

Women's Eyes on the City

The future you want for our city: Let Council know

When City Council agreed to a 0% tax increase for the 2007 City Budget, they knew it was not sustainable. They agreed to do a "priority-setting" exercise to determine what the city will fund in the future and how it will deliver City programs and services.

Plans are now underway for City Council to hold 12 closed-door sessions starting April 23rd at the Municipal - Pineview Golf Course. At this time it seems the only opportunity for public consultation will be an on-line survey.

This is in contrast to the consultative process that led to the creation of the [Ottawa 20/20](#) where hundreds of women and men across the city helped to identify a set of guiding principles that set the course for building a safe, clean, caring and inclusive City.

We want to make sure these principles are maintained when discussing inconsistent options such as outsourcing services (contracting the private sector to provide city services) or gapping (reducing city staff by not replacing vacancies).

The plans made this spring will determine not only what programs and services will be funded but also how they will be delivered. Write or call your City Councillor and the Mayor. Let them know that the priority setting should include open public consultations.

E-mail Message:

Dear _____ (Councillor/Mayor O'Brien)

Tell them who you are and why you are writing....

My name is _____ and I am writing to raise my concern about the City Council priority-setting sessions to be held this spring. In the past, priorities have been set in our city using a more consultative process, such as the Ottawa 20/20 process. In that process, hundreds of women and men from across the city set priorities for the next 20 years.

City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)

Initiative: une ville pour toutes les femmes (IVTF)



Will the priorities that were identified in the Ottawa 20/20 be maintained? What opportunities do I and other citizens have to provide input if the sessions are held in a closed-door manner away from City Hall?

I am especially concerned that our City continue to fund and deliver public services such as..... that are accessible, affordable and accountable to local residents....

For many residents the City is the first level of government they turn to for help. It is important to have a strong, open, responsive and transparent government.

What will you do to guarantee that the priorities established in the Ottawa 20/20 are respected and the views of citizens are fully considered?

Regards (name _____, contact information)



Phone Script:

Hint: call early in the morning before 8:00 a.m. or later in the evening after 6:00 p.m. and leave a message on the answering machine if you are a bit nervous to talk directly to your Councillor or the Mayor.

Hello my name is _____

I am calling to let you know that I am concerned about the City's plan to hold its priority setting meetings at the Pineview Golf Course and not at City Hall.

I am concerned that the City is not having a more open and public consultation on what City programs and services will and will not be funded or how they will be delivered. These are important matters City residents should be consulted on.

I hope it is not too late to urge you to hold open public consultations.

I can be contacted at (phone number)

Thank you

City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)

Initiative: une ville pour toutes les femmes (IVTF)

