

Public Vehicle Advisory Committee

Date

Thursday, October 1, 2015

Time

9:36 AM

Location

Civic Centre, Council Chambers - Second Floor,
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C1

Members Present

Councillor Ron Starr	Ward 6 (Chair)
Councillor Carolyn Parrish	Ward 5 (Vice-Chair)
Al Cormier	Citizen Member
Vikesh Kohli	Citizen Member
Rajendra Singh	Citizen Member
Baljit Singh Pandori	Industry Appointed – Taxicab Brokerages
Karam S. Punian	Elected – Taxicab Drivers
Harsimar Singh Sethi	Elected – At Large
Nirmal Singh	Elected – Taxicab Owners

Members Absent

Joshua Zahavy	Industry Appointed – Limousine Brokerages
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Staff Present

Mickey Frost	Director, Enforcement
Daryl Bell	Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Robert Genoway	Legal Counsel
Diana Rusnov	Manager, Legislative Services
Karen Morden	Legislative Coordinator

Contact:

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Find it online

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/publicvehicleadvisory>

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:36 AM

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved (A. Cormier)

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Nil.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the August 12, 2015 Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting.

Approved (A. Cormier)

5. DEPUTATIONS

- 5.1 Matt Daus, Consultant, Windels Marx led the Committee Members through a town hall session regarding the scope of the pending Consultant's Report focused on the Regulation of "Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)" in Mississauga.

Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement provided background information on the events leading up to the hiring of a consultant to address the City's options with respect to regulating Transportation Network Companies, noting the Corporate Report that was considered by the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee at their meeting on August 12, 2015 and the Committee's recommendation to proceed with the procurement of a consultant to address this issue. Mr. Frost further advised that in addition to the verbal comments provided at the meeting, a dedicated email address had been set up by Windels Marx to receive written submissions from relevant stakeholders.

Mr. Daus provided a brief autobiography and outlined the scope of the project he would be undertaking to provide policy options to the City of Mississauga with respect to the regulation of Transportation Network Companies.

Councillor Starr noted the importance of the input provided by industry stakeholders and invited members of the audience to address the Committee and Mr. Daus.

Mark Sexsmith, All Star Taxi spoke to the matter, noting that the present plate issuance model is effective and successful and that any additions to the fleet should be managed in the same manner under the existing By-law. Mr. Sexsmith further commented that the proposed amendments to the "Definitions and Interpretations" section of the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended that he

presented to the Committee at the August 12, 2015 meeting should be reconsidered and a recommendation should be made to make the aforementioned changes.

Mr. Frost noted that the amendments to the wording of the By-law should be referred to staff for consideration once the report from Dana Hara, Consultant, on the taxicab plate issuance model review was complete.

Discussion ensued with respect to proposed amendments to the By-law and referring it to staff and the consultant for consideration.

Al Cormier, Citizen Member requested clarification on the effect of changing the wording in the “Definitions and Interpretations” section of the By-law.

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement spoke regarding the current By-law, noting that it gives the authority necessary to deal with UberX and the limited resources in Enforcement Officers, who are responsible for enforcing all licensing by-laws. Mr. Bell further noted that all charges against UberX are before the court.

Chris Schafer, Public Policy Manager, Uber – Canada spoke to the matter, suggesting that the consultant look to other cities in the United States who successfully regulate ridesharing companies and noted the differences in the business model of Uber and the taxicab industry. Mr. Schafer further commented on insurance, technology, and the potential fundamental changes in traffic reduction and environmental issues pertaining to Uber.

Councillor Parrish commented on the Province’s responsibility to address this issue and preserve the livelihoods of the taxicab owners and drivers.

Discussion amongst Members ensued with respect to regulations, pricing of Uber, police checks, and training requirements.

Councillor Starr inquired whether Uber would agree to have the same licences and regulations as any other company, if Council passed that recommendation, to which Mr. Schafer commented that it wouldn’t make sense to agree to that since Uber is a different business model and the rules imposed by the City did not fit with their business model.

Yad Sidhu, Taxicab Industry presented a newspaper advertisement for Uber, noting that businesses must pay taxes and report earnings to Revenue Canada. Mr. Sidhu further noted that taxi brokerages in Mississauga also have smartphone applications and commented on the difficulty of enforcing companies such as Uber.

Carol-Ann Chafe, Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) commented that she would bring this issue to the AAC and encourage them to submit comments to the consultant.

Joe Farrugia, Owner of BramCity Taxi commented that his drivers are reporting a decrease in the number of fares, the loss of income, the loss of customers and the importance of addressing accessibility.

Mr. Sethi spoke to banning Uber from operating in Mississauga until they obtain a licence and Enforcement Division staff enforcing the existing Public Vehicle Licensing By-law.

Robert Genoway, Legal Counsel advised that Uber is required to obtain a licence and that the By-law is being enforced, to which Mr. Frost concurred and advised that staff were enforcing the By-law to the best of their ability.

RECOMMENDATION

That staff be directed to continue to enforce the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, specifically related to unlicensed drivers operating in Mississauga.

Carried (H. S. Sethi)

Recommendation PVAC-0038-2015

Vikesh Kohli, Citizen Member inquired as to how other cities were coping with the loss of control over the transportation industries, to which Mr. Daus advised that cities have the option to create a new licensing category or to require them to do business within the current industry practices.

Councillor Parrish noted that the Province should be addressing this issue and be looking for a Province-wide solution.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Mayor write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting that the Province seize the Uber problem, including failure to remit HST, and the serious hardship to the duly regulated taxi industry, and to undertake a Province-wide solution.

Carried (H. S. Sethi)

Recommendation PVAC-0042-2015

6. MATTERS CONSIDERED – Nil.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Uber

Email dated August 16, 2015 from Peter Pellier, Taxicab Industry regarding Uber.

No discussion occurred on this item.

RECOMMENDATION

That the email dated August 16, 2015 from Peter Pellier, Taxicab Industry regarding Uber, be received and referred to Matt Daus, Consultant for inclusion in a future report related to the Regulation of “Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)” in Mississauga.

Referred (H. S. Sethi)

Recommendation PVAC-0040-2015

7.2 Uber: Best Practices in Dealing with Mobile Taxicab Mobile Applications (TMA) in Other Cities

Letter dated August 27, 2015 from Chris Schafer, Public Policy Manager, Uber – Canada with respect to dealing with Mobile Taxicab Applications (TMA) in other cities.

This item was dealt with during Deputation A.

RECOMMENDATION

That the letter dated August 27, 2015 from Chris Schafer, Public Policy Manager, Uber – Canada, be received and referred to Matt Daus, Consultant, Windels Marx for inclusion in a future report related to the Regulation of “Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)” in Mississauga.

Referred (H. S. Sethi)

Recommendation PVAC-0041-2015

7.3 PVAC 2015 Action List

Public Vehicle Advisory Committee 2015 Action List updated for the October 1 Special PVAC meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) Action List, updated for the October 1, 2015 meeting of PVAC, be received.

Received (H. S. Sethi)
Recommendation PVAC-0043-2015

8. OTHER BUSINESS - Nil.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2015 - 9:00 AM, Civic Centre, Council Chambers - 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga L5B 3C1

10. ADJOURNMENT - 11:48 AM