

Subject: FW Unspent city budget funds

From: Carolyn McCann

Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 1:40 PM

To: Partridge, Judi; Merulla, Sam; Duvall, Scott; Pasuta, Robert

Subject: Unspent city budget funds

Mayor & city councillors,

I & many of my friends were most dismayed to see that the Mayor's excess city tax budget was given to charity. Like many of my friends, I donate a large part of my money to the charities of my choice and I pay my taxes on time. These monies are for separate and different purposes.

I live in centre city, an area of historic significance, ageing infra-structure and in need of a strong police and fire service among other things. I pay taxes to take care of these and many other city responsibilities and I pay these without complaint.

In conversations since the mayor's United Way donation, my friends & I all agreed that we DO NOT PAY TAXES SO THAT CITY OFFICIALS CAN DECIDE WHICH CHARITY NEEDS MONEY! Every taxpayer is quite capable of deciding that for themselves and each then receives the income tax receipt.

We appreciate that many departments and offices are being efficient in the spending of our tax dollars. We agree that those who saved the money should have some say about how those savings are used. We suggest that when a city councillor has managed to do so, he/she should designate which project/department in her/his ward should be given the extra monies to be spent as needed in that ward. As the mayor does not have a ward, I suggest that he designate a city project or department of choice for the use of those funds.

This way there will be clear definition as to the use of my and all taxpayers' funds. City Taxes are for the needed city responsibilities; education taxes are for the schools and charitable donations are the decision of each taxpayer. I expect that my suggestions would be acceptable to the many taxpayers who were disgruntled by the mayor's confusion as to the use of tax dollars.

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