
Special Public Vehicle Advisory Committee

Date

2017/06/07

Time

2:00 PM

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) (Arrived at 2:21 PM)
Al Cormier (Citizen Member)
Vikesh Kohli (Citizen Member)
Rajendra Singh (Citizen Member)
Baljit Singh Pandori (Taxicab Brokerages)
Karam S. Punian (Taxicab Drivers)
Harsimar Singh Sethi (Elected at Large)
Nirmal Singh (Taxicab Owners)
Joshua Zahavy (Limousine Owners)

Others Present

Mayor Bonnie Crombie (arrived at 2:20 PM)
Councillor Carolyn Parrish, Ward 5

Staff Present

Sam Rogers, Director, Enforcement
Michael Foley, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Crystal Greer, Director, Legislative Services & City Clerk
Mumtaz Alikhan, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services
Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

Find it online

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER - 2:12 PM**

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approved (H.S. Sethi)

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

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1. Public Vehicle Advisory Committee Minutes - April 24, 2017

Approved, as presented (A. Cormier)

5. **MATTERS CONSIDERED**

5.1. Issuance of Temporary Taxi Owners Plates for the duration of the Transportation Network Pilot Project.

Michael Foley, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement provided a brief background on the report, noting that a letter had been sent to all individuals on the Priority Waiting List, to gauge interest as to whether the individuals would purchase a temporary taxi plate if given the opportunity to do so. Mr. Foley noted that 228 people had responded, of which 224 indicated that they would be interested in purchasing a temporary taxi plate at a nominal administrative fee, for the period of the TNC Pilot Project. Furthermore, Mr. Foley noted that 168 of the respondents had been on the Priority Waiting List prior to Council adopting Resolution 0054-2017 for the issuance of 250 plates and of the 168 originally on the list, 97% responded that they would be interested. Mr. Foley spoke to the financial impact of issuing the temporary plates, noting that it would not be significant.

Mayor Crombie joined the meeting at 2:20 PM. Councillor Kovac joined the meeting at 2:21 PM.

In response to a question from Al Cormier, Citizen Member Mr. Foley noted that the previous estimate of those on the list had been 250 and indicated that 168 was the actual number. Mr. Cormier inquired whether the issuance of 250 temporary taxi plates aligned with the Hara Report, to which Mr. Foley noted that it would not.

Councillor Parrish requested clarification with respect to the number of drivers leasing a plate and whether casual lease arrangements were permitted, to which Mr. Foley advised that all lease arrangements must be reported to the City.

Karam Punian, Taxicab Drivers spoke to the number of plates currently on the shelf, the current plate issuance formula and the difference in price for the temporary plates.

Baljit Pandori, Taxicab Brokerages expressed concern with the issuance of additional plates and spoke to the current situation within the taxi industry. In response to questions from Harsimar Singh Sethi, Elected At Large, Mr. Foley advised that drivers wishing to purchase the temporary plates must be actively driving and confirmed that the status of those on the priority list had been checked. Councillor Parrish noted that several people on the Priority Waiting List had been waiting for 17 or 18 years to purchase a plate and spoke in support of providing them with the temporary plates. Councillor Starr spoke regarding the need for fairness in the process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) provide comment to staff for inclusion in a future report to General Committee, on the report from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works dated May 30, 2017, entitled, "Issuance of Temporary Taxi Owners Plates for the duration of the Transportation Network Pilot Project."

Carried (A. Cormier)

Recommendation PVAC-0009-2017

At this time, Al Cormier, Citizen Member spoke regarding the Hara Report, noting that it was still valid and worth considering. Mr. Cormier moved to have Council rescind part three (3) of Council Resolution 0054-2017, and to add the consideration of the contents of the Hara Report and have those recommendations brought forward, to which Harsimar Singh Sethi, Elected At Large expressed support and agreement. Karam Punian, Taxi Drivers representative spoke in opposition of issuing additional plates, noting that the current system should be respected and followed. Joshua Zahavy, Limousine Brokerages representative expressed his continued concerns with the Pilot that would allow Uber to operate.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee requests that Council rescind Resolution 0054-2017, to remove Part 3 with respect to the issuance of 250 temporary taxi plates for the duration of the TNC Pilot Project;
2. That the recommendations from the Hara Report be considered and implemented where applicable.

Carried (A. Cormier)

Recommendation PVAC-0010-2017

6. DEPUTATIONS

6.1. Phillip Sheridan, Taxi Industry Veteran

Mr. Sheridan noted his history in the taxi industry and spoke in opposition of the issuance of 250 taxi owner licences, noting that there were currently existing plates on the shelf. Furthermore, Mr. Sheridan indicated that only those who had been on the Priority Waiting List for many years should be issued a plate.

6.2. Alexander Mantadis, Oakville Resident and Son of Plate Owner

Mr. Mantadis spoke regarding his father's career in the taxi industry, noting that his mother had inherited his father's plate upon his passing. Mr. Mantadis indicated that the driver leasing the taxi plate had advised that he could no longer pay \$1000 per month and could now only afford to pay \$250 and spoke in opposition to the issuance of any additional taxi plates. Councillor Parrish inquired whether Mr. Mantadis knew how much money the driver was making per month, to which Mr. Mantadis noted that he did not. Additionally, Councillor Parrish noted that the issuance of some additional plates would not flood the market and spoke to the future of the taxi industry and apps such as Uber.

6.3. Peter Pellier, Taxi Plate Owner

Mr. Pellier spoke in opposition to the issuance of additional taxi plates, noting that the quality of service would drop, as would vehicle standards. Additionally, Mr. Pellier commented that issuing additional plates would undermine the Pilot and review of the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law currently underway and urged the Mayor and Councillors to rescind part three (3) of Council Resolution 0054-2017. Councillor Parrish asked Mr. Pellier how many plates he owned, to which Mr. Pellier commented that the owners who lease their plates are not in the wrong for doing so.

6.4. Yad Sidhu, Taxi Industry

Mr. Sidhu spoke in opposition of the issuance of additional taxi plates, noting that a review of the issuance formula was needed, to include supply and demand, and that the by-law review should be complete prior to issuing any additional plates. Furthermore, Mr. Sidhu noted that any plates that are issued should be permanent, not temporary.

RECOMMENDATION

That the deputations from the following individuals be received for information:

1. Philip Sheridan
2. Alexander Mantadis
3. Peter Pellier
4. Yad Sidhu

Received (Councillor Kovac)
Recommendation PVAC-0011-2017

7. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

No additional members of the public wished to speak.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 8.1. Email dated April 25, 2017 from Kamaljit Singh, Taxi Driver in support of Part 3 of Council Resolution 0054-2017, the issuance of 250 taxi plates.
- 8.2. Email dated May 28, 2017 from Peter Pellier, Taxi Plate Owner in opposition of Part 3 of Council Resolution 0054-2017, the issuance of 250 taxi plates.
- 8.3. Letter dated May 30, 2017 from Alexander Mantadis, Oakville Resident in opposition to Part 3 of Council Resolution 0054-2017, the issuance of 250 taxi plates.

No discussion took place on Items 8.1., 8.2., or 8.3.

RECOMMENDATION

That Information Items 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3 on the Special Public Vehicle Advisory Committee agenda of June 7, 2017 be received for information.

Received (H. S. Sethi)
Recommendation PVAC-0012-2017

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - September 19, 2017 - 10:00 AM, Council Chambers

10. **ADJOURNMENT** - 3:23 PM