

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 9

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

MEMBERS

M. Fysh, Chairman
R. Clarke
C. Khehra
C. Kilburn
C. Leahey
J. Dziadyk
J. Bruyer

PRESENT

M. Fysh
R. Clarke
C. Khehra
C. Kilburn
C. Leahey

Also in attendance;

Legal Counsel Representative
Chief Livery Officer
Edmonton Police Service Representative
Edmonton Police Service Representative

G. Stewart-Palmer
G. Dziwenka
Insp. D. Campbell
Insp. B. Doucette

Not in attendance;

Vehicle For Hire Secretary
Transportation Department Representative

S. Weller
Don MacDonald

1. Call to Order

Chairman called the meeting to order at **1:30 p.m.** He introduced and welcomed Insp. Brad Doucette, Edmonton Police Service Representative, who will be replacing Inspector Campbell.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED: CLARKE/KILBURN

#1-12-11

That the agenda be approved as distributed.

FOR THE MOTION:

Fysh, Leahey, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED: CLARKE/KILBURN

#2-12-11

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on November 14, 2011 be approved.

FOR THE MOTION:

Fysh, Leahey, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn

CARRIED

4. Public Involvement

The following individuals requested to speak:

1. Mr. Robert Rombough
2. Mr. Jurasz
3. Mr. Farooq Alayadi
4. Mr. Mehmet Tunay
5. Mr. Rojia Al Huwaidi
6. Ms. Susan Burtie
7. Mr. Richard Rakowski
8. Mr. Amin Dahrouge
9. Mr. George Psychoff
10. Mr. Balraj Manhas
11. Mr. Abdullahi Abdi

Mr. Robert Rombough -

Mr. Rombough spoke on behalf of a group of limousine owners. He submitted a written presentation which the Commission accepted. He stated that he had two issues to discuss. The first was the number of limousine licences issued. He will be asking the Vehicle for Hire Commission to place a moratorium on the number of limousine plates to be issued. He stated that he spoke on behalf of a number of limousine owners. They recognized that some people are obtaining limousine licences and using them as unlicensed taxis. He believes the freeze on the number of limousine plates will address or assist in addressing this issue.

His second issue is that he believes that the Vehicle for Hire industry should be divided into three groups, limousines, taxis and private cars. He is concerned that the government is viewing limousines as taxis and feels that the reclassification should look after any confusion in relation to the nature of a limousine vehicle.

Chairman thanked Mr. Rombough for his presentation.

MOVED: LEAHEY/KILBURN

#3-12-11

That the written presentation submitted by Mr. Rombough entitled "Limo Owners Initiative – December 2011" be accepted for review.

FOR THE MOTION: Fysh, Leahey, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn

CARRIED

Mr. Jurasz

Mr. Juraz protested against the new bylaw passed by City Council today as showing favouritism to one taxi company in Edmonton. He stated that the plates will be going to Airport Taxi and protests about its name. He was unhappy about the process used by Council to pass the bylaw and how Council changed the time it was to consider the bylaw.

Mr. Farooq Alayadi

He had a question for the police. He had called the police when he had a customer who did not want to pay his fare and the police did not come.

Inspector Doucette asked for his contact information and indicated that he would follow up with Mr. Alayadi after the meeting.

Mr. Mehmet Tunay and Mr. Rojia Al Huwaidi

Mr. Mehmet Tunay and Mr. Rojia Al Huwaidi declined to speak

Ms. Susan Burtie

Ms. Burtie is a limousine business owner and is in support of Mr. Rombough's submission. She would like limousines to be treated separately than taxis.

Ms. Burtie stated that they will bring the plate numbers and the names and provide more information to the Vehicle for Hire Commission in relation to the issue of insurance for limousines.

Mr. Amin Dahrouge

Mr. Dahrouge stated that although limousines want to be distinct from taxis, they pick up fares at night clubs. He wants the Vehicle for Hire Commission to do something to stop limousines from picking up taxi patrons.

Mr. Richard Rakowski

He is an owner/operator of Christie's Limousines. He supported the submissions made by Mr. Rombough and Ms. Burtie. He stated that when taxi plates were frozen, there were more than 450 limousine plates. There has been explosive growth in the number of limousines. He would like a moratorium on the number of new limousine plates. He stated they are not in competition with taxis and charge more than taxis do. He stated that he recognizes there are limousine operators who curb at events. He would like to work with the Commission to regulate the limousine industry. He would also like to see a differentiation between on demand service, charter service and stretch and sedan limousines.

In response, Mr. Dziwenka indicated that there are 270 limousine licences having been issued by the City.

Mr. George Psychoff

Mr. Psychoff wanted to know the role of the Commission in relation to City Council's decision to increase the number of taxi plates. He feels short circuited in terms of his ability to make input on this point.

Mr. Dziwenka indicated that it was a Council initiative driving the increase in the number of plates.

Mr. Balraj Manhas

Mr. Manhas indicated that not all limousine drives are working unlawfully. However, he asks the Commission to enforce the bylaw and to deal with the illegal taxis. He believes that it is good news about the number of plates and believes the airport will be coming to the City.

Mr. Abdullahi Abdi

He indicated that the airport taxi service in Edmonton doesn't have enough plates. He believes that the new plates issued should be going to drivers and the process should be fair.

The Commission took a break at 2:25 p.m.

Ms. Stewart-Palmer left the meeting.

5. Business Arising

There were no items for discussion under this heading.

6. Reports from Committees

a. Driver Appreciation Awards Day Ad Hoc Committee Report

MOVED CLARKE/KHEHRA

#4-12-11

That the report from the Driver Appreciation Awards Day Committee be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Fysh, Leahey, Khehra, Clarke, Kilburn

CARRIED

There were no further Committee reports presented at this time.

7. Administrative Matters

a) Vehicle for Hire Commission

There was no report presented at this time. Mr. Leahey requested that a statistical report be provided at the monthly meetings as in the past. Mr. Dziwenka indicated it would be provided at the February meeting.

b) Edmonton Police Service

There was no report presented at this time. Inspector Campbell introduced Superintendent Brad Doucette who will be her replacement as the EPS representative on the VFH Commission.

Mr Khehra thanked Inspector Campbell on behalf of the Commission for her valuable contribution to the Commission.

c) Edmonton Transportation

There was no report presented at this time as the Transportation representative was not in attendance.

8. New Business

There were no items of new business to be discussed at this time.

9. News Articles

There were no news articles to be discussed at this time.

10. General Correspondence

There were no items of general correspondence to be discussed at this time.

11. In-Camera Items

There are no in-camera items to be discussed at this time.

12. Adjournment

The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room at City Hall, Wednesday, January 11, 2012.


M. Fysh, Chairman


S. Weller, Administrative Assistant