



Minutes

Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee The Corporation of the City of Brampton

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

- Members Present: Mandeep Dhaliwal (Co-Chair)
Joan John (Co-Chair)
Narinder Pandher, Taxi Plate Owner
Mahesh Malhi, Taxi Plate Owner
Zafar Tariq, Taxi Plate Owner
Jaswant Uppal, Taxi Plate Owner
Milton Bhangoo, Taxi Broker
Makhan Dhoother, Taxi Broker
Franco Spadafora, Accessibility Advisory Committee Representative
Regional Councillor G. Dhillon - Wards 9 and 10
Regional Councillor P. Fortini - Wards 7 and 8
- Members Absent: Sudhir Kalia, Taxi Driver
Hari Rawul, Citizen Representative
Kunal Shrotriya, Citizen Representative
- Staff Present: James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Legislative Services
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m. and adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The following motion was considered.

VAC007-2021

That the agenda for the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee Meeting of November 9, 2021, be approved, as amended to add the following:

- 5.1. Delegation from Rajinder Aujla, President, Airport Taxi Association, re: Taxicab Plate Transfers.

Carried

3. **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**

Nil

4. **Previous Minutes**

4.1 Minutes - Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee - September 21, 2021

The minutes were considered by Committee of Council on October 13, 2021, and approved by Council on October 20, 2021. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

5. **Delegations/Presentations**

5.1 Delegation from Rajinder Aujla, President, Airport Taxi Association, re: Taxicab Plate Transfers.

Rajinder Aujla, President, Airport Taxi Association (ATA), provided information to Committee regarding the additional fees imposed by the City of Markham for airport taxis and the resulting financial hardships on Markham industry members. Mr. Aujla requested that Brampton give consideration to issuing 52 non-transferrable taxi plates to Markham airport taxi operators, to allow them to operate airport taxis under Brampton licences. He advised that this proposal

would result in additional revenue for the City from the additional licences issued, and that there would be no impact to the taxi industry in Brampton, as airport trips already take place in the City.

Regional Councillor Dhillon added that the City of Markham has indicated that it will not remove the additional fee for airport taxis and suggested that the request from the ATA be referred to staff to report back with additional information on the feasibility of the request. Councillor Dhillon added that the GTAA is supportive of the request from the ATA, subject to Brampton's approval.

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Licensing fees in Brampton and the potential additional revenue for the City from ATA's proposal
- Indication from staff that the taxi plates requested would be restricted to airport trips
- Concerns regarding the impact of this request on the taxi plate priority list and the overall taxi industry in Brampton
- Suggestion that the plates requested by the delegation be issued to Brampton taxi drivers to operate airport taxis
- Clarification from staff that no additional taxi plates are being issued in Brampton at this time

The following motion was considered.

VAC008-2021 (Lost)

*That the delegation from Rajinder Aujla, President, Airport Taxi Association, to the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee Meeting of November 9, 2021, re: **Taxicab Plate Transfers**, be **referred** to staff to report back to a future meeting with further information.*

A recorded vote was requested and the motion lost, as follows:

Yea (2): Joan John, Franco Spadafora

Nay (9): Mandeep Dhaliwal, Narinder Pandher, Mahesh Malhi, Zafar Tariq, Jaswant Uppal, Milton Bhangoo, Makhan Dhoother, Regional Councillor Dhillon, Regional Councillor Fortini

Absent (1): Kunal Shrotriya, Sudhir Kalia, Hari Rawul

Lost (2 to 9)

6. Reports

Nil

7. Other/New Business

7.1 Verbal Update from James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Legislative Services, re: Status of Inactive Taxi Plates

James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Legislative Services, provided an update on the status of inactive taxi plates. He advised that 56 plates were returned "non-operable" and 85 plates were renewed with a conditional licence "no vehicle". Mr. Bisson responded to questions from Committee regarding the conditional licence process.

The following motion was considered.

VAC009-2021

That the verbal update from James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, to the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee Meeting of November 9, 2021, re: **Status of Inactive Taxi Plates**, be received.

Carried

7.2 Discussion Item at the request of Mahesh Malhi, Committee Member, re: Impact of COVID-19 and Mobile App-based Companies on the Taxi Industry (Loss of Business and Reduced Plate Value)

Mahesh Malhi, Committee Member, read his written submission, which included concerns regarding the loss of business in the taxi industry and reduced value of taxi plates due to the negative impact of COVID-19 and mobile app-based companies operating in Brampton. Mr. Malhi requested that consideration be given to compensating the taxi industry for their losses, and expressed his opinion that there is a lack of restrictions (e.g. no cap) for mobile app-based companies.

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Suggestion that a letter be sent to the Province of Ontario to request financial assistance for the taxi industry, and that staff work with the Council Member representatives in this regard

- Information from staff regarding the licensing system for mobile app-based companies. It was noted that there is no cap on the number of drivers as it is based on public demand
- Request that a cap be placed on mobile app-based companies
 - Staff advised that no municipality has implemented such a cap and added that mobile app-based companies would not be supportive
- Request that staff review options for compensating the taxi industry for plates returned to the City
 - Staff advised that the *Municipal Act* prohibits the City from bonusing any commercial enterprise

The following motion was considered.

VAC010-2021

That, it is the position of the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee that Council be requested to send a letter to the Province of Ontario regarding the matter of compensation or a relief fund to support taxicab plate owners in the City of Brampton.

Carried

8. Correspondence

Nil

9. Information Items

Nil

10. Question Period

In response to a question from Regional Councillor Fortini, Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services, confirmed that all meeting participants receive the same Webex virtual meeting link to join the committee meeting.

11. **Public Question Period**

Nil

12. **Adjournment**

The following motion was considered.

VAC011-2021

That the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again on March 22, 2022, or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

Joan John (Co-Chair)

Mandeep Dhaliwal (Co-Chair)