

November 18th, 2008

Ulli S. Watkiss, City Clerk
City of Toronto
13th Floor, West Tower
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5 H 2N2

RE: (REVISED) INQUIRY OF THE CLERK FOR CITY COUNCIL – FIRE VEHICLE ACCESS ON ST. CLAIR AVENUE WEST

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

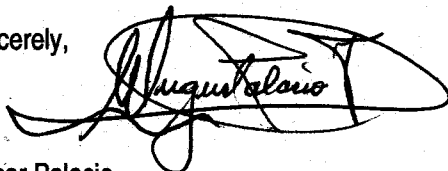
I am writing to request an update, by way of an inquiry to Council, as to the status of a critical report request City Council made earlier this year.

This report was requested as a result of a Council debate over item PW16.3, specifically the serious concerns raised by the late Deputy Chief of Toronto Fire Bob Leek about fire vehicle access to the exclusive right-of-way on St. Clair Avenue West. In his April 2008 letter Deputy Chief Leek, after a detailed analysis concluded that "The TTC ROW on St. Clair Avenue West is without doubt unsafe" and "The TTC ROW as constructed on St. Clair Avenue West is not useable by Toronto Fire Services for emergency response" and "There is no doubt that there will be delays in emergency vehicle responses on St. Clair Avenue West", among many other alarming revelations.

As a result Council resolved: 12. *The Chief General Manager, Toronto Transit Commission, and the General Manager, Transportation Services, be requested to work with the Chief, Toronto Fire Services, to ensure that any minor changes to curb heights, if necessary, are made, ensuring that fire apparatus can access the right-of-way or street, as necessary, along St. Clair Avenue West, and submit a report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the changes made.*

To date, no such report has been received. In speaking with Staff directly, there is confusion as to who is even responsible for preparing this report, which is in itself troubling given that it seems no substantive action has yet been taken. I hope that you can clarify who is responsible for the preparation of this report, and what the current status of it is. Should this report not be forthcoming within the next Council cycle, I would like to further request by way of this inquiry, that staff provide Council with a detailed interim update on what changes to the design have been implemented or are planned, to address the serious public safety concerns outlined in Chief Leek's April 2008 letter. Thank you for your help and assistance.

Sincerely,



Cesar Palacio
Toronto City Councillor
Ward 17 – Davenport

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11th Floor, East
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

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January 23, 2009

Uli Watkiss
City Clerk, City of Toronto
12th Floor, West Tower
City Hall

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

Re: Councillor Palacio's Inquiry regarding Fire Vehicle Access on St. Clair Avenue West

I have received the Administrative Inquiry from Councillor Palacio regarding the "Fire Vehicle Access on St. Clair Avenue West".

The report from Toronto Fire Services on St. Clair Avenue was dealt with at City Council on June 24, 2008. The Fire Chief responded to a wide range of questions from a number of Councillors pertaining to emergency response.

With respect to the Council Motion from Meeting 22 of City Council, June 23 and 24, 2008:

"12. The Chief General Manager, Toronto Transit Commission, and the General Manager, Transportation Services, be requested to work with the Chief, Toronto Fire Services, to ensure that any minor changes to curb heights, if necessary, are made, ensuring that fire apparatus can access the right-of-way or street, as necessary, along St. Clair Avenue West, and submit a report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the changes made."

Staff of TTC, Transportation Services, Toronto Fire Services Emergency Planning and Technical Services have been working collaboratively on the required curb cuts and access points in the identified area and along the entire length of St. Clair Right-of-Way (ROW) to ensure the needs are met for fire vehicle access. Staff of TTC, Toronto Fire Services and Technical Services met on October 29, 2008 and November 18, 2008 to finalize details for a tender to make the necessary changes.

The following provides an overview of the details of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project:

- Areas already constructed from Yonge Street to Bathurst Street – committed to grind and overlay of surface pavement to be completed in the summer of 2009 which will address any irregularities in the curb height in between intersections.
- Areas already constructed from Dufferin Street to Caledonia Road – have been reviewed by Technical Services, Toronto Fire Services, TTC and are finalizing improvements to areas to enhance Fire access.

- Areas between Vaughan Road and Dufferin Street are currently under construction (watermain work). Work on the track and roadway will commence in Spring and comprehensive details will be examined by City divisions. Technical Services and TTC staff in conjunction with Toronto Fire are reviewing specific locations identified by Toronto Fire Services to improve access to local streets.
- Two final tenders are in the process to identify areas to enhance Fire access between Caledonia Road to Gunns Road.

The Chief General Manager, Toronto Transit Commission, and the General Manager, Transportation Services, with input from the Fire Chief, will be reporting back with further details to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Pennachetti", written in a cursive style.

Joseph P. Pennachetti
City Manager