



TORONTO PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

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Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti
Community Development and Recreation Committee, Chair
100 Queen St W, Ste. B27
Toronto, On
M5H 2N2

May 16th, 2012

Dear Councillor Mammoliti,

I would like to express my concerns to you regarding the ongoing staffing challenges at Toronto Fire.

As you are aware, the 2012 Operating Budget raised the “gapping” number for Toronto Fire from 64 positions to 132 positions which deferred the hiring of an additional 68 positions. City staff acknowledged that this move would increase the number of trucks taken “out of service” on a daily basis due to staffing shortages by at least 3 trucks in addition to the average of 6 that we have dealt with over the last few years. This has resulted in an average of 9 trucks being “out of service” on a daily basis.

While the City Manager stated that all emergency services were to be impacted equally through the budget process, he was not aware that, unlike Toronto Police and EMS, the Fire Chief does not have the ability to call Operations staff back, through overtime, to address critical staffing shortages and have appropriate staff on duty to serve the needs of the city.

As of May 13th, Toronto Fire has reached 111 vacancies- this number will continue to grow as additional staff leave Toronto Fire in the coming months. Additionally, we have 22 staff on Long Term Disability and additional members on Long Term WSIB, unlikely to return to the workplace in the near future, if at all.

This creates further staffing difficulties and places firefighters and the people of Toronto at risk every day that this staffing shortage goes unaddressed.

Even if a class of recruits was immediately initiated, it will be several months before they are placed on the streets.

I urge you, as Chair of the Community Development and Recreation Committee, to consider giving direction to the Fire Chief, to allow him the necessary resources to properly staff all vehicles in order to minimize the risk to firefighters and the public.

Please let me know if you require any further information to assist your consideration of this urgent public safety concern.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Kennedy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ed Kennedy

President

Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association