

Follow up letter to Mayor Sutcliffe re: 2024 Budget Process

Dear Mayor Sutcliffe,

Thank you for requesting that Mr. Cyril Rogers meet with the Peoples Official Plan Coalition to discuss the budget process for Budget 2024. The productive meeting took place on June 20th and had a number of outcomes which are described below. We are confident that progress can be made.

We were favourably impressed by the Term of Council Priorities which you tabled on June 28. One of our key objectives is to see a clearer link between priorities and budget allocations. It seems to us that these Priorities could form the framework for the next Budget and wonder if you share that perspective.

To discuss this further we would be pleased to meet with you or your staff.

Respectfully,

Erwin Dreessen
for the Peoples Official Plan Coalition

Cc: Councillors
Bcc: POP Budget Working Group

Dear Mr. Rogers,

Thank you for meeting with us on June 20th. In follow-up we offer the following:

1. City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) will reach out to you and other City officials in separate channels to discuss options for engaging marginalized groups in a meaningful way to discuss the budget and developing gender and equity lenses, hopefully with the Gender and Race Equity, Indigenous Relations, Diversity and Inclusion Branch.
2. We would be pleased to engage in follow-up discussions to build upon Budget 2023's first attempt to create a climate lens for the capital budget. Please identify the staff member(s) we should be contacting.
3. Likewise, we would be happy to discuss with staff what questions to ask, and how to ask them, in the next survey. Whom should we speak with?
4. Branch briefing notes currently vary widely in both format and content. Please see the Annex below for a suggested format.

5. One of the suggestions in our April 27 letter was to allow for re-allocation between Committee envelopes in the process of budget making. If you agree with this, how and when do you see this being implemented?

The meeting also raised the following expectations:

6. You would send us information about the status and timeline of the Service Reviews.

7. You indicated that the City has done much work on benchmarking. This is of great interest to us and we would love to learn more.

Finally, now that the Term of Council Priorities have been tabled (displaying a vastly improved format and more manageable content), it would seem that the framework is set for a significantly modified Budget document. Is this your view as well? One of our key aims in engaging on the budget process is to see a Budget that displays a clear link between priorities and budget allocations.

Looking forward to your response.

Regards,

Erwin Dreessen

for the Peoples Official Plan (POP) coalition