

Attention: Ms. Denise Brown/Ward 11

Cc: City Councillors

As a resident in Ward 11, I am very concerned that the Mayor and you - our elected Councillor in Ward II - are not being good stewards of our city or our city's future in this single-minded focus to achieve a 0% tax increase. I recognize that Mayor Fontana campaigned on this electoral platform but he also promised the citizens of London that a 0% tax freeze would not be done by cutting services. While I applaud all efforts to ensure that we get value for our tax dollars - I don't believe this should be done at the expense of proper fiscal management principles, or on the backs of our most marginalized. I am deeply concerned of the message that is being communicated about who we are as a city.

I also understand that you and 7 other Councillors supported the idea to switch the strategy on affordable housing because Mayor Fontana had a better plan. For what I have understood and read in the media, this is one of the most comprehensive plans and that this plan was supported by the city. Furthermore, I also understand that the Affordable Housing reserve is leveraged with other governments 7:1. How can this be good fiscal management? Who walks away from that kind of leverage opportunity? I am confused how this plan was initially endorsed by Council only to then be thrown into the mix of cuts. This should have never happened. Voters or citizens who participated in the public consultation process in London had no idea that this was part of the plan and as a citizen I feel deeply misled that there was no mention that this was even being considered.

I ask that you along with your council colleagues to please reconsider this need to achieve 0% at all costs. There is too much at stake and our city needs your leadership (including fiscal leadership), your willingness to listen to the experts (including City Staff) and your willingness to hear our concerns. I ask that you please do the right thing and make our city one that we can all be proud of and where no one is left behind.

Respectfully yours,

Jodi Simpson, Citizen in Ward 11

*\* Please note that my views are my own and do not reflect my employer or any organization that I am affiliated with.*