

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – JUNE 16, 2008

LICENSING BY-LAW REVIEW

Recommendation

Chair of the Vaughan Taxicab Advisory Committee in consultation with the Commissioner of Legal & Administrative Services and City Solicitor, and the Chief Licensing Officer, recommend:

1. That Staff hold a public meeting pursuant to Notice By-law 392-2002 to consider the following possible amendments to the Taxicab section of Licensing By-law 315-2005:
 - A revised tariff rate, as well as a mechanism for the indexing of tariff rates, to reflect in a more timely fashion fluctuations in the cost of gasoline and other operating expenses, with consideration given, though not exclusively, to the Toronto model for such a mechanism;
 - A revised trip sheet;
 - A protocol with respect to both internal and external advertising;
 - A protocol for the extension of the service life of well-maintained vehicles by one year, subject to the approval of the Chief Licensing Officer;
 - A revised site plan process, to require the designation of dedicated taxi stands at any site which may reasonably be expected to attract the public traveling to and from such site by taxi;
2. That Staff be directed to raise with the Region of York Transportation Services the following issues, reflecting the concerns of residents in respect of mobility taxi services in York Region:
 - The quality of Mobility Plus services as delivered in Vaughan, including a reported decline in the quantity and quality of said services and
 - The lack of taxi stands immediately north of Steeles Avenue, beside the northbound lanes, where residents of York Region wishing to continue a northward journey can access taxis in a safe manner.
3. That Staff provide an opinion respecting the legality/propriety of permitting the installation of video and/or audio recording equipment, at the option of the plate-owner or driver, to assist in the settling of any disputes between drivers and customers.
4. That Staff provide an opinion respecting the legality of landlords limiting access to certain quasi-public spaces to one or more taxi companies, to the exclusion of one or more other companies.
5. That Staff report back to the Committee of the Whole in September 2008 with respect to the above recommendations.

Economic Impact

Nil

Communication Plan

Public notice of a public meeting to discuss the recommendations contained in this report will be made pursuant to the Notice By-Law 394-2002.

Purpose

To direct Staff to conduct public consultations and make recommendations to the Committee of the Whole addressing the issues raised by the Taxicab Advisory Committee as listed in the recommendations section of this report.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Taxicab Advisory Committee was established during the 2003 term of Council, to provide a forum for the resolution of issues raised by taxi brokers, plate owners, and drivers in the City of Vaughan. Each of the three licensed taxi companies in Vaughan, Ace, Astro and Minute are represented on the Committee, along with one plate owner and one driver associated with the licensee.

The Taxicab Advisory Committee meets on an as-needed basis, and has over its lifetime protected the public interest by resolving many matters of concern, to the mutual satisfaction of brokers, plate owners, drivers, and licensing staff. Any amendments to the taxicab provisions of the Licensing by-law have always kept in mind the interests of the riding public in terms of safety and consumer protection. A recent meeting generated discussion of a number of issues the resolution of which might be embodied in changes to be brought forward respecting the taxicab section of the Licensing By-law and other municipal processes, in the fall of this year.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 20/20

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

This item requests recommendations from appropriate staff with respect to a number of issues raised by members of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.

Attachments

None

Report prepared by

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Respectfully submitted,

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