



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

DEBORAH J. GLICK
Assemblymember 66TH District
New York County

CHAIR
Higher Education Committee

COMMITTEES
Environmental Conservation
Rules
Ways & Means

September 16, 2011

Caroline Kretz
Intergovernmental Affairs
Fire Department of New York
9 Metro Tech Center
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Ms. Kretz,

We are writing regarding the September 7, 2011 letters you sent to New York State Senator Duane and New York State Assembly Member Glick in response to their requests that the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) provide Manhattan Community Board 2 (CB2) with detailed information on Emergency Medical Service (EMS) transport-to-hospital times since St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center's April 2010 closure. We are confused by your rationale for denying these requests and seek clarification. As the need for this data is extremely time sensitive, we request a meeting with the Commissioner and other relevant parties immediately so we can sort through the inconsistent information.

Your response indicates that, "FDNY EMS does not calculate nor report on the EMS transport-to-hospital times that CB2 has requested." However North Shore-Long Island Jewish (NS-LIJ) Health System's June 23, 2011 Certificate of Need (CON) application to the New York State Department of Health for its proposed Center for Comprehensive Care at the former St. Vincent's O'Toole Building, indicates that NS-LIJ has access to that very information. Specifically, the CON application says on page 104, "In an FDNY-EMS Operations report, the impact of the closure of St. Vincent's was analyzed for travel and turnaround time for ambulance posts serving the Lower West Side." It goes on to describe "post closure ambulance travel times to hospital emergency departments." We are confused how a private entity has access to this information and yet the public and elected officials have been told such data does not exist.

We are also confused by the assertion in your response that if such data did exist, distinctions would not be made between trips that require "lights and sirens" and those that do not. In the data that you have provided to us on CB2-specific EMS response times, there is a breakdown of medical emergency and non-emergency fire calls as well as life threatening and non-life threatening EMS calls. It is unclear why a similar distinction would not be made in the case of the time it takes ambulances to transport patients to the hospital from the time they are picked up.



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Finally, we recognize that it is your understanding that EMS Chief Abdo Nahmod only agreed to provide CB2 with the CB2-specific EMS response time. A video recorded at the meeting indicates otherwise, and that promises made by Chief Nahmod to the community are not being kept.

We know that FDNY and EMS have done a tremendous job serving our community both before and after the loss of our much loved and needed hospital. We are appealing to you on this matter now so that we may better fight for our community's health care future. Please contact Matt Borden, Chief of Staff for Assemblymember Deborah Glick to arrange the requested meeting.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Glick
Assemblymember

Tom Duane
New York Senator

Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President

Jerrold Nadler
Congressman

CC: Salvatore Cassano, Commissioner
Manhattan Community Board 2