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Salvatore J. Cassano
Commissioner
New York City Fire Department
9 MetroTech Center
Brooklyn, New York 11201-5431

September 16, 2011

Dear Commissioner Cassano:

Our office received a copy of the letters addressed to Senator Duane and Assembly Member Glick dated September 7, 2011. In them, Associate Commissioner Kretz stated that, "FDNY EMS does not calculate nor report on the EMS transport-to-hospital times," and that, "EMS Chief Abdo Nahmod had only agreed to provide the Community Board with data that EMS already tabulates, e.g. the CB 2-specific EMS response times." We find these statements difficult to understand given what we were told when we initially asked for this meeting given what we were told at that time. It is important to clarify these issues, so we ask that you look into this matter further.

When we arranged for this presentation, we requested specific information. In my email to Chief Pascale dated June 29, 2011 (attached), I wrote, "Our committee is interested in talking with you or someone from EMS that can give us an idea about how the ambulance transit times to the 'injured patient' and back to the hospital have been impacted now that St. V's is closed." Furthermore, Bob Gormley, our District Manager, requested the same when he spoke with Associate Commissioner Kretz to ask that someone from EMS attend our meeting. We should have been informed beforehand if we were asking for something that is truly unobtainable.

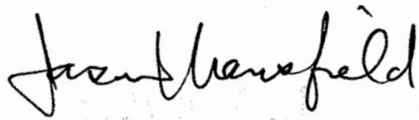
Chief Nahmod stated at our meeting that, "We count the 'response time' from the time we get the call, to the time we get to the scene. We count the 'transport time' from the time we take the person from the scene to the hospital." He presented data about "response times" and when asked about "transport times," he said, "The transport time will be disclosed to you as well as the number of transports and where the people were transported to." Chief Pascale supported this promise to get back to the board with the data. It is difficult to accept that FDNY does not gather such important information given that it has been publicly reported on in the past. Moreover, regarding Ms. Kretz's claim that if indeed this data did exist, it would not differentiate between a twisted ankle and a heart attack, making it impossible for one to interpret the data accurately: How is it then that the data on the FDNY website breaks the response times down in such detail?

It is essential to the health and safety of every New York City community that the general public understands that every emergency call delivers patients to the appropriate facilities, and this delivery is conducted in a timely manner and the receiving facilities are able to handle the increased caseloads without incident. The closing of the Emergency Room at St. Vincent's Hospital is a great concern to our board as we try to ensure that the health care needs of our communities are being adequately addressed.

We truly appreciate the outstanding job your department has been doing in a very difficult situation. However, it is essential that we work together to fully understand your process and procedures. All information should be available to our board and our elected officials so we all can appropriately evaluate the needs of our community.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,



Jason Mansfield, Chair
Environment, Public Safety & Health Committee



Brad Hoylman, Chair
Manhattan Community Board 2

CC: Senator Tom Duane
Assembly Member Deborah Glick
Speaker Christine Quinn
FDNY Associate Commissioner Caroline Kretz

From: Jason Mansfield
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 4:49 PM
To: pascal@fdny.nyc.gov
Cc: 'Sigrid Burton'; gormley@cb2manhattan.org
Subject: July 20th Meeting

Hello,

I just tried reaching you about our meeting in July.

Our committee is interested in talking with you or someone from EMS that can give us an idea about how the ambulance transit times to the "injured patient" and back to the hospital have been impacted now that St. V's is closed. It is my understanding that there will be a dispatch center installed on 23rd Street, but I'm not sure where it is proposed to be located or if there will be ambulances stationed there. Ultimately, having ambulances stationed in the West Village is ideal given that traffic between the Village and Bellevue is a nightmare.

Bob told me you would send someone, but if we could talk in the next day or two about this, that would be nice so I could get some clarity on how things work and what is possible.

The meeting is July 20th at 6:30pm, at the Little Red School House located at 272 6th Ave.

Thanks,
Jason

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