

To the members of
London City Council and
Mayor Joe Fontana

January 16th, 2012

The following suggestions are my thoughts for an improved the corporate Budget for the City of London for 2012.

In accordance to the Operational Budget Highlights I propose the following:

PROGRAM Economic Prosperity

- Business Attraction

I question the increase funding contribution to Economic Development. A cost of \$1,000,000 is a lot of money for London to spend without presenting forward specific applications where it will be used.

Business attraction and Retention is vital to London at this time but we must very cautious where we actually spend this tremendous increase in taxpayers money. If we don't agree with such a high increase then a compromise must prevail.

PROGRAM Planning and Development Services

City Planning and Research

Suggesting a 12.7% increase in the budget including an increase in staff at this time is ludicrous. Private industry cannot afford to hire and neither should the city at planning department this time. Freeze all staff hiring until the economic climate of this city begins to change.

PROGRAM Protective Services

By Law Enforcement

Increased revenue is possible through the implementation and enforcement of all accessible parking stalls. Only a small percentage

are now recognized as enforceable. In 2012 all parking stalls in London, either municipal or private lots, must be enforceable immediately. London must comply with the new Provincial guidelines. Enforcement and permit verification is needed and they will increase revenue.

Police Services

Police service cost increase due to additional fringe benefits through OMERS has to be addressed further through negotiations. Communities can no longer afford for such high levels of employment benefits to continue. These benefits are out of line with private industry and they should project the norm and not be the exception.

PROGRAM

Social and Health Services

London Middlesex Housing Services

I question why the rental revenue of this housing is decreasing at a rate of \$120,000 a year while the housing costs related to the sites such as operational maintenance, waste removal, operational costs and the like increase? People requiring social housing must endure some increased costs, as we all are experiencing at this time.

Land Ambulance

We do not need to create another bureaucracy like the proposed Middlesex-London Emergency Service Authority that will employ only two people and they are to be highly paid individuals. Put this program on hold until the city can increase property taxes without undue stress on the community.

Cost of Daycare Subsidy

Presently the income level of those qualifying for this benefit is far too high. There should be no need to subsidize a family earning \$75,000 a year by subsidizing their daycare costs.

Market Tower Lease

With Ontario Works decentralizing from this site there is no need to have to pay any additional leasing fees for office space. If the additional space is needed, and I can't understand why if there are no additions of staff, then no more revenue is needed to pay rental fees.

PROGRAM**Transportation Services**

Reducing the commitment to the community made in January 2010 to clear a higher depth of snow from sidewalks to allow for persons with disabilities, seniors and able bodied individuals better access to the city is criminal. This cost may seem like a drop in the bucket to the overall budget. But it is a necessary service and the difference of participating in the city or being ostracized in their homes for many.

Parking

Increased revenue due to a higher rate for on-street parking is just a small portion of potential for increased revenue. Enforcement of accessible parking stalls on all sites throughout the municipal on municipal or private lots will provide enough revenue to cover the cost of an educational and awareness program about their proper usage of accessible parking stalls. I have provided this information to council members with the supporting documents from about 8 other cities to confirm the feasibility of this program. So far staff have not supported my position or those successful programs of other leading cities.

PROGRAM**CORPORATE AND OPERATIONAL & COUNCIL SERVICES****Corporate Services**

Major cutbacks have to continue at city hall. Printing and paper costs are out of control. During the last 20 years Canadian businesses have been attempting to go paperless and yet this city continues to provide paper copies and print outs at an astronomical rate. Reducing the cost of printing and paper itself by 80% is possible. It is the 'Green' thing to do and will reduce the 2012 budget.

Additional cost cutting can be achieved through elimination of the city courier service that delivers the documentation throughout the city that is readily available on your website .

Submission from:

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