

# Minutes



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## **PUBLIC VEHICLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011 – 9:00 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 Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 Nabil A. Nassar (Citizen Member) Harsimar Singh Sethi (City Area Taxicab Drivers) Paramvir Singh Nijjar (City Area Taxicab Owners) Baljit Singh Pandori (Elected at Large) Gurvel Singh (Taxicab Brokerages)
Members Absent:	Al Cormier (Citizen Member) Craig McCutcheon (Limousine Owners)
Others Present:	Jamie Hinton, Acting Director of Enforcement James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement

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CALL TO ORDER – 9:05 a.m.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor Ron Starr nominated Councillor Nando Iannicca as Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for the 2010-2014 Council term. No other nominations were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillor Nando Iannicca be appointed as Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for the 2010-2014 Council term, or until a successor is appointed.

Approved (Councillor Ron Starr)

Recommendation PVAC-0001-2011

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Nando Iannicca nominated Councillor Ron Starr as the Vice-Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for the 2010-2014 Council term. No other nominations were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillor Ron Starr be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for the 2010-2014 Council term, or until a successor is appointed.

Approved: (Councillor Nando Iannicca)

Recommendation PVAC-0002-2011

DECLARATIONS OF DIRECT (OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST – Nil

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

- A. Mr. Karam Singh Punian, Executive Director, Airport Taxicab Association (ATA) – addressed the Committee with regard to his letter dated February 7, 2011 (Agenda Item 5).

Mr. Punian expressed concerns with regard to the exclusion of the Airport Taxicab Association (ATA) representative from the City of Mississauga's Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) since the 2006-2010 term of Council. Mr. Punian suggested that two representatives of the ATA be appointed to the PVAC.

Mr. Punian requested that airport taxis should not display Tariff Card and bill of rights stickers as airport taxis operate on a flat rate basis, as well meters in the airport taxis should

be made optional.

Mr. Punian suggested that the plate issuance formula should take into consideration relevant figures of every year, rather than only of the previous year. Mr. Punian also suggested a review of the mandatory taxi driver training, and that only those taxi drivers who have complaints made against them should undergo the training.

Mr. Punian further suggested uniformity in the lease term of the taxi plate and the renewal date of the vehicle. He also suggested that the 30 days notice for canceling a lease should be abolished.

Based on discussions with regard to representation from the ATA, staff was directed to prepare a report detailing the various entities within the Public Vehicle Industry in the City for consideration at the September meeting of the PVAC.

Mr. Nabil Nassar, Citizen Member suggested that staff include in the report, a breakdown of the various entities represented in the public vehicle industry in Mississauga.

Councillor Nando Iannicca moved the following motion which was voted on and carried:

RECOMMENDATION

That staff prepare a report detailing the various entities within the public vehicle industry in the City of Mississauga for consideration at the September meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

Approved: (Councillor Nando Iannicca)

Recommendation PVAC-0003-2011

Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that matters regarding removal of tariff cards, bill of rights tariff stickers and optional taxi meters for airport taxis will need to be discussed with the GTAA. Mr. Bisson further advised that airport taxis are licensed by the GTAA to operate within that municipality. Mr. Bisson suggested that it would be advisable to display the airport flat rates in the taxis operating at the airport.

Responding to a question from the Chair, Councillor Nando Iannicca, Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that the by-law provides for the plate issuance review every even numbered year. Mr. Bisson requested that a working group be constituted from members of the PVAC to assist staff in preparing for the next plate issuance review.

**Agenda Item 7 was discussed at this time**

7. Response – Taxicab Driver Retraining Program

Corporate Report dated April 7, 2011 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works in response to Council Resolution 0261-2010 regarding a review of the terms and condition of the Mandatory Refresher Training Course.

Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement explained that staff considered the frequency for the mandatory taxicab driver retraining program and reduced the frequency to five years, in order to reduce the burden of training costs and time for the drivers. This reduction in the frequency is in response to concerns raised by the taxicab industry.

Mr. Bisson advised that City by-laws keep changing periodically, and the industry needs to be kept updated on the various changes. A section of the driver retraining program covers this aspect.

Mr. Gurvel Singh, Citizen Member expressed concerns that drivers attending the retraining program loose revenue because they are not operating the taxi during the days on training. Mr. Gurvel Singh further expressed concerns that Trainers, not being taxi drivers, are not aware of situations faced by the taxi driver in their daily work. Mr. Gurvel Singh suggested that the driver retraining program should be abolished.

Mr. Harsimar Sethi, Citizen Mmember agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Gurvel Singh and further suggested that the driver retraining program should be only for drivers against whom complaints are received by the Enforcement Division.

Mr. Nabil Nassar, Citizen Member advised that it is necessary for drivers to undergo refresher courses. Mr. Nassar suggested that there should be some rules for the retraining program. Mr. Nassar suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on updating the industry on the revised by-laws, as well, a possibility of offsetting training costs.

Councillor Starr advised that every industry requires refresher training programs.

In response to a question from Councillor Starr, Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that only active drivers are required to do the retraining program. Mr. Bisson further advised that out of the 2,500 licensed drivers, only 600 are currently active. Exemptions are granted to drivers who have done training courses outside the City.

Councillor Ron Starr inquired as to whether there a list of priorities in the retraining program that can be done on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Paramvir Nijjar, Citizen Member advised that there are other mediums of learning like

online programs, or printed material that could be distributed to the drivers. Mr. Nijjar was of the opinion that staff should determine which drivers need the refresher training. Mr. Nijjar suggested that the retraining program material, especially videos, need to be updated to current requirements.

In response to a question from Mr. Nabil Nassar, Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that online training is possible, but involves budgetary provisions. Mr. Bisson further advised that the City of Toronto has reviewed this option, but still prefers to have in-class training, mainly to ensure the integrity of the person participating in the retraining program.

Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that the International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR) will be considering training, hospitality and customer service in the context of Municipal Licensing and Standards at the IATR 2011 Conference in September 2011.

The Chair, Councillor Nando Iannicca suggested that the training be restricted to new taxi drivers.

Mr. Syed Hyder Ali, industry member suggested that the training could be provided in the form of a Compact Disc, and the drivers could do the training at their own time.

Mr. Abdul Sha, industry member suggested that taxi drivers should be informed about by-law changes at the time of annual licence renewals.

The Chair, Councillor Nando Iannicca suggested that staff review the driver retraining program with possible suggestions of alternative modes in the form of a DVD or online.

Councillor Ron Starr suggested that staff compare similar retraining programs conducted by other municipalities. Councillor Starr moved the following recommendation, which was voted on and carried.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That the report dated April 7, 2011 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to the Taxicab Driver Retraining Program be referred to staff for a review to explore possible alternative, and cost effective, methods of driver retaining, in order to address the monetary impact on drivers in the public vehicle industry in the City of Mississauga.

APPROVED: (Councillor Ron Starr)  
Recommendation PVAC-0004-2011

Discussions ensued with regard to issues faced by drivers regarding leasing of plates.

RECOMMENDATION

That a working group of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee, consisting of Councillor Nando Iannicca, Councillor Ron Starr, Mr. Karam, Singh Punian and staff from the Economic Development Office, be formed to deal with issues relating to taxicab plate issuance matters.

APPROVED: (Councillor Ron Starr)  
Recommendation PVAC-0005-2011

Responding to a question from the Chair, Councillor Nando Iannicca, Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that although staff recognize that the lease issue is causing concerns for the drivers, this is a private contractual matter between the lessor and the lessee.

In response to a question from Councillor Ron Starr, Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that Enforcement Division provides drivers with a draft lease agreement as a guideline for entering into an agreement, and approximately 80% of the agreements filed with the City use this format.

Mr. Peter Pellier, industry member addressed the Committee and expressed concerns with regard to defaulters from both the lessor and the lessee. Mr. Pellier suggested that the City should maintain a register of plates available for lease. This would be beneficial to both lessor and lessees. Mr. Pellier suggested that the City should look at appropriate amendment to the by-law to deal with defaulters.

RECOMMENDATION

That staff prepare a report addressing the various concerns, with respect to the leasing of taxi plates, expressed by members of the public vehicle industry, for consideration at a future meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

Approved: (Councillor Ron Starr)  
Recommendation PVAC-0006-2011

MATTERS CONSIDERED1. Introduction of Committee Members and Staff

Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Minutes of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting held December 14, 2010.

Adopted as presented: (Councillor Ron Starr)

3. Draft Terms of Reference

Approved: (Councillor Ron Starr)

4. 2011 Meeting Dates

Memorandum dated March 29, 2011 from John Britto, Legislative Coordinator indicating proposed 2011 meeting dates.

Committee agreed to amend the next meeting date as September 27, 2011 – to be confirmed by the Clerk's Office.

Approved as amended: (Councillor Ron Starr)

5. Letter dated February 7, 2011 from Karam Singh Punian and Balwinder Dhillon of Airport Taxicab Association (ATA).

Letter dated February 7, 2011 from Karam Singh Punian, Executive Director and Balwinder Dhillon, President, ATA requesting representation on the PVAC, removal of tariff and bill of rights tariff stickers on airport taxi cabs, and other issues.

**This item was dealt with as part of the Deputation by Mr. Karam Singh Punian**

6. Letter dated February 14, 2011 from Mark Sexsmith, Taxi Owner/Operator

Letter dated February 14, 2011 from Mark Sexsmith, Taxi Owner/Operator requesting that a sub-committee of the PVAC be formed to investigate the possibility of providing a per diem to the industry representatives on the PVAC, and ways of having the industry fund these amounts.

Mr. Mark Sexsmith suggested that industry members contribute \$1-\$2 in addition to the licence fee that could be used towards a contribution for honorarium to be paid to the industry members of the PVAC.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Office of the City Clerk investigate the possibility of providing a suitable honorarium to industry representatives on the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee for their attendance at regular meetings of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

Approved: (Councillor Ron Starr)

Recommendation PVAC-0007-2011

8. Taxicab passenger drop-off points at Square One Mall

Corporate Report dated May 26, 2011 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to Square 1 Taxi Drop-off Points.

Mr. Harsimar Singh Sethi, Citizen Member suggested that a taxi stand be installed in the close proximity of the GO Transit Terminal on Rathburn Road.

Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that the Enforcement Staff are working with Mississauga Transit to establish a taxicab stand in a suitable area that would be beneficial to the taxicab industry and the passengers.

Councillor Ron Starr supported the idea of having a taxi stand at either the GO or the Mississauga Transit Terminal area

RECOMMENDATION

That the report titled "Taxicab passenger drop-off points at Square One Mall" from the Transportation and Works Department dated May 26, 2011, in response to a letter from Mr. Mark Sexsmith, be received for information.

Approved: (Councillor Ron Starr)

Recommendation PVAC-0008-2011

INFORMATION ITEMS - Nil

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 13, 2011, Council Chambers

OTHER BUSINESS

- (1) Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that the Integrated Accessibility Standards have been passed by the Province of Ontario.
- (2) Mr. James Bisson, Manager Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that the International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR) Conference will be held in Toronto in September 2011.

ADJOURNMENT – 12:00 p.m.