

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

6. Multi-Year Budget – Public Participation

- J. Thompson and M. Laliberte, Co-Chairs, London Community Advocates Network – summarizing the comments contained in the written submission included on the public Agenda.
- S. Rooth, 23 Wethered Street – talking about poverty and what can be done to fix it; expressing support for free bus passes for children under 12 years of age; indicating that you can only rob Peter to pay Paul for so long before Peter comes calling; noting the City encourages and offers subsidized fitness and recreation programs, but only if you can get there; adding it is sometimes difficult to afford bus transportation to take your children to the Doctor for treatment; also noting that you have to be able to afford to take the bus to go to the Food Bank to feed your family; suggesting that the \$150,000 required for free buses passes for children under 12 could be funded without increasing the budget; advising that as Chair of the London Transit Commission she supports free bus passes for children under 12, but feels that the costs should be borne by the City.
- D. McBurney, 466 South Street – echoing the comments of the previous speakers; suggesting that free bus passes are not only needed for children under 12, but also ODSP clients; stating that if you don't offer subsidized transportation to individuals on ODSP they basically have to stay at home, which can result in substance abuse due to boredom; indicating that it sometimes comes down to a choice between food or getting around; noting it is difficult to maintain stable housing when you have to be away for 10 to 12 hours a day looking for food because you cannot afford transportation to get around.