
Public Vehicle Advisory Committee

Date

2016/10/18

Time

10:04 AM

Location

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

Members Present

Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 (Chair)
Councillor John Kovac, Ward 4 (Vice-Chair)
Al Cormier (Citizen Member)
Rajendra Singh (Citizen Member)
Baljit Singh Pandori (Taxicab Brokerages)
Karam S. Punian (Taxicab Drivers)
Harsimar Singh Sethi (Elected at Large)
Joshua Zahavy (Limousine Owners)

Members Absent

Vikesh Kohli (Citizen Member)
Nirmal Singh (Taxicab Owners)

Staff Present

Douglas Meehan, Acting Director, Enforcement
Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

Find it online

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 10:04 AM

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Al Cormier, Citizen Member requested to add the Hara Report to the discussion to which Councillor Starr advised that it would be added under “Other Business”.

Approved, as amended (H. S. Sethi)

2.1. **Addition of Public Question Period to the PVAC Agenda**

Councillor Starr briefly explained the addition of Public Question Period to all Committees of Council agendas.

RECOMMENDATION

That the memorandum dated August 26, 2016 from the Legislative Coordinator with respect to the addition of Public Question Period to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee agenda, be received for information.

Received (A. Cormier)

Recommendation PVAC-0019-2016

2.2. **Appointment of Councillor Kovac as Vice-Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee**

Councillor Starr commented that he was appointing Councillor Kovac as Vice-Chair of the Committee, per the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

Councillor Kovac noted that he was pleased to be on the Committee and thanked the Members for their hard work.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillor John Kovac, Ward 4 be appointed Vice-Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for a term ending November 30, 2018 or until a successor is appointed.

Approved (B. Pandori)

Recommendation PVAC-0020-2016

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – Nil.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1. **Minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting**

Approved, as amended (A. Cormier)

5. **DEPUTATIONS**

- 5.1. Mark Sexsmith, Taxi Industry spoke regarding first/last mile transit noting that it could provide savings to the City and that the taxi industry should be proactive in investigating this option to provide transportation between transit hubs. Further, Mr. Sexsmith commented that a working committee should be struck, involving Members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee, the Councillors who are involved with the transit commission, and staff from Mobile Licensing.

Mr. Sexsmith commented that the taxi industry would be best suited to participate in a first/last mile transit program as the drivers are professional, trained, and have vehicles that are fully inspected and covered by commercial insurance and able to fulfill service gaps. Further, Mr. Sexsmith noted that the taxi industry is already in similar arrangements with services such as TransHelp and Regional Social Services. Finally, Mr. Sexsmith noted that this would be an opportunity to get the taxi plates that are currently on the shelf, back into action.

Councillor Starr noted that staff from Transportation Planning were in attendance and called on Susan Tanabe, Manager, Transportation Planning to comment on first/last mile transit.

Ms. Tanabe advised that first/last mile is also currently being addressed at a Provincial level, noting that a review had been ongoing for 18 months and the plan to develop a Transportation Master Plan. Ms. Tanabe further noted that staff could reach out to the taxi industry to share information and gain feedback.

Councillor Starr requested to have any information flow back through the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the deputation by Mark Sexsmith, Taxi Industry with respect to first/last mile transit, be received for information.

Received (A. Cormier)

Recommendation PVAC-0021-2016

5.2. Item 8.4. Peter Pellier, Taxi Industry spoke regarding the Inactive Taxi Plate Registry List.

Mr. Pellier noted the stress placed on those plate owners, their loss of earnings, and regulatory pressures including fees incurred by the plate owner to place a plate on the shelf, or to make it active once again. Further, Mr. Pellier commented on the reasons for creating the Inactive Plate Registry List including providing a public record of inactive plates, facilitating communication between prospective lessees and plate owners, and providing financial relief for inactive plate holders who register. Mr. Pellier outlined in detail a proposed framework for an Inactive Plate Registry, and requested that the City implement the List by December 31, 2016.

Councillor Starr thanked Mr. Pellier for bringing this issue forward and advised that this had been discussed with staff previously and that it was on the radar to be considered.

In response to a question from Al Cormier, Citizen Member Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that inactive plates that wish to be reactivated require a vehicle inspection and the payment of fees. Mr. Bell further noted that the City has not been charging the \$350 fee to make the plate inactive, nor has the City been enforcing the 90 day limit on inactive plates, and advised that there is a renewal fee charge as there are administrative costs involved. Mr. Cormier requested that staff write a report on this matter for the next meeting.

Harsimar Singh Sethi, Elected at Large inquired as to how to make the inactive plates active, noting that some drivers want to drive but can't find a plate owner to lease from. Mr. Bell advised that taxi plates are transferable and that staff could create a directory to connect people, noting that there are currently 47 plates on the shelf, which is a decrease from the 73 that were previously there.

Councillor Starr directed staff to prepare a report on this matter for the next PVAC meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the deputation by Peter Pellier, Taxi Industry with respect to the Inactive Taxi Plate Registry List, be received for information;
2. That staff be directed to prepare a report regarding the Inactive Taxi Plate Registry List for the next meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

Received (Councillor Kovac)
Recommendation PVAC-0022-2016

- 5.3. Jaskarun Singh, Taxi Industry spoke regarding the current state of the taxi industry and the upset and loss of jobs that the emergence of Uber has created. Further, Mr. Singh presented a document that provided links to news articles pertaining to Uber and crimes, and requested that the City should stop accommodating TNCs.

RECOMMENDATION

That the deputation by Jaskarun Singh, Taxi Industry with respect to the Mississauga taxi industry, be received for information.

Received (K. Punian)

Recommendation PVAC-0023-2016

- 5.4. Harimohan Sharma noted that he is an airport taxi driver and spoke to the taxi/Uber issue in the City, noting that TNCs are taking public transportation customers as well as taxi customers and urged the City to implement regulations dealing with companies such as Uber in the very near future. Further, Mr. Sharma commented on the taxi industry's concern for the protection of consumers and noted that the protection of the public should be equally important to Uber and that the taxi industry provides excellent service as well-trained professionals.

Al Cormier, Citizen Member requested an update on the status of enforcement, to which Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that staff are continuing to enforce the By-law, that staff had laid an additional 159 charges since the amendment to the By-law to incorporate the "Capture Option", and that all cases are still before the courts.

Rajendra Singh, Citizen Member commented that people use Uber because of lower costs and expressed support for the removal of all fees that the taxi industry is paying to the City.

RECOMMENDATION

That the deputation by Harimohan Sharma, Taxi Industry with respect to the taxi/Uber situation, be received for information.

Received (R. Singh)

Recommendation PVAC-0024-2016

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

A taxi plate owner (name unknown) asked if Uber is currently legal or illegal in Mississauga, to which Councillor Starr advised that staff continues to enforce the By-law and that currently Uber is not in compliance with the By-law as they have not registered as a company, nor have any Uber drivers registered as drivers. The taxi plate owner (name unknown) commented that the Mayor and Council had taken an oath to protect the people and businesses in Mississauga, that an injunction through the courts should have been implemented against Uber, and that the taxi industry respects the By-law. Councillor Starr assured the taxi plate owner that Council is also concerned about the situation.

7. MATTERS CONSIDERED**7.1. Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to Require Updated Taxicab Camera Requirements**

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement spoke to the staff report noting that the report had originally come forward in 2013 and addresses obsolete cameras and concerns from Peel Regional Police as they rely on the camera footage and images to investigate crimes. Mr. Bell noted that the City of Brampton taxi industry had implemented upgrades to taxi cameras with success and that the City of Mississauga taxi industry did not want to upgrade, so at that time staff had listened to the industry and suggested the removal of cameras from taxicabs. Further, Mr. Bell noted that the Mississauga taxi industry is now supportive of the use of cameras, so equipment must now be brought up to standards.

Harsimar Singh Sethi, Elected at Large and Karam Punian, Taxi Drivers commented that it was not the right time to deal with this issue and that it should be postponed until after the amendments to the By-law pertaining to TNCs had been settled.

Al Cormier, Citizen Member requested clarification on the taxi industry's position on cameras, to which Mr. Bell advised that the City had offered to remove the camera requirement to and that the taxi industry wished it to remain and to also impose the requirement on TNCs under the By-law. Mr. Cormier inquired whether additional upgrades would be necessary as new technology emerged, to which Mr. Bell advised that some of the current camera systems were more than 10 years old with a high failure rate and the importance of ensuring the images are stored on the devices.

In response to a question from Baljit Pandori, Taxi Brokerages, Mr. Bell advised that if, on inspection by staff, the devices are not working, they would have to be fixed and that due to a high failure rate of older technology the By-law should be amended to upgrade the camera systems.

Mr. Singh Sethi moved to defer the matter to the December 13, 2016 meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

Deferred to next meeting (H. S. Sethi)

7.2. Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to exempt taxi plate owners from the Criminal Record Search (CRS) requirement when their taxi driver's licence is in a non-driving status

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement spoke to the report, noting that there are currently licensed plate owners who are not driving vehicles and that the regulation requiring them to obtain a Criminal Records Search (CRS) seems unnecessary due to the fact that they will not have contact with the public.

Members expressed agreement with Mr. Bell's suggestion that the requirement to obtain a CRS by plate owners who are not driving/in contact with the public be removed from the regulations.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee approves the recommended changes to exempt taxicab plate owners from the Criminal Record Search (CRS) requirement when their taxicab driver's licence is in a non-driving status, as outlined in the report from the Commissioner, Transportation and Works, dated September 29, 2016 and entitled "Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to exempt taxicab plate owners from the Criminal Record Search (CRS) requirement when their taxicab driver's licence is in a non-driving status.

Approved (K. Punian)

Recommendation PVAC-0025-2016

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1. Letter from Councillor Parrish - Resignation of Appointment to PVAC

Karam Punian spoke regarding Councillor Parrish's resignation to the Committee.

Councillor Starr moved to receive all Information Items.

RECOMMENDATION

That Information Items 8.1. – 8.8. on the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee agenda for October 18, 2016, be received for information.

Received (Councillor Kovac)
Recommendation PVAC-0026-2016

8.2. Council Resolution 0128-2016 - Appointment of Councillor Kovac to PVAC

No discussion took place on this item.

8.3. First/Last Mile Transit

Discussion on this item is recorded under Item 5.1.

8.4. Inactive Taxi Plate Registry List

Discussion on this item is recorded under Item 5.2.

8.5. Public Vehicle Advisory Committee Action List

Al Cormier, Citizen Member inquired about the status of the Hara report and was advised that it would be addressed in further detail once the Pilot Program Committee completed their work with respect to the development of a framework to regulate TNCs.

8.6. Letter to Ian Black, General Manager, Uber Canada

Baljit Pandori, Taxi Brokerages inquired as to whether the City had received any response to this item, to which Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that they had not.

8.7. Industry Feedback - Ride Share Report

No discussion took place on this item.

8.8. Correspondence from Peter Pellier, Taxi Industry regarding his deputation to the Committee on October 18, 2016

Discussion on this item is recorded under Item 5.2.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Karam Punian, Taxi Drivers Representative spoke regarding taxi plates currently on the shelf and noted that they are the property of the owner and that no one should have the authority to give it to someone else.

10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 - 10:00 AM, Civic Centre, Council Chambers

11. **ADJOURNMENT** – 11:32 AM