

Minutes



PUBLIC VEHICLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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) Gurvel Singh (Taxicab Brokerages) Harsimar Singh Sethi (City Area Taxicab Drivers) Paramvir Singh Nijjar (City Area Taxicab Owners) Craig McCutcheon (Limousine Owners) Nabil A. Nassar (Citizen Member)
Members Absent:	Paramvir Singh Nijjar (City Area Taxicab Owners)
Staff Present:	Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement Darryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement

Contact: Stephanie Smith, Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk 905-615-3200 ext. 3795 Fax 905-615-4181
Stephanie.smith@mississauga.ca

CALL TO ORDER – 9:38 a.m.

DECLARATIONS OF DIRECT (OR INDIRECT) PECUNIARY INTEREST

PRESENTATIONS/DEPUTATIONS

Karen Spencer, Advisor addressed the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) regarding the current City Committee Structure Review that is currently undergoing. Ms. Spencer advised that the review is currently in information gathering phase. The purpose of the structure review is to see how effectively committees meet their purpose and whether it aligns with the City's Strategic Plan. Key information gathering will come from an online survey that Council has already participated in but there will be a chance for all Citizen Members to participate and provide comments.

Al Cromier, Citizen Member asked if this structure review is being advertised to the general public and will they be given an opportunity to partake in the review. Ms. Spencer advised that all findings will be brought to the Governance Committee which is a public meeting and that will be a chance for the general public to hear about it.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Minutes of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting held June 25, 2012.

Approved (A. Cormier)

2. Tariff Decals on Airport Taxicab Windows

Corporate report dated September 4, 2012 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to Tariff Decals on Airport Taxicab Windows

RECOMMENDATION

That the requirement to have Tariff Decals on Airport Taxicab windows be maintained.

Mr. Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement addressed members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee regarding tariff decals on airport taxicab windows. Mr. Bell advised that the stickers have to remain on the vehicles because they do have meters in the taxicabs as they can operate outside the airport and therefore have to remain

compliant with the rest of the taxi industry.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0004-2012

That the Corporate Report to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee dated September 4, 2012 from the Commissioner, Transportation and Works, with respect to Tariff Decals on Airport Taxicab Windows be received.

Received (N. Nasser)

PVAC-0004-2012

3. PVAC-0016-2011 Advance Payment of Fares During Evening Hours

Corporate report dated September 4, 2012 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works with respect to PVAC-0016-2011 Advance Payment of Fares During Evening Hours.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Vehicle By-law, 420-04, as amended, not be amended, as there are provisions in the current by-law that allows taxi drivers the right to request proof from a passenger that he/she has the ability to pay the fee.

Councillor Starr indicated that only seven cases have been reported to the Peel Regional Police and posed the question to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) are incidents not being reported and are there any practice to evaluate the passengers before entering the taxicab and there any efforts currently in place to obtain payments.

Members of PVAC engaged in conversation with respect to the negative effects of requesting payments in advance and the lengthy Peel Region Police reporting system.

Craig McCutcheon stated that asking select customers to pay in advance could be offensive and could jeopardize the driver's safety. Mr. McCutcheon suggested creating a simple phone application or a phone calling system so a call can be made with Peel Region Police to build a case.

Nabil Nassar commented by stating that there are more than seven incidents that have occurred, drivers do not want to take the time to report incidents as it can take over two hours. The problem does occur the reporting system does not exist. The City of Mississauga by-law does not include asking customers for flat rates in advance as the City of Toronto by-law states. The City of Mississauga by-law states to show payment in advance but that does not mean the customer will pay.

Gurvel Singh commented by stating the problem does exist especially in night time hours. Many incidents occur and drivers are wasting 4-5hours and nothing is happening.

Al Cormier stated that he is in favour of staff's recommendation and hope that in future the taxi industry should look at advanced payment for all fares.

Harsimar Singh Sethi commented that if drivers want to ask for fares upfront this should be listed on the tariff card so customers are can be made aware of the practise.

Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement responded by stating, without the industry reporting these incidents we have nothing to backup this problem. Drivers need to pick up the phone and report the incident to build a substantial case. Staff will work with Peel Region Police on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0005-2012

That the Corporate Report to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee dated September 4, 2012 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works entitled "Advance Payment of Fares During Evening Hours" be received and referred to Licensing and Enforcement staff to review including a flat rate fee to the tariff card and a simplified reporting system for Peel Regional Police.

Received (Councillor Starr)

PVAC-0005-2012

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

Councillor Iannicca spoke to agenda items 4 – 7 and asked the Committee to receive all items for referral to staff.

Al Cormier, expressed that until the Corporate Report is received on accessible taxi licences a moratorium should be placed on any new licences.

Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement responded to Mr. Cormier requested and noted that based on staffs experience staff are not in favour of a moratorium at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0006-2012

That the following correspondence be received and referred to Licensing and Enforcement staff for a report back to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee;

- a) E-mail dated August 23, 2012 with respect to Accessible Taxi Plates
- b) E-mail dated July 23, 2012 with respect to A New Story CHV Holding Cell
- c) E-mail dated July 26, 2012 with respect to Taxis for Disabled Persons in Mississauga
- d) E-mail dated August 16, 2012 with respect to Accessible Taxi Transportation in the GTHA

Received (P. Nijjar)

PVAC-0006-2012

8. Public Vehicle Advisory Committee Start Time

Members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) discussed the idea of starting the PVAC meeting in the afternoon as it is difficult for night drivers to attend morning meetings.

Councillor Iannicca stated that over the years on the Committee the 9:30am start time is the best formula for this Committee to operate.

9. Action List – 2012

Members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) reviewed the action list as presented.

Al Cormier posed the question to staff to what nature of investigation are you going to in regards to accessible plates.

Daryl Bell spoke to the issue on how the accessible plates are being used. He explained that the issue is with the wording of the current by-law with respect to who can be issued accessible plates and it needs to be looked at and addressed.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0007-2012

That the action list from the meeting held on September 11, 2012 be received for information.

Received (A. Cormier)

PVAC-0007-201

OTHER BUSINESS

Mark Sexsmith provided correspondence to Members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) regarding the advent of a smart phone application for the taxi industry.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0008-2012

That the correspondence from Mark Sexsmith with respect to the advent of a Smart Phone – Taxi Dispatching System be received and referred to Licensing and Enforcement staff.

Received (A. Cormier)

PVAC-0008-2012

Baljit Singh provided correspondence to Members of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee (PVAC) regarding taxi plate issuance.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0009-2012

That the correspondence from Baljit Singh regarding Issuing Taxi Plates be received and referred to Licensing and Enforcement staff for a report back to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

Received (A. Cormier)

PVAC-0009-2012

Harsimar Singh posed the question to staff where we stand with the implementation and rollout with the taxi industry training program.

Daryl Bell responded that the training program will be rolled out in the New Year as staff had to review the whole training program.

Gurvel Singh expressed concern to fares and “scooping” in the taxi industry. Mr. Singh asked for help to the taxi industry and that the industry needs to be cleaned up.

Harsimar Singh posed the question to Daryl Bell that delivery drivers are only allowed to come to prearranged calls. Mr. Bell responded by stated that there are different set of classes for deliver drivers that have a different set of rules. Mr. Bell expressed when complainants are received staff are going out and investigating and enforcing the by-law.

Nabil A. Nassar commented that he would like to see a better reporting system within the system to track repeat offenders of unauthorized drivers. Councillor Iannicca responded that this concern has privacy implementation around it.

Daryl Bell responded that a reporting system is already in place. 311, staff answering calls, online reporting system it's the matter of utilizing the services that are already available.

RECOMMENDATION

PVAC-0010-2012

That the issue regarding prearranged fares or payoffs be received and referred to Licensing and Enforcement staff for a report back to the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

Received (N. Nassar)

PVAC-0010-2012

Al Cormier spoke about the future of the transit issue. Mr. Cormier mentioned that he made contact with the President of Metrolinx to see him point of view of the changing taxi industry.

RECOMMENDATION

That correspondence from the President of Metrolinx regarding the future of the taxi industry be referred to staff to include on a future Public Vehicle Advisory Committee agenda.

Received (Councillor Starr)

PVAC-0011-2012

Councillor Iannicca mentioned he visited Manhattan and discussed their taxi industry and praised the cleanliness and friendliness of taxi drivers in Mississauga.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, November 5, 2012

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT – 10:23 A.M.