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## City asks province to investigate alleged EMS delay

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The city has asked the Ministry of Health to look into the death of a 59-year-old man who was allegedly in distress for at least 20 minutes before paramedics arrived.

Bruce Farr, Chief of Toronto Emergency Medical Services, made the request today regarding the June 25th incident at 40 Alexander St.

The Ministry, as well as the coroner's office, are investigating whether a delay in emergency service lead to Jim Hearst's death. He apparently died of cardiac arrest.

Witnesses say that an initial call was made to 911 at about 11 p. m. about a man who had fallen at the well-kept high-rise just east of Yonge Street.

A security officer with Intelligarde arrived and reported back to her dispatcher that she was worried about Mr. Hearst's condition because blood was pouring from his nose and he was turning blue, a source told the Post.

The dispatcher called 911 at 11:19 p. m.; he reported that the victim was "blue in the face" and connected the operator with the security guard on the scene, the source said.

At 11:36 p. m., the dispatcher called 911 again: "I'm calling to let you know that he has no pulse." Emergency officials arrived and were tending to Mr. Hearst at about 11:45 p. m., the source said.

Mr. Farr told reporters that the labour disruption did not result in the death.

He said paramedics arrived within the requisite nine minutes of the call but sat outside waiting for police because of an undisclosed "health and safety" concern.

"Once the crew received another update with new information indicating that the patient wasn't breathing, they put aside their own health and safety concerns and acted immediately on that

information and went in to the scene," he said.

Witnesses say that firefighters arrived at the scene before paramedics.

A report by the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA) and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC), recommends that fire and EMS be dispatched simultaneously to life-threatening emergencies to better serve the public.

The average response time for fire service in Ontario is 6.0 minutes; the average response time for EMS is about 13.1 minutes.