
VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 1

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

MEMBERS

H. Naboulsi
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
C. Leahey

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Cosgrove	Acting Secretary	D. Campbell	EPS Advisor
P. Fearon	Administrator	G. Stewart-Palmer	Shores-Jardine

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED LEAHEY/CLARKE

#1-1-10

The agenda be approved with the following amendments:

Item 2a be added for Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Item 8b be added regarding colour change request for P. Bakich

FOR THE MOTION:

Naboulsi, Lubin, Clarke, Khehra,
Pnaich, Leahey, Fysh

CARRIED

a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair appointed G. Stewart-Palmer as Chair for election process

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#2-1-10

That H. Naboulsi be nominated for Chair

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

CARRIED

H. Naboulsi accepted position of Chair

MOVED LEAHEY/CLARKE

#3-1-10

That L. Lubin be nominated for Vice-Chair

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

CARRIED

L. Lubin accepted position of Vice-Chair and affirmed H. Naboulsi as chair.

G. Stewart-Palmer returned position of Chair to H. Naboulsi

Naming of Committees and Chairs will be done at March meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#4-1-10

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on December 9, 2009 be approved.

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

CARRIED

4. Public Involvement

The following individuals requested to speak:

Mr. Balraj Manhas

Mr. Phil Strong

Mr. Steve Alvanos

The above persons made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

Summary of comments/concerns raised;

- Drivers Association expressed appreciation of work being done by Commission in cooperation with the industry
- Attacks on taxi drivers have not decreased. Violence has increased. A driver attacked in Winnipeg was beaten to the point of brain damage
- Request that Commission lobby the federal government to increase penalties and zero tolerance for violence against taxi drivers
- Appreciate letter sent to Minister of Health regarding immunization for public drivers. Government response is inadequate.
- Support hybrid report to Community Services Committee
- Appreciation for Superintendent Campbell's support on Commission and future involvement with Safety Committee
- Concern over option to use safety precautions appropriately, for example shields
- Yellow is setting up an optional course on personal safety for their drivers. They are willing to share with the Driver Training Committee.
- Possible backlash on setting flat rate for taxi to airport. Should be a maximum rate with meter running. Times vary greatly due to road conditions. Use media attention to highlight it is a maximum rate.

5. Business Arising

1. Regulation amending process

Mr. Lubin thanked industry members who provided suggestions for amendments to the Regulations to the Vehicle for Hire Commission. They will be considered during the review.

2. Reports to City Council

Community Services Committee on February 8, 2010 2 reports presented. First report on Emission Reductions in current fleet and second report on accessible taxi use and monitoring 200 days of use. Balraj Manhas and Phil Strong addressed the Committee and we thank them for their support. We will return to Community Services Committee in late November with suggested changes related to carbon reduction.

Report due to Community Services Committee in March on relationship with Edmonton Airport Authority.

~~Report due~~ to Community Services Committee in May on Improving Driver Safety.

3. January 13, 2010 Letter from Honourable Ron Liepert

Commission sent letter to Minister of Health regarding concerns over H1N1 vaccination.
Response included with Agenda.

MOVED LEAHEY/CLARKE

#5-1-10

That the Items 5a, 5b and 5c be received as information

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

CARRIED

6. Reports from Commission

a. Executive Committee

No report.

b. Operation & Program Committee

Mr. Lubin commended the driver associations and brokers for their cooperation regarding the fees to Edmonton Airport

MOVED LUBIN//FYSH

#6-1-10

That the Commission request the City of Edmonton Law Branch to draft amendments to the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw 14700 that will enable the creation of zone rates for trips from anywhere in Edmonton to the International Airport only.

The intent is to:

- i) Mirror the existing areas and rates established for taxis and limousines by ERAA;
- ii) Charge the customer THE LOWER OF either the meter rate or the flat rate;
- iii) Provide the ability for a driver to be paid the flat rate of \$5.00 if the passenger requests an additional stop, for example, to pick up an additional passenger. However if stop is more than one zone outside the most direct route to the airport, then the meter rate shall prevail. The \$5.00 charge would be in addition to the fare for travel to the Airport.
- iv) Permit taxi drivers to charge an additional \$9.00 if the passenger requests a mini-van; and an additional \$25.00 if the passenger requests a large van.

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

CARRIED

c. Safety Committee

No report.

d. Driver Training Committee

KHEHRA

See attached report. Attachment 1

MOVED NABOULSI/LEAHEY

#7-1-10

That the reports from Committees be received as information.

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

CARRIED

7. Administrative Matters

a. Vehicle for Hire Commission

i. December 2009/January 2010 Service Deliverable Report

Administrator reported that the December 2009 and January 2010 service deliverable reports are attached to the agenda.

Highlights:

- A total of 272 new drivers licences were issued in 2009, the highest number of new licences issued to date. Possibly due to current economic condition.

ii. 2010 Commission Workplan Report

Administrator reported that the 2010 Commission Workplan is attached to the agenda.

iii. 2009 Year End Report
2009 Year End Violation Ticket Summary

Administrator advised year end report will be completed by next week.

Highlights:

- \$27,000 budget surplus. Combination of under expenditure and additional revenue

Administrator advised year end Violation Ticket Summary will be completed shortly.

Highlights:

- Just under 1,000 tickets issued in 2009
- 2010 more time has been spent in court, therefore tickets issued down.

iv. General Matters

1. Administrator thanked Balraj Manhas for his participation in the December media blitz regarding bandit taxis. There was extensive media coverage in print and on radio and television.
2. Workshop for Commission members will be moved to April to accommodate a new member to be appointed in March to replace Mr. Pnaich who has resigned.
3. Planning will begin for a Public Involvement Session for 2010 regarding reduction of emissions.
4. Met with Mr. Singh to work towards resolving his concerns over last few years.
5. Wheelchair accessible taxi licences need to go through Request for Information process and recommend to Materials Management.

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#8-1-10

That the Administrator's report be received as information.

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

CARRIED

b. Edmonton Police Service

- i. Superintendent Campbell advised that arrests have been made in connection with all reported assaults and robberies on drivers since her last report. The industry and independent witnesses came forward to facilitate these arrests.
- ii. Superintendent Campbell would like to partner with industry and Vehicle For Hire Commission to lobby to amend the criminal code to impose greater punishment for violent offenses against drivers. Suggest presenting to Chiefs Committee, Police Commission and City Council and bring forward to Provincial and National level of Chiefs of Police. She will

use an analyst to link the attacks to prove it scientifically to enable her to advocate on the industries behalf.

Mr. Chairman thanked Superintendent Campbell for her willingness to contribute in this way and gave the Commission's support in this.

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#9-1-10

That the Edmonton Police Service report be received as information.

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

CARRIED

The following individuals were offered the opportunity to address or re-address the Commission;

Jetinder Deol a driver was concerned over the safety of money paid to brokers as an insurance claim deposit should the broker go into bankruptcy.

Jesse Halabi from the Limo Association advised there is a spike in limos operating without limo licences. We need to work together and report unlicensed vehicles. Also need Airport Authorities cooperation. Suggested the industry should refer to black car service rather than sedan limo to differentiate between car sizes. There are 2 types of stretches 6 and 8 passenger. Limo Association will send a letter to Commission informing of different sizes and passenger capacity.

Steve Alvanos advised broker charges drivers who rent a deposit to cover tickets and deductibles for insurance to protect owners of vehicles. He would have to check with board as to whether this money is in a trust account or not.

8. New Business

b. Request for Colour Approval

Mr. Peter Bakich submitted a request for colour approval. The administrator recommended the request be denied as it is too close to another company's colour and may result in challenges in the future. Recommended that dark green the approved Independent colour or the colour originally approved for Mr. Peter Bakich could be used without approval from the Commission. Any other colour would require Commission approval.

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#10-1-10

That the Commission approve the colour requested by Mr. Peter Bakich.

FOR THE MOTION:

MOTION FAILED

a. Rooftop Advertising

MOVED FYSH/KHEHRA

#11-1-10

That we authorize counsel for the Commission to take the necessary steps, including approaching the Province of Alberta to seek legislative changes to authorize taxi top lights and to report back to the commission.

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

CARRIED

9. News Articles

MOVED KHEHRA/LUBIN

#12-1-10

That the news articles attached to the agenda be received as information.

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

CARRIED

10. General Correspondence

None

11. In-Camera Items

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

The Chairman thanked Mr. Pnaich for his service to the board and wished him well in his future endeavours.

12. Adjournment

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

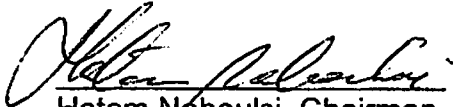
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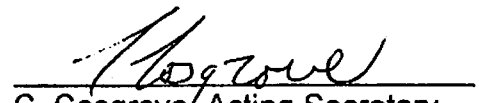
That the Meeting be adjourned.

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

CARRIED

The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the River Valley Room, Main Floor, City Hall.


Hatem Naboulsi, Chairman


C. Cosgrove, Acting Secretary