



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

Designating Emergency Medical Services as an Essential Service

Date:	October 28, 2011
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All

City Council Decision

City Council on October 24 and 25, 2011, referred Motion MM13.1 to the Executive Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Province of Ontario to mandate that the City of Toronto provision of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) be deemed an essential service under the appropriate provincial labour-relations laws banning work stoppages.

Summary

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has 1,171 members including highly trained paramedics and other support staff. During work stoppages, striking members are required to staff at 75 percent levels to respond to emergencies, whereas both Fire and Police Services are essential and run on full strength.

This is unacceptable, as during the last work stoppage, Emergency Medical Services' ambulance response times dropped by 20 percent, risking the lives and safety of Toronto residents. It is of the utmost importance that the City's responses to the most critical calls for emergency medical service continue to be properly served at all times.

Safety should not be compromised in an emergency because of a strike or lockout.

(Submitted to City Council on October 24 and 25, 2011 as MM13.1)