

January 13, 2015

Councillor Gary Crawford
Chair, Budget Committee
Toronto City Hall – 10th Floor, West Tower
100 Queen St. W., Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Crawford,

RE: TORONTO FIRE SERVICES 2016 OPERATING BUDGET
SUPPORTING FIRE SAFETY FOR TORONTO
AND HIGHLIGHTING IMPROVED INSURANCE GRADES FOR BUSINESSES

On behalf of the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA) representing 81 Toronto business communities, we offer our support for the Toronto Fire Services 2016 operating budget based on its 2015-2019 Master Fire Plan.

We have reviewed the master plan with Chief Jim Sales and his team. We are grateful for its commitment and results so far in using analytics, technologies and pre-planning to shorten response times across the City.

Though secondary to public safety, we also wish to highlight the plan's target of improving Toronto's Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) rating. Moving from a Class 4 to a Class 2 rating means a safer city, but also results in annual savings of \$22.4 million across Toronto commercial properties according to TFS. As a representative of 35,000 businesses across the city, we appreciate this additional benefit for our businesses facing competitive pressures in today's economy.

Sincerely,



John Kiru
Executive Director

cc: Councillor Berardinetti Jennifer Forkes, Budget Committee Secretariat
Councillor Campbell Jim Sales, Chief, Toronto Fire Services
Councillor Carroll
Councillor Di Ciano
Councillor Layton
Councillor Pasternak