

Council Subcommittee of Towing

Date

2016/05/30

Time

3:32 PM

Location

Civic Centre, Council Chamber,
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C1 Ontario

Members Present

Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 (Chair)
Mayor Bonnie Crombie
Councillor Carolyn Parrish, Ward 5
Councillor Nando Iannicca, Ward 7
Councillor Matt Mahoney, Ward 8 (Vice Chair)

Staff Present

Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement
Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Michael Foley, Supervisory of Compliance and Licensing Enforcement
Robert Genoway, Legal Council
Stephanie Smith, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

Find it online

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

1. Call to Order - 3:32 PM
2. Approval of Agenda
Approved (Mayor Crombie)
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - Nil
4. Matters to be Considered
- 4.1. Preliminary Report On Tow Truck "Chasing" In The City Of Mississauga

Michael Foley, Supervisor of Compliance and Licensing Enforcement spoke to the Preliminary Report on Tow Truck Chasing in the City of Mississauga and the purpose of the subcommittee.

Councillor Parrish spoke to the need for a simpler definition of non-dispatch towing and tow truck chasing. Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement noted that tow trucks are not dispatched in the City of Mississauga.

Mayor Crombie enquired if tow truck drivers sit in locations with proven high volumes of accidents and if drivers monitor accidents over the Peel Regional Police (PRP) radio. Mr. Foley noted that drivers do sit in high volume locations and that they do not have the capability to listen into the PRP radio channel.

Mr. Foley spoke to previous questions raised by the subcommittee and outlined data received from the OPP and PRP, the number of tow trucks plates, authorized vehicle licensed pounds and the number of body shops in the City of Mississauga. He further outlined strategies to address chasing to could include; a rotational dispatch system, enhanced enforcement and fleet management technology. Mr. Foley concluded that chasing in the City of Mississauga is currently not an issue

Councillor Parrish spoke to the number of traffic accidents that require tows. Mr. Bell noted that the data outlining the number of traffic accidents in the City of Mississauga was received from the PRP and the OPP and that the data does not show tows that did not require the services of the PRP and OPP.

Councillor Iannicca spoke to privately-run centralized pounds in four quadrants of the City and the need for tenders to be tendered out on rotational bases. He noted that

chasing is still a problem in the industry.

Mayor Crombie spoke to staffs inconclusive finding that chasing is not an issue in the City. She further expressed support of authorized pounds using standards that the City of Mississauga would set out and noted that she does not agree with the proposed quadrant pound system. Mayor Crombie enquired if staff had looked at the operational model of the vehicle reporting centres as in the City of Toronto. Mr. Bell noted that staff did look into the operation model of the City of Toronto and that they were unable to acquire information.

Councillor Mahoney noted that implementing quadrants could increase chasing in the City of Mississauga. Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement spoke to the challenges of implementing quadrants and that more information gathering would need to be done from surrounding municipalities who have implemented quadrants.

Councillor Parrish spoke to the number of tow truck licences in the City of Mississauga and expressed support of dividing the City into multiple areas and dispatch only towing. Mr. Bell noted that a moratorium has been in place since 2012 on the issuance of any new tow truck license.

Councillor Nando spoke to the need for a fulsome review of the industry to ensure that the right model is in place.

Councillor Starr outlined the current system in place, regulations added to the industry, the need to review other successful and non- successful industry models and the lack of chasing complaints received. He expressed support of needing more information before making any decisions.

Members of the Committee engaged in discussion around Bill 15, a virtual pound, consumer choice and the need to protect the consumers.

Brad Butt, Building Stronger Communities on behalf of Atlantic Towing spoke a centralized vehicle pound facility and indicated that Atlantic Towing believes a centralized vehicle pound could assist in eliminating chasing. He further spoke to the centralized vehicle pound facility and that it should be regulated by the City of Mississauga but privately operated.

Members of the Subcommittee instructed staff to bring back more information on various towing models in September.

5. Adjournment - 4:42 PM (Mayor Crombie)