



## FIRE DEPARTMENT

9 METROTECH CENTER

BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11201-3857

SALVATORE J. CASSANO  
*Chief of Operations*  
Bureau of Operations

Room 7W-4  
January 19, 2005

Peter Gorman  
UFOA President  
225 Broadway, Suite 401  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Gorman:

It has come to my attention that in your most recent President's Report (dated January 8, 2005) you advise the members of the Uniform Fire Officers Association (UFOA) to follow National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) regulations regarding apparatus response and disregard the Fire Department's own policy regarding this issue.

In Department Order 97, dated November 18, 2004, the Fire Department issued a revision of the apparatus response policy (Section 11.1.17 Fire and Emergency Operations Section C). The new policy allows drivers of Department apparatus, when responding to an alarm, to proceed past a steady red signal, a flashing red signal or stop sign, but only after slowing down as may be necessary for safe operation. Drivers of all Department vehicles are always required to operate apparatus with due regard for the safety of all persons.

The revisions to this policy are consistent with New York State traffic and vehicle laws and regulations and we believe it is the right policy for this Department. By being consistent with state law, we're ensuring that our vehicles are operating under the same safety guidelines that other fire and police departments around the state operate under.

To advise your members to disregard Department regulations is quite extraordinary. I assume that when you have had time to reflect on the seriousness of this action you may wish to withdraw your advice to your membership, or modify it so that you are not in conflict with our regulations. It is our hope, and we believe yours, that all members operate fire apparatus in a safe and cautious manner that protects our members as well as the public. Our regulations are intended to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

Salvatore J. Cassano  
Chief of Operations

SJC:kc

cc: Nicholas Scoppetta, Fire Commissioner  
Peter Hayden, Chief of Department