



Memorandum

To: Executive Committee

From: Councillor Joe Mihevc, Ward 21, St. Paul's West
Councillor Howard Moscoe, Ward 15, Eglinton-Lawrence
Councillor Paula Fletcher, Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth
Councillor Adam Vaughan, Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina

Date: December 4, 2009

Re: Donation of Ambulances to El Salvador

Recommendations:

- 1.) That the EMS chief be given discretion to donate one (1) retired City of Toronto ambulance to the "Caravan of Hope" so that it may be transported to El Salvador in 2010, so long as this does not negatively affect service provision.
- 2.) That the Caravan of Hope have right-of-first refusal for up to 13 additional retired EMS vehicles each year for the years 2010-2013 to be purchased at a rate to be determined by Toronto EMS each year.
- 3.) That EMS delay sending the additional 13 ambulances that are in reserve for the Group of Eight summit until 2011.

Background:

Through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Technical Partnership Program, Toronto has had a longstanding partnership with the City of Soyapango, El Salvador, since 1996, providing technical expertise in the areas of Information Technology, Public Health, Solid Waste Management, property taxation and other resources. This relationship will formally end in 2010, but a donation of additional ambulances would be an important final "legacy" project.

Toronto City Council has consistently supported the Caravan of Hope and several councillors have been involved with the Caravan since its beginnings in 2001. The Caravan of Hope began by bringing school buses and supplies to those affected by the devastating earthquake in El

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Salvador. The City of Toronto has donated five retired ambulances to the Caravan over the past three years. Through private fundraising, the Caravan of Hope will bring a total of 56 retired Toronto ambulances to El Salvador over the next five years, purchased by arrangement with Toronto EMS.

Each year, 28 of Toronto's ambulances are sold at auction, for an average of just \$8000 -12 000. A donation of one of these ambulances would have minimal financial impact on the City while helping to leverage private donations and have maximal impact in El Salvador. That country's newly elected government is ambitiously expanding public sector health care, largely built around providing mobile health clinics in ambulances. The five former Toronto ambulances that are already in El Salvador are staffed by doctors and are on the road 24 hours per day.

A small contribution from the City will help to leverage significant additional funding for the Caravan of Hope. Our contribution of one vehicle and a right of first refusal will be matched by \$150 000 in privately raised funds in the first year alone. In addition, this contribution will serve as a final gift to El Salvador and provide an appropriate legacy for the City of Toronto in the country.

The first request is for the EMS Chief have discretion to donate one (1) ambulance for free. This would show the way for the private donors that the Caravan of Hope is actively pursuing.

The second request is to allow EMS to grant right of first refusal for up to 13 additional ambulances at a cost to be determined by the EMS Chief at the start of each year for each of the years 2010-2013. This would provide a total of four (4) vehicles for each of El Salvador's 14 regions at the end of 2013. Establishing a clear price will help the Caravan of Hope with its private fundraising initiatives.

Lastly the San Lorenzo Community Centre and the Latin American community in Toronto is extremely supportive of this initiative. They have rallied behind the fundraising efforts and behind the Caravan of Hope each year. The ambulance initiative supports a social inclusion strategy for Latin Americans in Toronto encouraging Latinos to feel a part of the City.

Sincerely,

Councillor Joe Mihevc
Ward 21, St. Paul's West

Councillor Howard Moscoe
Ward 15, Eglinton-Lawrence

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 30, Toronto Danforth

Councillor Adam Vaughan
Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina