

Emergency Medical Services
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July 15, 2008

Brian Holditch
Transportation Technologist
17th Floor, Metro Hall
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Brian,

Re: Heward Avenue - Evaluation for the Installation of Traffic Calming Devices

We are in receipt of your letter dated June 20, 2008 regarding the request for Toronto Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) position on the installation of speed bumps on Heward Avenue.

We recognize that this is a very sensitive issue as the citizens of Toronto feel that the installation of speed bumps act as a traffic calming measure, which will provide added safety to their communities.

Toronto EMS is on record as not supporting the installation of speed bumps (narrow asphalt bumps consisting of a steep vertical rise). This traffic calming measure will affect an ambulance's response time to an emergency call and subsequent transportation to the hospital. This in itself could prove detrimental to the medical conditions of some patients.

Toronto EMS supports the rights of communities that choose to install traffic calming measures (i.e. speed humps and traffic circles) for the safety of their families and neighbourhoods, and will continue to work with the City and its agencies to improve public health and safety.

Yours sincerely,



Bruce K. Farr
Chief and General Manager
Toronto Emergency Medical Services

BKF/GW/lc

c.: Councillor Paula Fletcher