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Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 3:30 PM

To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>

Cc: Saunders, Cathy <csaunder@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] SPPC MTG - April 27 - Added Agenda - Agenda Item 4.2 - OPS BUDGET SURPLUS ALLOCATION

*** Please consider this submission as added agenda for the upcoming SPPC MTG – April 27 – for agenda item 4.2 - 2020 – Operating Budget Surplus & Allocation ****

Mayor Holder (Chair) / Councillor Peloza (Budget Chief) / Councillors

As both a long time budget watcher & London Residential tax payer, I'm asking for Councils leadership & tillage to apply a **minimum** of \$6.5 Million of this 2020 OPS Budget surplus to be immediately applied to offset the recently approved 3.4 % taxpayer funded OPS Budget increase for 2021 to mitigate this huge tax increase by approximately - 1.0 % going forward.

Supporting Considerations ;

- The City of London has approved the highest % tax increase of any Ontario city in 2021 , even as ALL ratepayers struggle with C-19 impacts both personally & with immediate family . Even Hamilton & Ottawa , our normal bigger tax “ partners “ comparables both came in at or below 2.1 % citing & understanding C-19 ratepayer impacts.
- Based on our own 2021 approved OPS Budget to date – The City of London has been awarded a 2.9 % inflationary increase over 2020 prior to ANY Council related Business Cases changes for well needed new initiatives PLUS the recent allocation of approximately \$13 Million or 1.1 % in Assessment value growth . I honestly don't know anyone or any organization that wouldn't be happy @ a 3.9 % year over year OPS budget increase during these times of crisis.
- The City of London & this Council are more comfortable with the impact & budget mitigation tools required to manage our C-19 issues after a year of experience. This experience combined with a 3.4 % tax increase should drive a plus \$ 30 million surplus by 2021 end based on last years performance.
- RBC Place or the City of London on their behalf have been sitting on the EMPTY corner property of York & Wellington Sts immediate west of RBC place for over 8 years to support the expansion of RBC place. It's time to sell this “ ASSET “ and not burden Taxpayers with further RBC Place loading .
- Council have an equal or greater responsibility to rate payers for the fair distribution of surpluses. This is a Fiscal Fairness issue! To sit back and watch while another \$ 5 Million is added to the Economic Development fund in lieu of a taxpayer credit is truly not supporting YOUR broader rate payer base.

THXS – Chris Butler – 863 Waterloo St