

By email to: bob.chiarelli@ottawa.ca
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His Worship Mayor Bob Chiarelli
110 Laurier Ave W
Ottawa ON

Dear Mayor Chiarelli:

I am writing concerning Ottawa Budget 2004.

I have paid great attention to the debates and have read with interest the articles which have appeared in the newspapers concerning the apparent problems with the City's budget.

Many of my fellow residents are facing property valuation increases ranging up to 34%. Even if the average for the City of Ottawa is approximately 16 % as published in the news, this means that with a zero increase in the City Budget, we will face a 16 % increase in taxation, and this does not include the 6.5 % increase refunded in 2003.

I am glad that you are pressing the Ontario Government to change the way property taxes are assessed and am aware that the Federal Government is making promises that they will provide financial assistance to cities. However, I want you and the council to know that I am against any increase in the City Budget. Greater efficiencies are possible within the City departments and that these savings should prevent an increase to the taxation level without degrading City services. In fact, I would like to see a decrease in taxation as I believe the City of Ottawa taxes local residents at a much higher rate per property, than comparable other cities, and I do not believe our services are better.

In recent years, despite claims to the contrary by you and City officials, property taxes have steadily increased, while at the same time, we have also had increased user fees and increased rates for water, sewer and all other services billed directly to each property owner. I would like the City to live within its means without cutting core services.

Yours sincerely,