



**STAFF REPORT
INFORMATION ONLY**

**Hatzoloh Toronto’s Request to the Provincial
Government to Permit Use of Green Lights when
Responding to Emergency Calls**

Date:	April 19, 2007
To:	Community Development & Recreation Committee
From:	Chief and General Manager, Toronto EMS
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

At its meeting of March 5, 6, 7 and 8, 2007 City Council requested the Chief and General Manager, Emergency Medical Services report for information, on the matter of Hatzoloh Toronto’s request to use green lights on their personal vehicles while responding to emergency calls.

Hatzoloh (“help” in Hebrew) is a voluntary, Emergency medical service organization serving the unique needs of the Orthodox Jewish community. Their request for the Provincial Government to permit use of green lights is regulated by the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) 1990, Part VI – Equipment, Vehicles of Firefighters. Currently, the HTA only permits firefighters and volunteer firefighters (only) to display a green light in their vehicles.

Expanding the use of green lights beyond what is permitted for firefighters is ultimately a matter for the Ministry of Transportation in consideration of community needs and overall road safety.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts to the City of Toronto.

DECISION HISTORY

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cc/decisions/2007-03-05-cc03-dd.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Hatzoloh (“help” in Hebrew) is a voluntary, emergency medical service organization serving the unique needs of the Orthodox Jewish community, worldwide. In Toronto, the unique needs served by Hatzoloh include translation services and providing assistance to EMS paramedics as their volunteers are trained in advanced first aid. Over the years, Toronto EMS and Hatzoloh have worked co-operatively to provide emergency response and medical care to the Orthodox Jewish community.

COMMENTS

Hatzoloh dispatches volunteers to emergency calls. In so doing, a green light would alert other vehicles on the road that a vehicle is proceeding on an emergency basis and thus improve road safety. The Highway Traffic Act (HTA) 1990, Part VI – Equipment, Vehicles of Firefighters permits firefighters and volunteer firefighters (only) to use green lights in their private vehicles when responding to a call. As the HTA is written now, Hatzoloh or any other non-firefighting service would not be permitted to use a green light in a vehicle. However, the Ministry of Transportation could review the HTA with a view to expanding the use of green lights in consideration of community needs and overall road safety.

It is my understanding that Hatzoloh has already met with the Minister of Transportation on the matter of green lights and that initial discussions have been favourable.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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