

Nick Singh, President

December 10, 2012

Sent via email: buc@toronto.ca

Kelly McCarthy,
Secretariat Contact,
Budget Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Kelly McCarthy,

Please ensure that this letter is distributed to the members of the Budget Committee.

To the Budget Committee,

Please note that the Swansea Area Ratepayers' Association (SARA) and Swansea Area Ratepayers' Group (SARG) are opposed to the closing of the Fire Station at 426 Runnymede Rd. We note that according to the Fire Department's own figures response times in the area are not currently at their target levels. Since closing this station will worsen this deficit in response times, the closure can only be seen as a retrograde action that will increase the risk to the health and safety of the residents.

This area of the city has a very large population of over fifty year olds and seniors who are in a category where health issues are becoming a part of life and a quick response will make the difference between survival, recovery or having to live with devastating damage. The few dollars we save in closing the station will not cover the cost of caring for those who suffer debilitating loss because of slower response times.

The many reports regarding increased gridlock along our transportation routes indicate that response times will continue to rise. As well, the targeting of this area for overdevelopment will add to this gridlock while at the same time increase the demand for emergency services. The thousands of new units slated for this area should make it a target for increased service not a reduction.

Also for consideration is the type of new units being built which, being high-rise towers, present a greater challenge for emergency response. The location of many of these new buildings is also at the far end of the range for the existing fire stations which presents a further challenge. Imagine the cost of having to reopen a station if changes in the area required it: the cost of that would be an unnecessary burden to the taxpayers.

Closing this fire station is not a move in the right direction. Please take a good look at the whole situation and the options and find another way to meet the budget requirements.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Singh,
President, SARA