Janice Lukes
City Councillor, Waverley West Ward
Where the world comes together



March 3, 2020

Mayor Bowman and members of your Executive Policy Committee

RE: Budget 2020-2023

A four year budget, containing information never publicly presented prior, was tabled on March 6th 2020. I and almost half of Council were restricted access to over 60+ behind closed door meetings over the past year to discuss and develop the four year budget. The Public Service department heads provided in depth briefings, insight, and recommendations on what items to keep and what items to cut in the four year budget. All of you had the opportunity to discuss and influence the majority's thoughts.

In the past 12 days, the world as we know it has changed, and continues to change hourly in ways we never thought possible. All of these factors have made it virtually impossible to scrutinize the preliminary budget in a manner the citizens of Waverley West expect of me.

In previous budgets I have presented to virtually every Standing Policy Committee. Due to COVID-19 and the condensed budget time frame, this year I limited my presentations to the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works - to request the committee find a way to keep the U Pass in the budget. The U Pass is the single most effective program this City has ever launched that changes behaviour by encouraging people out of private vehicles and into transit. We need to be making sustainable decisions.

Without a doubt transit is a heavily subsidised service the City delivers but - changing people's behaviour to enable a more sustainable way of life to protect our planet takes investments.

The world is changing in front of our eyes, and the economic impact will be devastating, regardless of stimulus programs being offered. The budgets being presented will change dramatically in the coming months.

I ask that you make sustainable decisions in this budget, and find a way keep the U Pass program operating. The need to be moving to sustainable transportation is critical to our planet, and our survival.

Sincerely,

Councillor Janice Lukes

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