C) Change the name to Councillor Slush Fund.

\$13,428,870 could be used to decrease the upcoming tax increase, by applying it as its name implies.

Imagine we went back 15 years and did this every year, and every year the tax increase was 1% less.

Hamiltonians would be better off with lower taxes while investing in the infrastructure renewal this city needs.

Thank You
Gabriel Nicholson

