

MAYOR PATRICK BROWN

December 17, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

This letter seeks your commitment and support to address the reported economic impact to the taxi industry resulting from the emergence of Personal Transportation Companies such as Uber and Lyft; the impact of high insurance rates and the impact of the pandemic on the for hire transportation business. All three of these factors have caused a devaluation of the reported value of taxicab owner licences on the secondary market and in the overall business segment for these licence holders.

The Municipal Act does not permit Municipalities to assist directly or indirectly any commercial enterprise through the granting of bonuses and would prevent our City to compensate the taxi industry for the decrease in the reported transfer value of taxicab owner licences. Brampton City Council, on November 24, 2021, unanimously voted and believe that the Province of Ontario should take action to create either a compensation package or a relief fund to support taxicab plate owners in the City of Brampton,

Taxicab licence owners are small business owners who have based their retirement plans over the last 40 years, on the value of their taxi owner licences and their ability to sell or lease them out as supplementary income to the government retirement pension. However, the reported value of these licences has, in some cases, plummeted by more than 95% over the past 4 years. This sudden change in market conditions has made retirement challenging for many owners. Approximately one third of our issued taxicab plates are not in operation due to the inability the taxicab owners to find interested parties to operate the licences. Many of the holders of these plates are advanced in age and not able to safely operate the business themselves.

Small business owners are the backbone of the province and a compensation plan to assist those business owners to address the identified economic impacts would be greatly appreciated. It should be noted that this request is not unique for this industry as the Province of Quebec delivered a compensation package to their affected taxicab industry in 2019.



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If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to my colleague James Bisson, Manager Licensing Enforcement, at james.bisson@brampton.ca.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown
Mayor

cc: Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation
Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, MPP Brampton South
Mr. Amarjot Sandhu, MPP Brampton West
Mr. James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement