



## CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

### MEETING NO. 4

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

#### MEMBERS

H. Naboulsi, Chairperson  
L. Lubin  
R. Clarke  
C. Khehra  
M. Pnaich  
M. Fysh  
C. Leahey

#### PRESENT

H. Naboulsi  
L. Lubin  
R. Clarke  
C. Khehra  
M. Pnaich  
M. Fysh

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| S. Weller     | Secretary        |
| P. Fearon     | Administrator    |
| F. McWilliams | Acting Secretary |

Gwendolyn Stewart Palmer  
of Shores Jardine

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Lubin indicated he would like to amend the agenda as follows:  
Item 7. e. New Taxi Broker Colour and Markings will be added to the  
Agenda; and Item 7. d. be heard as the first item under the Public Input heading.

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#1-04-08

That the agenda be approved as amended.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

MOVED FYSH/CLARKE

#2-04-08

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on March 11, 2009 be approved as circulated.

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

### **4. Public Input**

The following individuals requested to speak on agenda items.

Mr. Daniel Belostolsky (Belonett Media Group)  
Mr. Steve Alvanos  
Mr. Karim Ebrahimi  
Mr. Jessy Halabi  
Mr. Murray Neate  
Mr. Greg Panufnik

Mr. Phil Strong  
Mr. Manjit Mann  
Mr. Ahmed Houcheimi  
Mr. Chris Atkinson (passed)  
Mr. Vijay Punjabi  
Mr. Acco Kurd

Mr. Daniel Belostolsky of Beloneett Media Group regarding a new equipment format for roof top advertising made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

MOVED LUBIN/PNAICH

Approval of new taxi roof top equipment

- 1) for hire sign being capable of being renumbered separately
- 2) assurance of testing – will 'stand behind'
- 3) carriers that are not bolted have magnets and straps

FOR THE MOTION: Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

Mr. Phil Strong made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Steve Alvanos made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Manjit Mann made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Karim Ebrahimi made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Jesse Halaby made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Minjay Punjabi made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Greg Panufnik made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Mr. Acco Kurd made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

**5. Reports from Committees**

**a. Executive Committee**

H. Naboulsi

Chairman stated that there was no new information.

**b. Operational & Program Committee**

L. Lubin

Committee Chairman provided an Update and report on current Regulations.

Increase from 100 to 200 operational days is not increasing in substance. With to note that the hour daily service omitted from motion.

Potential for Emission Reduction analysis was directed by City Council. Will be studying greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies for taxis throughout North America. Will submit recommendation to City Council by the end of the year. April 20, 2009 is the interim report which will be submitted to the Community Services Committee.

MOVED LUBIN/PNAICH

#3-04-08

That the status update report of the Operational and Program Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#4-04-08

Notice of motion to change the 2<sup>nd</sup> line from the Operational & Program Committee report to "will request" instead of "request" and to remove the last line.

In lieu of issuing additional taxi licence plates at this time, and satisfying the public demand for taxi availability, the Commission will request City Council to amend the Vehicle For Hire Bylaw, Section 38.1 (f) by increasing the minimum number of operational days per year from 100 days to 200 days, effective June 1, 2009. This means that for the taxi licence renewal in 2010, all taxi vehicle licences must have been in operation for 200 days between May 1, 2009 and April 20, 2010, to qualify for taxi licence plate renewal.

FOR THE MOTION

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

**c. Safety Committee**

R. Clarke

MOVED CLARKE/LUBIN

#5-04-08

Committee Chairman stated that the following conditions should be expedited regarding the Yellow Cab group Safety Shield:

Technical Specifications:

- a. Meet the shield guidelines
  - b. 3/8" thick of polycarbonate
  - c. inspection of shields – if not acceptable, then no approval will be given.
- Notice of motion regarding the Yellow Cab group shield

FOR THE MOTION

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

**d. Driver Training Committee**

C. Khehra

Committee Chairman referred to his reported requirements at the March 11, 2009 meeting. The Committee still plans to meet the May 13, 2009 report deadline.

To complete its review, the Committee requires the following documents from all taxi brokers:

1. Introductory Taxi Driver Training Course (copy of curriculum, duration, training materials/manual, test, grading system, and fee schedule).
2. Accessible Taxi Driver Training Course (copy of curriculum, duration, training materials/manual, tests, grading system, and fee schedule).
3. Advanced Taxi Driver/Experienced Taxi Driver Training Course (copy of curriculum, duration, training materials/manual, tests, grading system, and fee schedule).
4. Details of any duplication in Provincial DDC and VFH Advanced Taxi Driver requirements.
5. Confirmation of the names of broker's instructors approved by Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation for DDC training and testing.

Documents so far received from taxi brokers:

1. Capital Driver Improvement Course Taxi Guide (New Taxi Driver Training Program);
2. Alberta Co-op Taxi Line Ltd. (Application to Work as Taxi Driver);
3. Welcome to Yellow Cab (New Driver Training Course); and\
4. Taxi Owner/Operator Manual (for owners and operators on 331001 Alberta Ltd. o/a Yellow Cab, Prestige Cabs, Barrel Taxi & Checker Cabs Inc. Fleets).

These documents DO NOT contain adequate information on the curriculum, duration, training materials/manuals used, tests administered, grading criteria, and fees being charged. We would once again request the brokers to submit the required documentation for ALL DRIVER TRAINING COURSES, not only the new drivers. Unnecessary delay is hindering the review process and is unproductive.

The Committee would like to meet with the brokers as soon as the requested documentation is received. Others interested in providing their input to the Committee should do so in writing to Shar by Monday, April 20, 2009.

For research purposes by the committee, meetings will be held with brokers soon and the confidentiality of documents will be honoured.

MOVED LUBIN/PNAICH

#6-04-08

That the Commission request the administration look at alternatives available to insure compliance with Commission requests for broker information.

FOR THE MOTION

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

C. Khehra states that different brokers may be cutting corners by not spending as much time required. Regarding the Defensive Driving Course the committee wants to find out where is the duplication to the Experienced Driver Training course. P. Strong responded that minimum standards are already established. Steve responded that there is not problem for him to share his trade information with anyone to insure that there are knowledgeable and safe drivers. Stated that 99% of the new drivers are immigrants and thus recommended that instructions be simplified. C. Khehra responded by encouraging a standardized computer course for instructions. M. Fysh stated that core of knowledge/content should be emphasized.

## **6. Administrative Matters**

### **a. Licences**

P. Fearon

Administrator indicated that the 2009 Service Deliverable Report showing 31 new drivers is a reflection of the economy.

Administrator is working on 2009-2010 Taxi Licence Vehicle Renewal Process. Change has been made regarding the 100 day proof of operation. Since licensing must be renewed by the end of June, planning to do 100 day proof of operation via Statutory of Declaration to validate appropriate information.

Administrator reported regarding the First Quarter 2009 Violation Ticket Report that Stopping in a No Stopping Zone was reported as the highest violation for the first quarter of the year.

On April 15, 2009 the Commission will hold a Public Involvement workshop at 3:00 p.m. Administrator will be attending the workshop.

Administrator reported that as of April 3, 2009 there are already 700 orders in place for the approved Safety Shield providers.

**b. Bylaw Issues**

P. Fearon

Administrator stated that the bylaw amendment regarding \$3.00 late night surcharge has not be finalized at this time. The change from 100 to 200 day operational validation will take effect after approval by City Council.

L. Lubin stated that the Statutory Declaration to prove the 100 hours of operation may be modified in the future to permit additional ways to validate this detail.

Administrator stated that the intent of the Statutory Declaration will be used this year, supplemented by other methods of validations from drivers or brokers.

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#7-04-08

To receive the Administrator's reports on Licences and Bylaw Issues as information.

FOR THE MOTION:

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

**7. New Business**

- a. Correspondence dated March 18, 2009 from David Sager regarding "Wy do cabbies think the Taxi Cab/Vehicle for Hire Commission treats them like the enemy?"

MOVED LUBIN/KHEHRA

#8-04-08

That the Administration prepare a letter to Mr. Sager, for the Chairman's signature, thanking him for sharing his insights.

FOR THE MOTION:

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

- b. E-mail correspondence dated March 19, 2009 from Ahmad Houcheimi regarding safety shields in wheelchair accessible taxi vehicles.
- c. Correspondence (and attachments) dated March 26, 2009 from Mr. Janusz Mroz regarding safety shields in hybrid vehicles.

MOVED LUBIN/KHEHRA

#9-04-08

That the Administration prepare a letters to Mr. A. Houcheimi and Mr. J. Mroz, advising that all taxi vehicles in Edmonton require a Safety Shield by May 31, 2009. There are no exceptions.

FOR THE MOTION:

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

- d. New Taxi Broker application for the assignment of colour and markings.

Administrator provided the following background.

1. In April 2003 the Edmonton Taxi Cab Commission approved 2 colours to be reserved for future Taxi Broker applications. These are Red #26C and Mid-brown #2C from the "International Colour Code System".
2. On April 7, 2009 a written request was received by the Vehicle for Hire Administration from "2407 Taxi Line" for assignment of the previously approved Red #26C colour, along with a black stripe, approximately 8" wide, running down the side panels. White lettering is applied over both red and black vehicle colours.
3. As this colour is one that was previously approved by the Former Commission to be reserved for a Future Taxi Broker application, the Administration recommends the Commission approve this colour request.
4. The Administration confirms that 5 valid City of Edmonton Taxi Vehicle Licences have been confirmed as associated with 24-7 Taxi Line.
5. The Administration confirms that although one Independent Taxi vehicle had been assigned this colour since 2003, that operator has since terminated his Independent status, and operates on another Taxi Brokers Fleet at this time.

MOVED LUBIN/CLARKE

#10-04-08

That Red #26C, along with the black stripe and white letters be approved for "24-7 Taxi Line" as their official colours and markings.

FOR THE MOTION:

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Pnaich, Fysh

**CARRIED**

- e. Fox Drive and Quesnell Bridge Access:

The Administrator stated that a reopening of Fox Drive westbound, for easy access to Fort Edmonton Park, John Janzen Nature Centre and Whitemud Equine Centre will be occurring shortly. Presently there is no access from Fox Drive westbound onto the Quesnell Bridge due to the construction underway to widen the bridge deck.

- f. Limousine Licence Plate "Substitution" onto Newer Limousine Vehicles

P. Strong requested that changes be made to limousine licensing which would allow for the substitution process like taxi vehicle licensing. Presently when a newer limousine is placed into service a new limousine plate for \$310 is issued. P. Strong remarked that the high cost does not encourage newer limousines. G. Stewart-Palmer stated that this request would require a Bylaw amendment.

J. Halabi stated that a letter regarding this issue had been submitted to the Commission in October 2008 for their consideration. Chairman recommends that both Limousine Service Operators submit a letter together.

**8. General Correspondence**

There were no items of general correspondence.

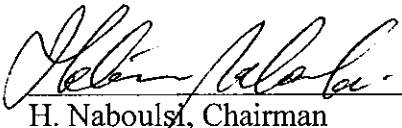
**9. In-Camera Items**


There were not items of In-Camera discussion.

**10. Adjournment**

Chairman adjourned meeting at 4:00 p.m.

The next regular Vehicle for Hire Commission meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room, Wednesday, May 13, 2009.

  
H. Naboulsi, Chairman

  
F. McWilliams, Acting Secretary