



Minutes

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

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022
Special Meeting**

Members Present: Mandeep Dhaliwal, Citizen Representative (Co-Chair)
Joan John, Citizen Representative (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

Other Council
Members Present: City Councillor Bowman

Staff Present: Jean-Pierre Maurice, Acting Director, Enforcement and By-law
Services, Legislative Services
James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Legislative
Services
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, City Clerk's Office

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. and adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The following motion was considered.

VAC001-2022

That the agenda for the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee Special Meeting of February 23, 2022, be approved, as published and circulated.

Carried

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

Nil

4. **Previous Minutes**

4.1 Minutes - Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee - November 9, 2021

The minutes were considered by Committee of Council on November 17, 2021, and were approved by Council on November 24, 2021. The minutes were provided for Committee's information.

In response to questions from Committee regarding the status of Recommendation VAC010-2022, James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Legislative Services, advised that a letter was sent to the Province of Ontario, and staff will follow up with the Office of the Mayor regarding any updates or response received on the request for support outlined within. Mr. Bisson advised that an update would be provided to Committee at the next meeting.

5. **Delegations/Presentations**

Nil

6. Reports

Nil

7. Other/New Business

7.1 Proposed Motion re: Amendments to Mobile Licensing By-law 67-2014 - Plate Owner Licence Requirements

Narinder Pandher, Committee Member, introduced the subject motion and provided additional information with respect to the following operative clause:

- "1. That, it is the position of the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee that Mobile Licensing By-law 67-2014, as amended, be further amended as outlined below, to further assist the Taxi industry:
 - a. Remove the requirement that pertains to the by-law that mandates a taxi plate owner must also have a taxi drivers licence even if he/she is not going to be a taxi driver.
 - b. Renew the conditional taxi plate licences as long as the conditional taxi plate fees are paid and no time restrictions be imposed.
 - c. Remove the requirement of a job letter to renew the name on the priority list, and the individual on the priority list does not need to be driving or be a driver.
 - d. Remove the requirement that pertains to the by-law that requires a vehicle to be registered at the time of transfer of a full or conditional taxi plate license; and"

Committee discussion on this matter included the following:

- Current expiry date for conditional taxi plate licences and the possibility of removing this expiry date
- Current requirement for a job letter to remain on the priority list
- Factors impacting the taxi industry and an indication that the proposed by-law amendments will assist the industry
- Confirmation from staff that the proposed amendments have no impact on public safety
- Clarification from staff regarding:
 - the process to transfer a taxi plate

- the effect of the proposed amendments
- taxi licensing requirements

An amendment to part 1.b. of the motion was introduced to provide that the conditional taxi plate fees are paid yearly and no time restrictions and expiry be imposed.

The motion, in its entirety, was considered as follows.

VAC002-2022

Whereas the pandemic has affected every industry in various ways, and the government at all levels have done their best to assist the citizens from economical damage;

Whereas The City of Brampton has made certain By-Law modifications to help minimize the affects of the pandemic on our Taxi industry;

Whereas there is still an emergency in effect as many businesses are closed and will never re-open and open businesses are really only half open, and people are not working with full confidence;

Whereas with the increase of expenses such as high insurance and gas, drivers are fearful of coming into the Taxi industry;

Whereas the Taxi industry has maintained over the last 10 years the same prices, and are in favour of keeping the same prices at this time;

Whereas Taxi industry customers include senior citizens and children needing transportation to schools and other extra curricular activities and unfortunately they are not able use all the facilities due to the pandemic; and

Whereas over 120 Taxi plates are sitting on the shelves at the City of Brampton with some being from members of this committee;

Therefore Be It Resolved:

1. That, it is the position of the Vehicle-for-Hire Advisory Committee that Mobile Licensing By-law 67-2014, as amended, be further amended as outlined below, to further assist the Taxi industry:
 - a. Remove the requirement that pertains to the by-law that mandates a taxi plate owner must also have a taxi drivers licence even if he/she is not going to be a taxi driver.
 - b. Renew the conditional taxi plate licences as long as the conditional taxi plate fees are paid yearly and no time restrictions and expiry be imposed.

- c. Remove the requirement of a job letter to renew the name on the priority list, and the individual on the priority list does not need to be driving or be a driver.
 - d. Remove the requirement that pertains to the by-law that requires a vehicle to be registered at the time of transfer of a full or conditional taxi plate license; and
2. That Enforcement and By-law Services staff be requested to provide educational seminars to help the Taxi industry understand the existing by-laws, as well as new by-laws or changes in an existing by-law, and educate the industry on how to get better insurance rates similar to ride share companies.

Carried

8. Correspondence

Nil

9. Information Items

Nil

10. Question Period

James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Legislative Services, responded to a question from Committee regarding the taxi meter rate, and advised that staff are supportive of an increase, and of the concept for meter rates to be set by the taxi industry, rather than by the City. Mr. Bisson added that a by-law amendment would be required to implement this change.

11. Public Question Period

The public was given the opportunity to submit questions via e-mail to the City Clerk's Office regarding any decisions made under this section of the agenda. Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator, City Clerk's Office, confirmed that no questions were submitted.

12. **Adjournment**

The following motion was considered.

VAC003-2022

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

Carried

Mandeep Dhaliwal (Co-Chair)

Joan John (Co-Chair)