



City of London

Budget 2013 Public Participation Meeting

Monday Jan. 14, 2013

Mayor Fontana and our good city's Councillors.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate this council on the success of a 0% tax increase for the past two years. Because it certainly was not an easy feat. I would also like to commend you on your attempt at another year of a 0% increase. In addition to this I would like to state, like many speakers before me that another 0% year is not viable. The proposed budget cuts are ones that Londoners simply cannot afford. These budget cuts will prove contrary to this very council's resolution to make sure London is a Caring, Compassionate, and Age Friendly City.

The budget cuts to London Middlesex Housing Corporation are just plain mean. Last year a permanent cut of \$1 Million dollars was made to the corporation's budget. So, before this year's cut was proposed LMHC'S BUDGET WAS \$1 Million behind. So, the fat was already trimmed, and now we're hacking at the bone.

As the voice of the SoHo Community Association, I express our collective concerns regarding the elimination of Off Duty Officers and reduction to waste pick up at our LMHC unit on Simcoe St.

Our neighbourhood has been working internally and collaboratively with staff and council to eliminate our incorrect stigma as a "rough and blighted" neighbourhood. We fear that these cuts will be counterproductive to council's resolution to the SoHo Community Improvement Plan.

The proposed elimination of the LMHC's Transfer Review Committee are equally concerning. Families that fall through the cracks of the Housing Service's Act's definition of "Victims of Abuse" will have no recourse if they are in a dangerous living arrangement. This is quite contrary to being a caring and compassionate city. This looks like a cut a mean city would make.

This council resolved to have London be known as an "Age Friendly City", however, the proposed cuts to funding to comply with Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) for the 2015 deadline will be a very costly decision. I would kindly like to remind council that once the 2015 deadline is reached, non compliance fines will be initiated to the tune of \$50,000-\$100,000 per incident per day. This will become very expensive, very quickly.

It is admirable to want to somewhat alleviate the burden of taxation on your average tax payer, however, generally, these cuts will not affect them to the extent that they will on those who are financially disadvantaged or physically disabled. Please consider who these cuts will truly affect in your decision.

Thank you,

Tanya Park

President of the SoHo Community Association

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