

MINUTES



PUBLIC VEHICLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015 – 10:04 A.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

SECOND FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE

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

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

Members

Members Present:

Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 **(Chair)**
Councillor Carolyn Parrish, Ward 5 **(Vice-Chair)**
Al Cormier (Citizen Member)
Vikesh Kholi (Citizen Member)
Rajendra Singh (Citizen Member)
Karam S. Punian (Taxicab Drivers)
Harsimar Singh Sethi (Elected At Large)
Nirmal Singh (Taxicab Owners)
Joshua Zahavy (Limousine Brokers)

Members Absent:

Baljit Pandori (Taxicab Brokerages)

Others Present:

Sami Khairallah (replacing Baljit Pandori, Taxicab Brokerages)

Staff Present:

Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement
Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator

Contact: Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk 905-615-3200 ext. 5471 Fax 905-615-4181
karen.morden@mississauga.ca

CALL TO ORDER

Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator, Office of the City Clerk, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR

Ms. Morden advised that since the Committee is now complete, a call for a Chair would take place. Ms. Morden called for nominations for appointment to the office of the Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) for the term ending November 30, 2018 or until a successor is appointed.

Councillor Parrish nominated Councillor Starr and no further nominations were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillor Ron Starr be appointed Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for a term ending November 30, 2015 or until a successor is appointed.

Approved (A. Cormier)

Recommendation PVAC-0021-2015

APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-CHAIR

Ms. Morden called for nominations for appointment to the office of Vice-Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) for a term ending November 30, 2018 or until a successor is appointed.

Councillor Starr nominated Councillor Parrish and no further nominations were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillor Carolyn Parrish be appointed Vice-Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for a term ending November 30, 2018 or until a successor is appointed.

Approved (A. Cormier)

Recommendation PVAC-0022-2015

Councillor Starr took over the meeting as Chair.

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Nil.

PRESENTATIONS - Nil

DEPUTATIONS

- A. Peter Pellier, Taxicab Industry spoke to Item 4.2, his email dated April 17, 2015 regarding the leasing of A-Plates and requested consideration of a change to current practices by transferring control of A-Plates from the brokerages to the individual operators. Mr. Pellier noted that the transfer would allow the operators the opportunity to choose which brokerage they wish to work for and commented that the plates have no value so wouldn't result in a loss to the brokerages.

Al Cormier, Citizen Member expressed his concern with the level of accessible taxi service to the disabled community and expressed support of amending the By-law to transfer control of A-Plates to the operators.

Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement spoke to the report coming forward in September 2015 from the consultant with respect to the Taxicab Plate Issuance Review.

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement noted that this change would create changes in the process making it more complicated and would also impact changes to the taxicab plate priority list.

Sami Khairallah, Taxicab Brokerages designate, commented that the current system is effective, noting that brokerages are capable of providing as many cars as needed due to demand, that brokerages provide the plates to the operators with no fee, and that he hadn't experienced a high demand for on-demand accessible taxicabs as the disabled community calls TransHelp for transportation needs.

Mr. Cormier noted his appreciation to staff and PVAC Members for their insight and comments and further noted his hope that the consultant's report would bring forth significant gains for the disabled community and was in agreement that decisions in this regard would wait until the presentation of the pending report.

Karam Punian, Taxicab Drivers, requested clarification regarding whether any monies were involved in the transfer of A-Plates and Mr. Khairallah responded that there were not.

Councillor Parrish requested that the matter be deferred until such time as the consultant's report is complete and suggested that a meeting with staff and Citizen

Members may be helpful to provide background and orientation to the issues.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the email dated April 17, 2015 from Peter Pellier, Taxicab Industry with respect to leasing A-Plates be received;
2. That the deputation by Peter Pellier, Taxicab Industry, to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee on June 16, 2015 with respect to Leasing A-Plates, be received for information;
3. That the matter be deferred until such time as the Consultant's report is complete.

Deferred (Councillor Parrish)
Recommendation PVAC-0023-2015

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
 - 1.1 Minutes of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting held on April 21, 2015.

Approved (A. Cormier)

2. Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, Safety Standard Certificate Requirements

Corporate Report dated June 4, 2015 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works entitled, "Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, Safety Standard Certificate Requirements".

Mr. Bell briefly spoke to the above noted report and explained that the amendment would bring the By-law into compliance with the Ministry of Transportation regulations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, dated June 4, 2015 and entitled, "Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, Safety Standard Certificate Requirements", be received.

Received (A. Cormier)
Recommendation PVAC-0024-2015

3. Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-Law 420-04, as amended, Lease Agreement Requirements

Corporate Report dated June 4, 2015 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works entitled, “Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, Lease Agreement Requirements”.

Mr. Bell spoke to the above noted report and explained that the current practice of renewing lease agreements does not specify a renewal time-line, causing lease agreements to expire and subsequently drivers are operating taxicabs without a current lease agreement.

Discussion ensued with respect to the appropriate notifications, grace periods to fulfill renewal requirements, and penalties for being in contravention of the By-law. Mr. Bell advised that notifications of lease agreement renewal would occur 30 days prior to the lease agreement expiring, that there would be a 14 day grace period to fulfill the renewal requirements before being in contravention of the By-law, and that this amendment to the By-law would make the renewal requirements identical to the insurance renewal requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works dated June 4, 2015 and entitled “Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, Lease Agreement Requirements”, be received.

Received (H. Singh Sethi)

Recommendation PVAC-0025-2015

4. Information Items

4.1 Public Vehicle Advisory Committee - Action List

Committee Members briefly reviewed the PVAC Action List chart.

Mr. Cormier requested clarification regarding the status of four of the items listed on the chart and was informed that the items in question are being dealt with by the Consultant’s report.

Councillor Parrish noted that she would be discussing the PVAC Terms of Reference at the next Governance Committee meeting on June 17, 2015 to discuss quorum and the ability to assign designates in the event of an elected or appointed industry member’s absence.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee Action List for 2015 be received for information.

Received (A. Cormier)

Recommendation PVAC-0026-2015

4.2 Leasing A-Plates

Email dated April 17, 2015 from Peter Pellier, Taxicab Industry with respect to leasing A-Plates.

This item was dealt with during Mr. Pellier's deputation at the start of the meeting.

4.3 Mandatory Snow Tires

Email dated April 24, 2015 from Mark Sexsmith, Taxicab Industry with respect to mandatory snow tires.

Karam Punian, Taxicab Drivers expressed his support of implementing a mandatory snow tire requirement in the By-law.

Mr. Bell advised that currently the Province has not mandated the use of snow tires and that staff would require time to research and could come back with a report at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the email dated April 24, 2015 from Mark Sexsmith, Taxicab Industry with respect to mandatory snow tires, be received for information.

Received (K. Punian)

Recommendation PVAC-0027-2015

4.4 Public Vehicle Licensing By-law – Proposed Amendments

Email dated May 1, 2015 from Peter Pellier, Taxicab Industry with respect to proposed amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended.

No discussion took place on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION

That the email dated May 1, 2015 from Peter Pellier, Taxicab Industry with respect to proposed amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, be received for information.

Received (J. Zahavy)

Recommendation PVAC-0028-2015

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Yad Sidhu, Mississauga Taxicab Driver, spoke regarding illegal taxicab operations in Mississauga and his frustration that these companies continue to operate not only in the City of Mississauga, but province-wide. Mr. Sidhu noted that the taxi business had decreased by 30% with the introduction of companies such as Uber and asked what the City has done to address this issue, specifically amendments to the current By-law to address the new technology and ticketing practices.

Councillor Starr expressed understanding of Mr. Sidhu's frustration and advised him that there have been multiple amendments to the By-law, that Legal is working on the Uber issue, that staff is working diligently to address this issue and invited Mr. Sidhu to share his possible solutions.

Mr. Bell advised that staff have been working diligently to address this issue, that currently UberX is the only company trying to operate in Mississauga, and that approximately 60 charges had been laid against UberX in the past few weeks.

Councillor Parrish commented that Uber had hosted a recruitment fair at the Living Arts Centre recently with many attendees and inquired as to whether Mr. Sidhu had suggestions as to deal with this matter. Mr. Sidhu noted that more consistent enforcement was needed. Mr. Sidhu further commented that Uber had been in Mississauga for couple of years and originally did business with taxicab brokerages.

Councillor Parrish suggested that higher fines may deter illegal taxicab operations and that insurance companies should be providing education to the public. Councillor Parrish further noted the need to compare best practices with other cities to determine if certain strategies would also work in Mississauga.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the deputation by Yad Sidhu, Taxicab Industry with respect to illegal taxicab operations in Mississauga be received;
2. That members of the Taxicab Industry are invited to create a report regarding best practices in dealing with mobile taxicab applications from other cities and present that report at the September 22, 2015 meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for consideration.

Received (V. Kohli)

Recommendation PVAC-0029-2015

**Recommendation PVAC-0029-2015 was subsequently amended at General Committee and the following recommendation was approved by General Committee on June 17, 2015 and adopted by City Council on June 24, 2015:*

GC-0470-2015

1. That the deputation by Yad Sidhu, Taxicab Industry with respect to illegal taxicab operations in Mississauga be received;
2. That staff be directed to report back on best practices in dealing with mobile taxicab applications from other cities and present that report at the September 22, 2015 meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for consideration.

(PVAC-0029-2015)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Additional Meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 10:00 AM – Council Chambers, Mississauga Civic Centre, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga L5B 3C1

Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 10:00 AM - Council Chambers, Mississauga Civic Centre, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga L5B 3C1

ADJOURNMENT - 11:35 AM