

Minutes



PUBLIC VEHICLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

TUESDAY, JUNE 25 2012 – 9:38 a.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, 2nd FLOOR, CIVIC CENTRE
300 CITY CENTRE DRIVE, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5B 3C1
<http://www.mississauga.ca>

Members Present Councillor Nando Iannicca, Ward 7 (**Chair**)
 Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 (**Vice Chair**)
 Al Cormier (Citizen Member)
 Baljit Singh Pandori (Elected at Large)
 Karam Singh replaced Gurvel Singh (Taxicab Brokerages)
 Harsimar Singh Sethi (City Area Taxicab Drivers)
 Paramvir Singh Nijjar (City Area Taxicab Owners)

Members Absent: Craig McCutcheon (Limousine Owners)
 Nabil A. Nassar (Citizen Member)

Staff Present: Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement
 Darryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement

Contact: Stephanie Smith, Legislative Coordinator
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CALL TO ORDER – 9:38 a.m.

DECLARATIONS OF DIRECT (OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST – Nil

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Mr. Mark Sexsmith, Resident addressed the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee with respect to owner operated independent accessible taxis on behalf of Ron Baumber.

Mr. Sexsmith brought forth two issues that need to be addressed. The first issue are the requirements around accessible transportation. As they have changed since the inception of the Mississauga taxi program it has now created restrictions on forming an accessible brokerage and feels that this should not exist and that the bylaw should be changed as it does not give drivers flexibility. The second issue is the provisions around taxicab operators of the accessible vehicles should be the actual holders of the plate issued directly from the City of Mississauga rather than from a brokerage.

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement addressed PVAC with the current model that is used when issuing accessible licenses and stated that the goal of the municipality is to stay compliant with the Provincial act.

Councillor Iannicca stated that this issue has been addressed in the past and it was decided that big industry brokerages would be issued the accessibility plates due to the financial strain it creates on individual drivers. In the past it was indicated that over time big brokerages who converted over to accessible plates would change the plates back over to regular cabs as they were losing money.

Councillor Starr noted that an evaluation of the industry needs to be completed on the background of a business plan. This issue will need to be reported back on.

Public Vehicle Advisory Committee members spoke to the issue of owner operated independent accessible taxis.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0001-2012

That the deputation made by Mr. Mark Sexsmith regarding owner operated independent accessible taxis be received and referred to Licensing and Enforcement staff for a report back to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

Referred (A. Cormier)

MATTERS CONSIDERED1. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Minutes of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting held December 13, 2011.

Approved (A. Cormier)

2. PVAC-0014-2011 Further Driver Retraining Review

Corporate report dated February 1, 2012 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to PVAC-0014-2011 Further Driver Retraining Review

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Mobile Licensing Enforcement staff schedule retraining courses for public vehicle drivers on weekday evenings and weekends as an alternative to the weekday retraining courses offered currently.
2. That Mobile Licensing Enforcement staff reduce the retraining program for taxi drivers from 3½ days to 2 days.
3. That Mobile Licensing Enforcement staff increase the taxi driver training at the time of initial application from 3 days to 4 days, that two days of taxi driver retraining be completed after the first five years and that at subsequent five year intervals taxi drivers be required to pass a knowledge exam or complete two days of taxi driver retraining.
4. That a by-law be enacted to amend Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to incorporate the necessary changes to the requirements for the retraining of public vehicle drivers as outlined in the report dated February 1, 2012 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works titled "PVAC-0014-2011 Further Driver Retraining Review".

Members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) made the following comments with respect to the Driver Retraining Review and the recommendations brought fourth. Members expressed that this issue has been discussed for a long period of time and needs to be resolved today. It was suggested to further reduce the retaining program from the proposed 2 days to 1 day and after 10 years of driving to eliminate training completely. It was noted that the trainers are not from the industry and they feel that they are teaching themselves and are not learning anything new in the industry.

Al Cromier is in support of the recommendation increasing the initial training from 3 to 4 days.

Discussion ensued with amending the proposed recommendations to incorporate suggestions from members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0002-2012

That the Corporate report dated February 1, 2012 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to PVAC-0014-2011 Further Driver Retraining Review be receive with the following amendments;

1. That Mobile Licensing Enforcement staff schedule retraining courses for public vehicle drivers on weekday evenings and weekends as an alternative to the weekday retraining courses offered currently.
2. That Mobile Licensing Enforcement staff increase the taxi driver training at the time of initial application from 3 days to 4 days, that a 1 day of taxi driver refresher be completed after the first five years and at the ten year anniversary and subsequent in five year intervals taxi drivers be required to complete a 2 – 3 hour industry update course.
3. That a by-law be enacted to amend Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to incorporate the necessary changes to the requirements for the retraining of public vehicle drivers as outlined in the report dated February 1, 2012 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works titled “PVAC-0014-2011 Further Driver Retraining Review”.

Approved (A. Cromier)

3. E-mail Dated June 7, 2012 With Respect to Accessible Plates

No discussion took place as the issue was discussed during the presentation.

Received (A. Cromier)

4. Letters Dated June 11, 2012 and June 18, 2012 from Gurvel Singh, President, All Star Taxi

Members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) engaged in conversation regarding the letter dated February 7, 2011 from Mr. Karam Punian, Executive Director ATA and Mr. Balwinder Dhillon, President ATA. Discussion ensued around the PVAC membership as it should include representation of Airport Taxicab drivers at the next election for PVAC members, airport taxicabs to remove the by-law sticker from their window as its creating confusion with customers and that taxicab car life expectance and lease of the vehicle would end of the same time.

Mr. Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement addressed member of PVAC regarding the standpoint of the City of Mississauga not getting involved with the duration of taxicab leases as it is a civil issue and a private matter as the City has to be in compliance of Canada Revenue Services.

Item 4C was received by all Committee members.

Item 4D was received by all Committee members.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0003-2012

That the letter dated February 7, 2011 from Mr. Karam Punian, Executive Director ATA and Mr. Balwinder Dhillon, President ATA of Airport Taxicab (Pearson Airport) Association and the letters dated June 11, 2012 from Gurvel Singh, President All Star Taxi with respect to representation of Airport Taxi drivers on the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC), plate issuing and taxi leases be received and referred to Licensing and Enforcement staff to report back to PVAC.

Received (P. Nijjar)

OTHER BUSINESS

Al Cromier, Citizen Member inquired if there is any long range planning in place for the taxi industry in Mississauga as the transportation industry is evolving.

Councillor Starr responded by stating he has given some thought to the issue and would like to see a mini summit or an informal meeting to include taxi drivers, taxi owners and limousine owners to have their thoughts and ideas on the changing industry

Harsimar Singh Sethi, City Area Taxicab Drivers asked the Committee to convene a meeting in the summer as six months have already passed and this is our first meeting.

Mr. Seith also proposed changing the start time of the PVAC meeting to 10:00am or 10:30am as it's difficult for night drivers to attend meetings. Councillor Iannicca responded by stating it's difficult to convene meetings in the summer due to staff holidays and the meeting start time has been a long standing issue but it can be relooked at in September.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, September 11, 2012

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT – 11:12A.M.