



April 23, 2011

Mayor Rick Goldring  
Members of Council  
City of Burlington

Re: Priorities for the Current Council Term of Office

---

The Burlington Chamber of Commerce represents over 1000 companies with 30,000 employees and advocates on behalf of the Burlington business community.

Shortly before the October 2010 municipally election, the Burlington Chamber of Commerce surveyed its members. The specific question that was asked was "Which issues should be the priorities of the next city council?"

The full survey results, including comments, are attached. The top five answers were:

1. Capital spending
2. Taxes
3. City Operations Spending
4. The Pier
5. JBMH Expansion

Clearly the top three responses are related; increased spending results in increased taxes. The Chamber of Commerce believes that controlled spending, both capital and operational, should be the top priority of this council. Often, increased capital spending results in increase operations spending (i.e. new arenas need to be maintained). On March 23, 2011, the Chamber sent a letter to the Budget & Corporate Services Committee urging the city to hold budget increases to a maximum of to 2.5% per year for each year of the four year term. This increase should include all operations spending, capital spending and funds for the JBMH redevelopment.

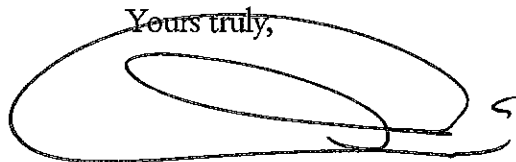
The Chamber feels that the JBMH hospital expansion is important to both the community and to businesses in Burlington. We believe it is easier for businesses to attract and retain employees if there is a thriving, modern community hospital. We sent, jointly with BEDC, a delegation to council about the importance to Burlington business of the JMBH redevelopment on December 7, 2009. On March 23, 2011 the Chamber sent a letter to the Budget & Corporate Services Committee

reiterating the importance of the hospital and urging the city to use prior-year surpluses to fund the city portion of the hospital redevelopment. Funding this redevelopment should be a priority of council.

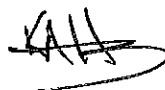
Infrastructure maintenance and planning is an issue that the Chamber's Executive Committee has been reviewing. Infrastructure maintenance is easy to overlook as a priority. On March 23, 2011 the Chamber reissued a policy recommendation to council that speaks to infrastructure spending. The Chamber believes that funding for infrastructure replacement and new (and expanded) infrastructure projects should be subject to rigorous evaluation criteria to ensure that the project priority list reflects fundamental infrastructure requirements. We also believe that ongoing funding should be established to maintain infrastructure assets over the projected asset life. This should be done within the 2.5% maximum yearly budget increase.

To summarize, the Burlington Chamber of Commerce urges city council to focus on these priorities as it guides the city through its term of council: controlled spending and reasonable taxes, hospital redevelopment, and infrastructure maintenance.

Yours truly,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tamer Fahmi'.

Tamer Fahmi  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Burlington Chamber of Commerce

A smaller, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Hoey'.

Keith Hoey  
President  
Burlington Chamber of Commerce