

From: Kevin DASH
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 9:20 AM
To: CPSC <cpsc@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] User fee for Fire Department

I am deeply concerned about the proposal by Coun. Pelosa to recoup additional fees from Londoners who call for services from the fire department.

As a 30+ year fire fighter here in London, I have encountered residents of London on numerous occasions who have expressed concern and despair over anticipated charges for having fire crews attend their home or business. It's an obvious relief when they are informed that there are no charges.

It's well known that people will act undesirably to avoid paying fees. An example of this is the dumping of garbage along roadways and in fields to avoid paying additional bag fees at the curb. When it comes to life safety, fees for service would have a profound negative effect on Londoners, some of whom may delay calling for help when seconds count. Think of a carbon monoxide call: could we foresee the possibility of a resident choosing not to call 911 when their CO alarm is sounding as they try to determine if it's a faulty detector or an actual case of presence of CO? It's too risky.

The Fire Department budget is already fully funded through property and business taxes. If CAPS or Council would like to consider revenue for services provided, consider additional or increased fines for those in violation of fire codes or by-laws instead.

Kevin Dash

District Chief – LFD