

Emergency Medical Services
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February 13, 2009

Teresa Carmichael
Engineering Technologist
Transportation Services Division
17th Floor, Metro Hall
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3C6

Dear Teresa,

Re: Arlington Avenue, between Earlsdale Avenue and Vaughan Road
Evaluation for the Installation of Traffic Calming Devices


We are in receipt of your letter dated January 15, 2009 regarding the request for Toronto Emergency Medical Services (EMS) position on the installation of traffic calming devices (speed humps) on Arlington Avenue.

We recognize that this is a very sensitive issue as the citizens of Toronto feel 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/JS/lc

c.: Councillor Joe Mihevc
Police Chief William Blair
Fire Chief Bill Stewart