



June 25, 2012

Dear Community Development and Recreation Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concern over current staffing levels at Toronto Fire and to propose some solutions for Toronto Fire Services to consider. During the January meeting of City Council, I expressed my concern over the impact of the reduced staffing and the reduction in the number of fire trucks on the road. I questioned and still believe that the reduced response times will likely change Toronto's insurance ratings and that residents will feel the impact through increased home insurance costs. We are awaiting the Fire Underwriters Survey to see if this is the case.

I moved a motion in January, which was approved by City Council, that the Chief of Toronto Fire Services report to the June 26th Community Development and Recreation meeting on the impacts of the hiring freeze on response times, emergency preparedness, public and fire safety and the progress of the Fire Underwriters Survey, including any potential changes to commercial and residential insurance rates. No report has been submitted to this meeting and it is my understanding that the Fire Underwriters Survey has been postponed until the fall.

Meanwhile, significant gapping above the City's generally accepted levels continues and at current, close to 130 Toronto Fire positions remain unfilled. Such staff shortages lead to less fire trucks on the road and according to the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association has led to 9 trucks being "out of service" on a daily basis.

In order to lessen the safety risks currently being faced by both Toronto Firefighters and Torontonians I ask that the Community Development and Recreation Committee recommend the following:

- 1) The Deputy City Manager in conjunction with Toronto Fire Service and the TPFPA report to the September 19, 2012 of Community Development and Recreation Committee on a framework for the implementation of overtime for operational fire fighters.
- 2) That the City Manager initiate three fire recruitment classes to run concurrently in order to address the current gapping rates which are in excess of the 2012 budget allocation.

Thank you for your consideration of this,

Mike Layton
City Councillor
Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina