

I am writing to address the following motion made by Anna Hopkins.

On Monday March 24th Councilor Anna Hopkins moved for consideration for an updated low-income seniors and low-income persons with disabilities Tax Deferral Program”:

The Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to prepare a Business Case for the implementation of an expanded Low-income Seniors and Low-income Persons with disabilities Tax Deferral program modeled on the program in effect in Ottawa for submission to the Budget Committee for the 2026 tax year.

I consent to my name and input being published on the public agenda.

I worked with seniors and the disabled when I was employed in health care in both long term care settings and in public health, where I visited seniors and disabled in their homes. The problems I saw were that their nutritional status was altered when they arrived in long term care or in their homes when they could not purchase groceries. They had more medical issues to address and the health care team worked hard to stabilize them.

When I became involved with this issue for Tax Deferral I was concerned about this population that is trying to stay in their homes and being aware of the current costs of groceries wonder how many are going without proper nutrition in order to meet the ongoing costs they are facing . I too have recently lost my husband and noted a significant reduction in my monthly income. Time and inflation will make an impact and I hope I too can keep my home as costs are increasing.

Seniors and those disabled have worked hard to obtain their homes and now they need our support to stay in an environment they are familiar with and desire. When they are moved to a new environment, accidents can happen because they are not familiar with their surroundings. They need to be able to buy groceries needed to keep their weight and health intact. The idea of deferring taxes which I see as a win -win for both the city and this group seems like a simple idea yet there is no support by City Hall for these individuals.

The Tax Deferral program would assist the seniors and disabled to obtain some of the essential items like groceries, pay bills and self care needed monthly to stay in their home .Support from the City Hall would give them a better quality of life .

Please consider helping the seniors and disabled in the 2026 budget with this motion.

Sincerely,

Mary Skubel