Fire Route Requirements – 578/580 Finch Avenue West

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<th>Date:</th>
<th>August 13, 2012</th>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>North York Community Council</td>
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<td>From:</td>
<td>Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services</td>
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<td>Wards:</td>
<td>Ward 10</td>
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<td>Reference Number:</td>
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**SUMMARY**

At its meeting of April 17, 2012, the North York Community Council requested input from Toronto Fire Services regarding changes to the fire route located at 578/580 Finch Avenue West as a result of proposed development.

The existing fire route at 578/580 Finch Avenue West has been in place over the last 30 years. The proposed changes to the existing fire route, mainly, the removal of a section of the fire route as detailed in the supplied diagram by Community Council (that fronts the ice arena and the rear of the library), can proceed without new changes to the current fire route. This determination was made based on the supplied diagram. Any proposed changes to the current supplied diagram would require further review by Toronto Fire Services.

**Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**DECISION HISTORY**

The City of Toronto Economic Development and Culture Division is participating in a feasibility study that could affect the Herbert H. Carnegie Centennial Centre, 580 Finch Avenue West. This development may include adding a walkway connecting it to the nearby Centennial Library, 578 Finch Avenue West, which would be expanded to include a second floor. The current fire route includes the driveway between the two buildings where the walkway would be constructed.
At its meeting of April 17, 2012, the North York Community Council requested Toronto Fire Services (TFS) to:

1. Report back to the North York Community Council as to whether the current fire route would need to be modified to accommodate the expansion;
2. Provide an alternative fire route such that a second floor and walkway can be constructed between the two city buildings.

Additional decision history is available at: http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.NY15.18

COMMENTS

Based on TFS' review, the fire route does not need to be changed based on the following:

- If the walkway is constructed on the second level and the lowest portion of this structure maintains an overhead clearance of not less than 5 meters across the entire width of the existing fire route, there would be no changes required to be made to the current approved fire route with this proposal.
- If the walkway is at grade, there are no concerns with removing the portion of the fire route indicated as per the schematic. Removal of the small portion of the existing fire route detailed in the supplied diagram will still allow the remainder of the fire route to satisfy the current Ontario Building Code requirements and ensure arriving fire crews can perform their functions without delay. All other issues that relate to arriving fire crew response are still acceptable with this proposed change including: front access entrance to buildings, siamese connections access, fire alarm system annunciator access, etc.

Any proposed changes to the current supplied diagram would require further review by TFS.

CONTACT

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