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GOOD MORNING MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.

I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK HERE TODAY.

I'M WONDERING HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE TRIED THE NEW HOLIDAY DRINKS FROM YOUR LOCAL COFFEE SHOP? COINCIDENTALLY, THEY ARE ABOUT THE SAME PRICE AS THE CURRENTLY APPROVED PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE OF 3.03% FOR 2020

I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT I WORK IN PRIVATE-SECTOR AND I, LIKE MANY CALGARIANS, HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN.

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN AFRICA, BUT NOW THANKFUL AND GRATEUL TO BE A PROUD CITIZEN OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY AND OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY.

very grateful..

I HAVE SEEN FIRST HAND WHAT NEGATIVITY AND JOB LOSS CAN DO TO INDIVIDUAL MORALE AND THE GROWTH OF A COUNTRY.

however

AND TO THINK THAT FOR THE PRICE OF A LATTE A MONTH, WE CAN NOT ONLY SAVE PEOPLE'S JOBS, BUT CAN CONTINUE TO REBUILD OUR CITY.

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Is you can give

I AM FOR THE APPROVED 3.03% PROPERTY TAX RATE INCREASE ~~FOR 2020~~, AND RECOMMEND A SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF THE RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX SHIFT TO GET US CLOSER TO 50/50.

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IF WE DON'T RAISE TAXES NOW, WHEN IS A GOOD TIME? FIVE TO TEN YEARS FROM NOW WHEN OPERATIONAL COSTS ARE DOUBLE OR EVEN MORE?

WHAT IS QUITE PHENOMENAL IS THAT OUR TAX SUPPORTED SPENDING GROWTH OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS HAS REMAINED BELOW POPULATION GROWTH PLUS INFLATION. YET, WE NEED MORE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS, POLICE, FIRE AND OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICES TO SUPPORT OUR GROWING POPULATION.

COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE SAID THAT UNION WORKERS COULD BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

I SAY OVER ONE MILLION CITIZENS CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION FOR THE PRICE OF A LATTE A MONTH. DO WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE NON-UNION WORKERS IN THE CITY THAT HAVEN'T HAD A RAISE FOR UP TO FOUR YEARS, BUT YET LIVING COST INCREASES? WHAT DO WE SAY TO THEM? I HOPE THE WORDS THANK YOU COME TO MIND.

JOB CUTS PAINTS A GRIM PICTURE FOR FUTURE EMPLOYEES WHO WANT TO WORK IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR. WE ARE LOSING KNOWLEDGEABLE, VALUABLE, SKILLED PEOPLE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

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SPEAKING OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND THE TOPIC OF PRIVATIZING A PORTION OF THE BLACK BINS,

CAN I PLEASE REMIND THE PEOPLE THAT PRIVATE SECTOR COMPANIES ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF MAKING MONEY? I FEAR THAT WE WILL SEE PRICE HIKES FOR THIS BASIC NEED THAT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY PROVIDED BY THE CITY FOR NO PROFIT, AND THAT THE QUALITY OF THIS SERVICE WILL DECREASE IN THE FUTURE.

IF WE ARE SEEKING TO SAVE MONEY IN THE CITY, SHOULD WE THINK OF THINGS LIKE CANCELLING EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF CITY OFFICIALS?

CAN WE COMBINE OR MERGE WARDS TO HAVE LESS COUNCILLORS? I KNOW, IT DOESN'T SOUND NICE TO HEAR OR THINK THAT YOU COULD NOT HAVE A JOB.

A REMINDER THAT IF 230 OR EVEN MORE JOBS GET CUT, THAT THIS WILL PUT AN EVEN GREATER STRAIN ON SOCIAL SERVICES LIKE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT.

I CANNOT IMAGINE HOW IT MUST FEEL TO COME IN TO WORK EACH DAY FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS KNOWING THAT YOUR COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING CUTTING YOUR JOB AND THAT THERE ARE FELLOW CITIZENS OUT THERE WISHING FOR YOU TO BE FIRED.

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IN 2013, WE WERE DEVASTATED BY FLOODS. WE STOOD TOGETHER AS CALGARIANS TO OVERCOME.

IN 2016, WE HAD THE FIRES IN THE NORTH, WE RACED TO HELP AND WE WERE ALBERTA STRONG. I CALL ON MY FELLOW CITIZENS NOW TO STAND TOGETHER TO HELP OUR CITY, AND EACH OTHER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GAS AND FOOD PRICES GO UP, WE ARE SHOCKED FOR A FEW DAYS, BUT WE ADAPT, WE CHANGE AND MOVE FORWARD. I THINK WE WILL BE ABLE TO ADAPT AND CHANGE TO THE LOSS OF ONE LATTE A MONTH.

I ASK MYSELF WHAT IS THE FEAR OF RAISING TAXES BY \$5.10 A MONTH?

SO, NEXT TIME WHEN WE STAND IN LINE FOR THAT HOLIDAY DRINK, MUFFIN OR HAMBURGER, LET US ASK OURSELVES IF WE ARE ABLE TO BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION. I KNOW I WANT TO BE.

THANK YOU.