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VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 5

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

MEMBERS

H. Naboulsi  
L. Lubin  
R. Clarke  
C. Khehra  
M. Fysh  
C. Leahey  
B. Katz

PRESENT

L. Lubin  
R. Clarke  
C. Khehra  
M. Fysh  
C. Leahey  
B. Katz

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Cosgrove Acting Secretary  
D. Campbell Edmonton Police Services

P. Fearon Administrator

1. Call to Order

Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED CLARKE/LEAHEY

#1-5-10

That the agenda be approved with the following amendments:

Item 7.b.1. be moved to 5.a.1.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED FYSH/LEAHEY

#2-5-10

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on May 12, 2010 be approved.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

4. Public Involvement

The following individuals requested to speak:

Mr. Steve Alvanos  
Mr. Ian Lee

Mr. Balraj Manhas  
Mr. Jesse Halabi

Mr. Steve Mogus

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

Summary of comments/concerns raised:

- Plate owner having difficulty obtaining documents for security clearance due to errors in original documents from country of birth after living in Canada since childhood. Superintendent Campbell requested an exception be made to extend his plate until correct documents can be obtained. Commission instructed Administrator to facilitate.
- The Drivers Association provided a copy of a letter received from Alberta Finance and Enterprise, Ted Morton, Minister, dated June 3, 2010. Copy included as **Attachment 1**.
- Request cell phone ban does not include hands-free cell phones.
- Capital inspection went well after initial delay, hope to improve next year.
- Concern regarding a driver having his licence revoked and then attempting to change brokers. Superintendent Campbell suggested that the broker request drivers produce their Alberta Driver's Licence, if it has been revoked it would have been taken immediately. Also valid licence can be verified. If a taxi driver is deemed to be a risk to the public, Edmonton Police would issue an alert through a Press Release.
- Vans with limo plates, should be shuttle.
- Limos having difficulty accessing Northlands for pickup. Concern for safety of passengers. Chris Leahey advised they could talk to Tom Peebles at Northlands.
- Thank you to Commission members for banning use of cell phones while passengers are in a vehicle for hire.

**5. Business Arising**

**a.1. Edmonton Police Service**

**CAMPBELL**

Items 7.b.1. moved to 5.a.1. Inspector Campbell leaving early to attend another public meeting.

A significant arrest was made on Friday May 21, 2010. Robert James Fletcher was charged with first-degree murder in the death of cabbie Jeri (Gerdina) Kruidbos. The Commission was advised of this before it was released to the media. The original investigator who retired in 1997 was brought in and had never forgotten the case. There was a lot of work done on this case and Superintendent Campbell stressed that people working on this type of case genuinely care. She hopes that even though Jeri cannot be brought back she hopes that it will help to bring some type of closure for the family.

The EPs received a letter of congratulations from the Algonquin College in Ottawa, Taxi Training on the arrest.

Hatem Naboulsi requested that Leon Lubin pass on the Commissions thanks to The Edmonton Police. Hatem Naboulsi and Harry Spring attended the news conference.

**a. MOVED KHEHRA/FYSH**

**#3-5-10**

That the Commission approve the New Taxi Driver and Testing Curriculum to be implemented July 11, 2010.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

**CARRIED**

**b. MOVED KHEHRA/FYSH**

**#4-5-10**

That the Commission approve and adopt the wheelchair accessible curriculum and teaching modules contained in the Alberta Transportation's "Training Manual for Drivers of the Disabled in Alberta" to be implemented July 11, 2010.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

**CARRIED**

c. MOVED LEAHEY/KATZ

That the Commission request the Law Branch of the City of Edmonton to draft an amendment to section 11 of the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw 14700 which will have the effect of preventing a person operating a Taxi, Accessible Taxi, Limousine or Shuttle from using a cell phone while carrying a passenger or passengers in a vehicle for hire.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

6. Reports from Committees

a. Executive Committee

LUBIN

The Report on Driver Safety presented to the Community Services Committee of Council recommended a cashless fare system and mandatory cameras. These two items will be discussed at the Public Consultation being planned for this summer.

MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY

#5-5-10

That the Executive Committee report be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

b. Operation & Program Committee

LUBIN

Report attached to agenda and attached to the minutes as **Attachment 2**. Addendum attached to the minutes as **Attachment 3**.

MOVED LUBIN/FYSH

#6-5-10

That the Operation & Program Committee report be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

MOVED FYSH/KATZ

#7-5-10

That the Commission approve advertising, static or rotating, to be placed on the roof and/or trunk of all vehicles for hire in accordance with the attached illustrations, **Attachment 4**, subject to all applicable legislation and regulation.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

c. Safety Committee

LEAHEY

The Committee continues to work on updating the current Evaluation of Criminal Criteria in order to obtain a license.

The Committee is going to ask The Edmonton Police to bring in an officer to discuss driver and passenger safety at the upcoming Public Meeting.

MOVED LEAHEY/CLARKE

#8-5-10

That the Safety Committee report be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

d. Driver Training and Testing Committee

KHEHRA

The Committee requests that all Brokers supply to the Commission a copy of their Driver Tests.

The Committee would also like notice of upcoming training sessions to enable a member of the Committee to attend.

Driver Appreciation Nominations are open throughout the year and will be closed October 15. Please support Driver Appreciation.

MOVED KHEHRA/LEAHEY

#9-5-10

That the Driver Training and Testing Committee report be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

7. Administrative Matters

a. Vehicle for Hire Commission

FEARON

i. May 2010 Service Deliverable Report

The May 2010 service deliverable report is included as **Attachment 5**.

The annual inspections went well and we do not anticipate canceling any licenses.

ii. 2010 Commission Workplan Report

The 2010 Commission Workplan is included as **Attachment 6**.

We will be contacting the brokers to enlist their support for a Saturday morning Public Involvement session. This would relieve the time restriction for Commission members and the public. We will upload the Webpage with information updates before the event to be held possibly the end of July.

iii. General Matters

2011 Budget will probably just be an inflationary increase from 2010. We have not yet received instructions from the finance department.

The 1<sup>st</sup> replacement vehicle is having the stand for the laptop computer adjusted. We hope to replace our 2<sup>nd</sup> vehicle this year. Both vehicles are beyond their life cycle and there is no advantage in keeping them.

Gateway Charter Shuttle Service will be in court June 17, 2010 for their appeal.

MOVED FYSH/KHEHRA

#10-5-10

That the Administrator's report be received as information.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

b. Edmonton Police Service

Moved to Item 5.a.1.

d. Edmonton Transportation

No report.

8. New Business

a. Advertising for Heritage Festival

FEARON

MOVED LEAHEY/KHEHRA

#11-5-10

That the Commission approve advertising to be placed on the rear window and rear passenger side window of Co-op Taxis in accordance with the attached letter and illustrations, **Attachment 7**.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

**b.** Jasper Avenue Entertainment Working Group

FYSH

The Executive Committee of City Council has approved the Terms of Reference and Mandate for a Jasper Avenue Entertainment Working Group. Mack Fysh has agreed to sit on this Committee to represent the Vehicle For Hire Commission.

MOVED FYSH/KHEHRA

#12-5-10

That the Commission accept the copy of the Terms of Reference and Mandate for a Jasper Avenue Entertainment Working Group as information. Copy included as **Attachment 8**.

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

**9.** News Articles

MOVED CLARKE/LEAHEY

#13-5-10

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

FOR THE MOTION: Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

**10.** General Correspondence

None.

**11.** In-Camera Items

None.

The public was given the opportunity to address or readdress the commission. The names of speakers and their concerns are summarized under Section 4 Public Involvement.

**12. Adjournment**

MOVED LEAHEY/FYSH


#14-5-10

That the Meeting be adjourned 3:25 p.m.

FOR THE MOTION:       Lubin, Clarke, Khehra, Leahey,  
                              Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will be held Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room, Main Floor, City Hall.

  
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Leon Lubin, Vice-Chairman  
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J. Arlia, Acting Secretary