

Dear Councilors:

I am heartened by your discussions to not increase tax rates. Staff has done a commendable job in tightening the proposed budget but now need your input and leadership.

The proposed budget clearly outlines our long term challenge – our current spending growth is simply not sustainable. The residents and businesses of our city are still feeling the hardships brought on by the economic downturn. As you well know tax rate increases translate into four times the impact for business.

I urge you to seek out further efficiencies and reductions. This is the time to make the difficult decisions to keep our city competitive for business and attractive to residents.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Payn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "V".

Valerie Payn
President & CEO
Halifax Chamber of Commerce
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