

**From:** C J G [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, February 8, 2026 1:16 PM

**To:** Office of the Mayor <[Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca)>; Clark, Brad <[Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca](mailto:Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Taxpayer Priorities and Council Spending

**External Email:** Use caution with links and attachments.

Dear Mayor Horwath,

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the use of taxpayer funds to provide catered meals for councillors and senior staff.

At a time when property taxes are increasing, many Hamilton residents are struggling just to get by. Seniors are trying to stretch fixed pensions. Young families are facing rising grocery costs. Many households are living paycheque to paycheque, barely able to cover rent, utilities, and basic necessities. Some individuals cannot even afford to prepare a lunch to take to work, and some parents struggle to provide lunches for their children to take to school.

In that context, ordering catered meals for elected officials earning six figure salaries feels deeply out of touch.

Residents are repeatedly told that the City does not have enough funding for essential services such as road maintenance, infrastructure repairs, and supports for housing and homelessness. Taxpayer dollars should be prioritized for these critical needs not for meals for those in leadership positions who are fully capable of covering their own expenses.

This is about priorities and demonstrating respect for the financial realities facing the people you represent. I urge Council to reconsider this spending and ensure that public funds are directed toward the areas where they are truly needed.

Sincerely,

Colleen Graham