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Dave Dignard
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17th Floor, Metro Hall
Toronto, Ontario**RE: Traffic Calming Measures, Larchmount Avenue, between Eastern Avenue and Queen Street East**

Upon review of the proposal for installation of traffic calming measures (speed humps), I have the following comments.

Toronto Fire Services is supportive of initiatives that will improve the life safety for citizens of and visitors to the city of Toronto. Our concern is that the physical calming measures being proposed may negatively impact emergency response to the area.

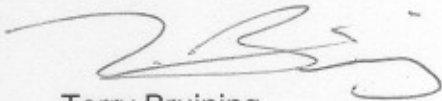
Fire Services is opposed to this speed hump installation as they will slow our responding vehicles and affect our ability to deliver service in the quickest possible manner. The effectiveness of our services is directly proportional to time it takes to receive notification, travel to the incident and begin operations. The vertical restrictions imposed by speed humps have a much greater affect on large fire vehicles than smaller passenger vehicles. Response time increases with every obstacle a fire vehicle encounters on route from the fire station to the incident. Although the increase at each hump may only be seconds, the cumulative effect can be a significant amount of time. A thirty-second delay (3 to 4 humps) is enough to alter the outcome of an incident from a successful fire extinguishment with minimal property damage and rescue of all occupants to complete structure loss with fire fatalities.

It is imperative that the individuals directly affected by this installation be made fully aware of the potential negative effects of the proposed calming devices. Careful consideration must be given to accepting delays of emergency response vehicles as a trade off to combat the risks presented by regular vehicle traffic.

Over the past year Fire Services have reviewed proposals for speed hump installation on numerous streets in this area including adjacent streets Berkshire, Caroline and Winnifred. Saturating an entire area with speed humps limits the options of responding fire vehicles to avoid the obstructions.

Fire Services recommends that non-physical measures (speed limits or prohibited turns) be implemented and evaluated before physical forms are considered. Desired results may be obtained without imposing a physical obstruction to emergency vehicles. The impact of a speed hump installed in a segment of a street is difficult to evaluate without accounting for all measures that exist on the surrounding streets. It is our opinion that traffic-calming measures need to be evaluated on network-wide bases to better assess the impact to the entire response area.

In the future, please ensure that request for comment submitted to the fire services includes any associated assessment data and maps. This will provide a better understand of the number, the type and exact locations of the proposed calming measures.



Terry Bruining
Toronto Fire Services