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Sent: Friday, November 10, 2017 4:08 PM

To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>

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Subject: Budget 2018-19 - Public Input Submission - SPPC MTG Nov 22 -2017

Please post this document as public input for the upcoming SPPC Budget MTG - planned for November 22 -2017.

After attending the Budget open house MTG Nov 9, I would encourage the SPPC / Council and Lisa's Finance Team to consider the following with respect to the 2018-19 Budget Update process;

1. **Assessment Value Disclosure** (Rate Payer Impact) . It's 2017 not 2015 ! All budget documentation available in the slide decks and the website reference rate payer budget increase impact based on a 2015 " Typical " home assessed value of \$215,000 where \$229,000 is the 2017 value provided by staff. **RECO** - Finance staff should be directed to update these budget documents and communication with the public based on the taxpayer impact for the 2017 " Average Assessment Value " for clarity to Council and the public.
2. **Dundas Flex Street** - City Staff Costs - The proposed budget calls for the transfer of \$175 K from the Economic Development Fund (EDF) to cover the operating staffing costs of 1.0 FTE over 2018-19. The optics of this proposal are City of London centric , self serving and paternal; suggesting we have nothing of higher priority for EDF allocation than to funded new City of London staffing growth. **RECO** - No EDF funds should be allocated to this position and Council should vote on the added merits of this Dundas / Flex Street staff position within the normal envelop of new taxpayer funding.
3. **Challenges & Ratepayers Support** - I am a strong supporter of the 4 year / multi year budget process but like most ratepayers I will focus on \$6.975 million tax increase challenge going forward to 2018-19 not looking backward at 2016-17 actuals which I have already paid . Much of the source of this increase is currently confidential and undisclosed and will likely remain that way for your SPPC Nov 22 and Dec 12 Budget Update MTG's which adds to both ratepayer anxiety and trust issues as we move forward . **RECO** - I extend my trust in Council and the Financial Team to provide the leadership and initiative to plan forward and mitigate these Financial challenges with offsetting savings & options to return this/our Budget Plan going forward (Only) back to some level of fiscal sanity. >>> Taxpayers are not elastic and the City of London mil rate is already in the top 20th % percentile of Ontario cities in highest taxed groupings.
4. **Assessment Growth Allocation** - As with all corporations , the City of London needs to better recognize that the most important \$\$ is the a new dollar generated from sales or tax revenue. This budget only highlights / communicates approximately \$7.6 Million in " new assessment growth " per year (New builds per staff) but not the \$14 to \$15 Million per year in assessment growth taxes from **existing** properties taxed at the same mil rate with zero tax increase. That totals four (4) \$\$ of every \$100 tax collected (4 %) as a new dollar and these dollars are typically "sprinkled "consistently to all City of London departments based an previous historical budget analysis. **RECO** - Both Finance and City Council needs to be much more surgical on the allocation of these new dollars based on a revised set of business metrics and needs analysis as most of this assessment growth revenue (from existing properties) should require almost zero additional \$\$ to service . These dollars should be directed to our future cost challenges like # 3 above & the shifting direction in urgent initiatives without impacting the overall taxpayer supported pay envelop going forward.

Thank You for this opportunity and consideration .

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