

MINUTES



PUBLIC VEHICLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014 - 9:33 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

SECOND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE

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

www.mississauga.ca

Members

Members Present:

Councillor Nando Iannicca, Ward 7 (Chair)
Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 (Vice Chair) (Arrived 9:42 a.m.)
Al Cormier (Citizen Member) (Departed 10:55a.m.)
Nabil A. Nassar (Citizen Member)
Paramvir Singh Nijjar (City Area Taxicab Owners)
Baljit Singh Pandori (Elected at Large)
Gurvel Singh (Taxicab Brokerages)
Harsimar Singh Sethi (City Area Taxicab Drivers)

Members Absent:

Craig McCutcheon (Limousine Owners)

Staff Present:

Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement
Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Stephanie Smith, Legislative Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER – 9:33am

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Baljit Singh Pandori, Elected at Large declared a conflict of interest before the voting of item number 2.

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Councillor Iannicca and members of the committee expressed condolence to the passing of taxicab drivers.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting held on December 9, 2013.

Approved (N. Nasser)

2. 2010 and 2012 Taxicab Plate Issuance

Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement spoke to the previous Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) meeting held on December 9, 2014 where the Corporate Report dated November 25, 2013 entitled “2010 and 2012 Taxicab Plate Issuance” was considered to issue 33 new taxicab plates. He noted that PVAC members and stakeholders have had time to deliberate and consider the recommendation.

Councillor Iannicca spoke to the formula of issuing taxicab plates and noted his support of staff’s recommendation of the issuance of 33 new taxicab plates.

Karam Punian, Industry Member expressed support of the issuance of the 33 new taxicab plates and spoke to the financial benefits to both the City of Mississauga and families of taxicab drivers and the increased opportunities for drivers.

Yadvendra Sidhu, Resident spoke to concerns with the current formula used to issue taxicab plates, increased residential development resulting in less taxicabs usage, the state of the poor economy, increased apartment building resulting in residents using the transit system and hotels operating their own shuttle services. He indicated that he does not support the issuance of 33 new taxicab plates.

Members of the Committee expressed concerns with Mr. Sidhu's lack of driving experience due to being out of the country and inquired if his information is based on facts or personal experience. Mr. Sidhu noted his comments are based on personal experience. Councillor Iannicca spoke to the development of an urbanized city core and the transit system.

Mark Sexsmith, All Star Taxi spoke to costs associated with operating a taxicab, taxicab driver's income, the increased population in the City of Mississauga and economic growth. He noted his support of issuing 33 new taxicab plates as it would not create a crisis in the industry, however, he indicated a more sophisticated taxicab model is needed to support accessible taxicabs. Councillor Iannicca noted that two committees, including the Regional of Peel are currently involved in the accessible taxicab review. Councillor Starr enquired if information has been collected within the industry that would be viable to support the additional taxicab plates. Mr. Sexsmith noted that an in-depth market overview has not been completed by industry members.

Melanie Taddeo, Resident enquired how many of the 33 new taxicab plates would be accessible taxicab plates. Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement noted that none would be accessible as accessible plates are issued to brokerages. Ms. Taddeo spoke to the demand for accessible taxicabs, current limitations of booking an accessible taxicab and the need to work together to find a solution. Discussion ensued with respect to finding a solution for accessible taxicab plates and non-accessible taxicab plates, and to create a new formula to determine an accurate number of accessible taxicabs.

Moham Manuel, Resident spoke to the demand for accessible taxicabs and expressed support of the issuance of the 33 new taxicab plates.

Fred, Non-resident spoke to the cost of operating a taxicab, economic growth and noted his support of the issuance of the 33 new taxicab plates.

Rabia Khedr, Resident, spoke to the current waitlist for taxicab plates and the need for change in the industry to accommodate accessible taxicab plates. Discussion ensued with respect to the current By-law, the need to review and amend the current By-law, the current economy of operating a taxicab and the various types of accessible needs.

Karam Punian, Industry Member spoke to surrounding municipalities, economic growth, The Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA), accessible taxicabs and expressed support of the issuance of the 33 new taxicab plates.

Al Cormier, Citizen Member spoke to the shortage of accessible taxicabs, the demand for taxicabs in the winter months and noted support of the issuance of 33 new taxicab plates, on the condition that they are accessible taxicab plates.

(Al Cormier departed the meeting at this point)

Councillor Starr expressed support of the issuance of the 33 new taxicab plates and spoke to accessible taxicabs, the current By-law and the need to do more work in the future.

Nabil A. Nassar, Citizen Member expressed support of the issuance of the 33 new taxicab plates and the need to change the issuance formula in future.

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement spoke to current issues that need to be dealt with before issuing the 33 new plates and that time is needed to review the waitlist.

Gurvel Singh, Taxicab Brokerages thanked staff for their hard work and expressed support of the issuance of the 33 new taxicab plates

Councillor Iannicca thanked members of the industry for their hard work and spoke to providing direction to Council regarding accessible taxicab plates, that the recommendation still needs to be approved by Council and that staff would bring a report back regarding the implementation process of issuing the 33 new taxicab plates.

Baljit Singh Pandori, Elected at Large declared a conflict of interest and refrained from voting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee supports the issuance of 33 new taxicab plates as outlined in the report from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works dated November 25, 2013 entitled "2010 and 2012 Taxicab Plate Issuance".

Approved (Councillor Starr)

Recommendation PVAC-0001-2014

3. Public Vehicle Advisory Committee - Action List

No discussion took place.

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2013 Action List provided to the Committee to update on the status of initiatives raised at prior meetings be received

Received (Councillor Starr)

Recommendation PVAC-0002-2014

4. Information Items

4.1 Public Vehicle Plate Issuance

Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) to reviewed the email dated January 24, 2014 from Ron Baumber regarding plate issuance.

RECOMMENDATION

That the following information items be received for information:

- a) That the email dated January 24, 2014 from Ron Baumber regarding plate issuance be received.
- b) That the letter from Yadvendra Sidhu regarding plate issuance be received.
- c) That the email dated February 1, 2014 from Peter Pellier regarding conflict of interest be received.
- d) That the letter dated February 3, 2014 from Mark Sexsmith regarding the fuel costs be received.

Received (N. Nassar)

Recommendation PVAC-0003-2014

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark Sexsmith spoke to owner operators of accessible taxicabs being stranded without a broker. Councillor Iannicca advised Mr. Sexsmith to submit a letter on this matter for receipt for the next PVAC meeting.

Peter Pellier, sought clarification regarding the implementation process of issuing the 33 taxicab plates. Councillor Iannicca advised that an implementation process would be brought forward at the next PVAC meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2014, Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT: 11:02 a.m.