

**UNIFORMED**  
FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK  
**FIRE OFFICERS**  
LOCAL 854, INTERNATIONAL ASSN. OF FIRE FIGHTERS, AFL-CIO  
**ASSOCIATION**

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November 15, 2004

Nicholas Scoppetta  
Commissioner  
FDNY  
9 MetroTech Center  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Commissioner Scoppetta,

I am writing this letter as a follow up to our meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> regarding policy changes in apparatus response. As I said at that meeting and I will say again, we believe this policy change will only serve to increase the number of apparatus accidents.

The video presented by your staff to me last Wednesday showed a civilian being killed after a collision with an FDNY apparatus. It seems to me the goal here would be to set a policy to reduce such tragedies in the future.

After an embarrassing sex scandal at a Bronx firehouse this past summer, you took decisive (if unpopular) action to reinstall a sense of discipline in the Department. This included enforcing minute and often times disregarded policies such as removing televisions at housewatch and listing mutuals on cards. The message was very clear that you were reminding firefighters that there had to be a sense of discipline and rules were meant to be followed.

In contrast, after a tragic accident that claimed the life of a human being, instead of reinforcing basic safety procedures already in place, you are choosing to remove the requirement that mandates that chauffeurs stop at all red lights and stop signs before proceeding through the intersection while responding to fires and emergencies.

I am enclosing a copy of NFPA 1500 regulations (Sec. 6.2 Drivers/Operators of Fire Apparatus) for your review. Section 6.2.8 clearly specifies that responding apparatus must stop before proceeding through an intersection. As you may be aware, the NFPA 1500 committee is composed of firefighters, fire chiefs, representatives from manufacturers of fire apparatus and experts in the field of vehicular safety. I would like



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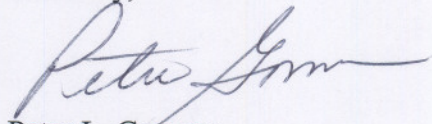
NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO • MARITIME PORT COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK & VICINITY  
UNION LABEL & SERVICE TRADES COUNCIL OF GREATER NEW YORK & LONG ISLAND • NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

to know if the Department contacted any recognized safety authority before making this decision.

We will continue to research this issue with the International Association of Firefighters to see if any departments have revised their apparatus response policy in a way that resulted in not meeting NFPA standards. We are willing to meet with your staff to further discuss this policy change. We urge you not to implement this policy until all parties have an opportunity to assess the impact this change has on the safety of firefighters and the general public.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter L. Gorman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peter L. Gorman