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OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

309 MAIN STREET • FORT LEE, N.J. 07024-4799

(201) 592-3500, Ext. 1056

Fax No. (201) 585-2828

E-mail: p-favia@fortleenj.org

PAUL FAVIA, EMT-B
EMS COORDINATOR

September 10, 2013

Dear Mayor Sokolich,

I would like to bring to your attention a problem that has been noted in town which is affecting the response times and delay of care and treatment to medical and traumatic injury patients within the Borough of Fort Lee and potentially out of town emergencies. On September 9, 2013, we noticed an unusual amount of traffic within the borough especially around the center of town. On September 10, 2013, we noticed the same problem around the center of town. Today, I took notice that both levels on the bridge were moving traffic free and yet had a grid lock through the entire center of town. So, after handling a cardiac emergency on Hudson Terrace, I stopped and asked a Port Authority Police Officer as to what was the reasoning for all of the traffic when the spans are moving free, and the Police Officer stated, "there is a new traffic pattern at the toll booths".

I would like to bring this to your attention as this new traffic pattern is causing unnecessary delays for emergency services to arrive on scene for medical emergencies within the borough.

Over the past two days, we have had delayed response times due to the traffic in town.

September 9, 2013

At 08:42 hrs, EMS was dispatched to Brinkerhoff Ave and Juanita Place for a motor vehicle accident with injuries. The EMS crew was located at Linwood Plaza with myself and the secondary EMS crew; the response time for the EMS crew to arrive on scene was 9 minutes; 7 minutes for me to arrive on scene. I, myself, was stuck in traffic on Fletcher Avenue and had to jump the curb to cut up West Street in order to avoid the stand still traffic on Fletcher Avenue. The response time for me to arrive on the scene of this call should have been less than 4 minutes. This accident resulted in a total of 4 patients needing transport to area hospitals.

At 08:43 hrs, EMS was dispatched to the 800 block of Harvard Place for a report of an unconscious 91 year old female, the EMS crew arrived on scene at 08:50 hrs, a 7 minute

response time. As per the crew, the response time was only shortened to the fact they were heading to the accident scene to assist, when dispatched to the Harvard Place call. The result of this call was a cardiac arrest which was pronounced at Englewood Hospital. I would also like it noted that the paramedics were delayed due to heavy traffic on Fort Lee Road and had to meet the ambulance en-route to the hospital instead of on the scene.

At 09:03, EMS was dispatched to 400 Kelby Street for a party with chest pains in the lobby. All three Fort Lee Ambulances were committed to the other calls, so I responded as a first responder to begin treatment until a mutual aid ambulance could arrive on scene. I arrived on scene at 10:01 hrs which is an 8 minute response time; this was due to stand still traffic on Route 46 East. The Mutual Aid ambulance coming from Palisades Park and paramedics coming out of Leonia were also delayed due to the excessive traffic.

September 10, 2013

At 08:49 hrs, EMS was dispatched to 2143 Hudson Terrace for a male party having chest pains. I arrived on scene at 08:56 hrs and the ambulance arrived at 09:00 hrs. I was located in the rear parking lot of Borough Hall, so this would normally be a 3 to 4 minute response time and the ambulance was leaving headquarters due to the heavy volume of traffic on Bridge Plaza South and Hudson Terrace and this caused a delay in this patient receiving medical treatment.

I am bringing this to your attention so that perhaps some type of modification or change can be made to this new traffic pattern, so we can possibly avoid any further delayed response times to emergencies throughout the borough.

I would like to thank you for your time and consideration with this newly developed traffic problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul E. Favia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Paul E. Favia
EMS Coordinator
Borough of Fort lee