



MINUTES

TOWING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014 - 9:03 A.M.

COMMITTEE ROOM A

SECOND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE

300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, L5B 3C1

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Members Present: Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 (**Chair**)
John C. Lyons (Citizen Member) (**Vice Chair**)
Councillor Nando Iannicca, Ward 7
Mark Bell (Citizen Member)
Daniel Ghanime (Citizen Member)
Tullio (Tony) Pento (Citizen Member)
Armando Tallarico (Citizen Member)
Daniel R. Wallace (Citizen Member)

Staff Present: Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement
Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Stephanie Smith, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the
City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER – 9:03 A.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Nil

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS - Nil

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Towing Industry Advisory Committee meeting minutes from April 15, 2014.

Approved (Councillor Iannicca)

2. By-law to Prohibit Solicitation at an Accident Scene for all Non-Tow Truck Related Persons

Members of the Towing Industry Advisory Committee (TIAC) reviewed the Corporate Report dated April 24, 2014 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to a by-law to prohibit solicitation at an accident scene for all non-tow truck related persons.

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement noted the need for a by-law to prohibit solicitation at an accident scene for all non-tow truck related persons.

Members of TIAC spoke to personal experiences with individuals from law firms and personal injury representatives, insurance fraud and the difficulties of keeping a collision scene clear for emergency response vehicles and tow truck drivers.

Members of the industry expressed concern with the new by-law banning tow truck drivers from an accident scene. Daryl Bell provided clarification that the by-law would not ban tow truck drivers from accident scenes.

Councillor Starr spoke to the need for increased communication in the industry and the need to bring this matter back to a future TIAC meeting for discussion.

Odyssey (sp), Tow Truck Driver spoke to his lack of experience with solicitation at accident scenes and noted his issue with lane blocks.

Joey Gagne, Abrams Towing expressed support for the proposed report and spoke to the perception of tow truck drivers in the industry and that the proposed report would allow drivers to do their job.

Todd Keely, Tow Truck Driver spoke to including insurance companies in the by-law and enquired if Enforcement Officers would be enforcing the by-law.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, dated April 24, 2014 and entitled “By-law to Prohibit Solicitation at an Accident Scene for all Non-Tow Truck Related Persons” be deferred to a June Towing Industry Advisory Committee meeting.

Received (Councillor Iannicca)

Recommendation TIAC-0007-2014

3. Amendments to the Tow Truck Licensing By-law 521-04, as amended, for the Training of Tow Truck Drivers

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement spoke to the Corporate Report dated April 24, 2014 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to amendments to the tow truck licensing by-law 521-04, as amended, for the training of tow truck drivers. He noted that the training would be similar to the public vehicle training and that City staff would be trained through Wreck Master to certify all City of Mississauga licensed tow truck drivers.

Allan, Tow Truck Driver expressed concern with the level of qualifications City staff would receive from Wreck Master, cost of the training and how one City staff would be able to certify all tow truck drivers in the City of Mississauga. Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement noted that once the report is approved all concerns would be addressed.

Mark Bell, Citizen Member noted that the training would educate drivers on any changes to the Tow Truck By-law, increase drivers awareness of the industry and that the course would be offered at a basic level.

Councillor Starr spoke to consumer protection, public safety and that more information would be brought to the committee outlining a work plan for the training course.

Joey Gagne, Abrams Towing noted the difficulties of implementing a Wreck Master training course and the cost of the training to drivers. Mr. Gagne further spoke to the benefits of trained drivers and that a detailed program needs to be developed.

Councillor Starr and Mr. Frost spoke to the proposed Provincial government tow truck report that includes a training program and that the City of Mississauga is proposing this training course to be independent from the Province.

Barry, Tow Truck Driver spoke to the criminal record search fee that drivers are now also required to pay.

Robert, Seneca Towing spoke to a driver training courses already provided by most towing companies and that new tow drivers should shadow experienced drivers.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, dated April 24, 2014, and entitled “Amendments to the Tow Truck Licensing By-law 521-04, as amended, for the Training of Tow Truck Drivers” be deferred to a future Towing Industry Advisory Committee meeting.

Received (Councillor Iannicca)

Recommendation TIAC-0008-2014

4. Recommendation to Request Permission from the Attorney General’s Office to Increase Set Fines Related to the Towing Industry

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement spoke to the Corporate Report dated April 28, 2014 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to a request for permission from the Attorney General’s Office to increase set fines related to the towing industry.

Mark Bell, Citizen Member spoke to the background of the report and that the committee worked with City staff to increase the set fine amounts instead of making drivers mark each piece of required equipment.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report from the Commissioner, Transportation and Works, dated April 28, 2014, and entitled "Recommendation to Request Permission from the Attorney General's Office to Increase Set Fines Related to the Towing Industry" be received for information.
2. That staff incorporate comments received from the Towing Industry Advisory Committee and prepare a report to be considered by General Committee on the recommended increases to set fines related to the tow truck industry.

Approved (Councillor Iannicca)

Recommendation TIAC-0009-2014

5. Towing Industry Advisory Committee Action List

Members of the Towing Industry Advisory Committee meeting reviewed the action list as presented.

RECOMMENDATION

That the action list of the Towing Industry Advisory Committee meeting held on May, 6 2014 provided to the Committee to update on the status of initiatives raised at prior meetings be received.

Received (Councillor Iannicca)

Recommendation TIAC-0010-2014

OTHER BUSINESS

Daniel R. Wallace, Citizen Member expressed concern that as of May 5, 2014 tow truck drivers could no longer listen in to the Peel Regional Police (PRP) radio scanner. He noted that this would make the towing industry more dangerous as drivers would have to chase to a collision scene.

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement noted that City staff were not aware of the change.

Members of the towing industry expressed concern over the blackout on the PRP radio scanners as this would create a loss in revenue and would create increased hazards to the public.

Discussion ensued with respect to criminal record searches, the deadline to receive a pardon for a criminal record, driver's abstracts and the lack of communication to inform drivers of changes to the by-law.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2014 – Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT – 10:35 A.M