

VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 4

Wednesday, May 11, 2011

**MEMBERS**

L. Lubin, Chairman  
R. Clarke  
M. Fysh  
C. Khehra  
C. Kilburn  
C. Leahey

**PRESENT**

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

**Also in attendance;**

Chief Livery Officer  
Vehicle For Hire Secretary  
Transportation Department Representative  
Police Services Representative

G. Dziwenka  
S. Weller  
D. Macdonald  
D. Campbell

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman called the meeting to order at *1:34 p.m.*

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED: FYSH/CLARKE**

**#1-05-11**

That the agenda be approved as distributed.

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

**CARRIED**

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fysh requested that on pages 5 and 6 under the sub-committee headings for Driver Training and Operational & Program Committee, the reference to 'Chairman' be modified to reflect 'Committee Chairman'.

**MOVED: CLARKE/FYSH**

**#2-05-11**

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on April 13, 2011 be approved as amended by Mr. Fysh.

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

**CARRIED**

#### **4. Public Involvement**

**Mr. Neal Spicer -**

Mr. Spicer stated that he understands the modification of the Vehicle For Hire website is out of the control of the administrative staff, he would like it brought to the attention of whomever is the co-ordinator that the information is not being loaded in a timely manner. It is his opinion that VFH Commission staff should be able to load information themselves and also that the site should contain the dates of the meetings throughout the year. Finally, he stated that he has been advised that his concerns will be addressed next week and forwarded to him in writing.

**Mr. Phil Fearon –**

Mr Fearon stated that he agrees with Mr. Spicer regarding the VFH Commission website. He also stated that he would like to congratulate the Commission on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hopes that plans are in place to acknowledge this milestone.

**Mr. Husni Al-Khateeb**

Mr. Al-Khateeb stated that he has had to pay three times for a security clearance and had to wait from July, 2010 to April, 2011 for the document. He inquired if the process would be as difficult next year. Mr. Al-Khateeb further stated that Edmonton drivers would like to serve the International Airport and should be the first point of contact by visitors to Edmonton to act as ambassadors for the City. It is his opinion that the Airport belongs to the citizens of Edmonton and should be accessible to all drivers. He would like to see the Commission support drivers in this regard. Finally, Mr. Al-Khateeb inquired regarding the 10 accessible taxi licences that had been approved previously. He also welcomed the new Chief Livery Officer, Mr. Dziwenka and stated he encourages open channels of communication between all parties.

**Ian Lee**

Mr. Lee stated that in the fall of 2010 when the issue of cell. phone use was being discussed, consideration was given to prohibiting any talking with customers in the car - including while using a blue tooth. He requested that the Commission implement such a policy as it is discourteous to customers to be speaking, particularly when not speaking English, with a customer in the vehicle.

Mr. Leahey stated he feels that policy should be set by the company.

**5. Business Arising**

**a. Elections**

**MOVED LEAHEY/CLARKE**

**#3-05-11**

That the motion regarding elections made at the April meeting be withdrawn and that the Commission hold elections for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting when the two new members are present.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Leahey, Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Fysh

**CARRIED**

**b. Notice of Motion - Proposed Passenger Bill of Rights**

Chairman stated that he would like to withdraw his Notice of Motion. Any decision regarding this issue will be left to the Commission to be decided in the future.

**6. Reports from Committees**

**a. Executive Committee**

Chairman reported that Commission members met to view an on-line demonstration of a computer based training program that is under development by the International Association of Taxis and Limousines., He expects there will be some elaboration on this subject in the Driver Education Report which will follow. Secondly, it is proposed that from this time forward, the Executive Committee, a committee consisting of the Commission Chair and the Chairs of the Operation & Program Committee, the Driver Training Committee and the Safety Committee be replaced by a Committee consisting of all members of the Commission and it be called a Committee of the Whole.

**MOVED LUBIN/LEAHEY**

**#4-05-11**

That the Executive Committee report be received as information.

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

**CARRIED**

**b. Operation & Program Committee**

Committee Chairman reported that he attended a meeting with Cindy Davies of the Hospitality Edmonton Group regarding late night closure spots in the City. Further discussion regarding how taxis fit into the scheme of things on Whyte Avenue will continue at the next meeting in June.

**MOVED FYSH/CLARKE**

**#5-05-11**

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

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

**CARRIED**

**c. Safety**

Committee Chairman stated that there is no safety report to be presented at this time. He also advised that he will be stepping down as Chairman of the Safety Committee and recommended that Mr. Robert Clarke be appointed as the new Chairman.

**d. Driver Training**

Chairman suggested that we wait until the Committee Chairman, Mr. Khehra, arrives at the meeting to discuss this issue.

**7. Administrative Matters**

**a) Vehicle for Hire Commission**

**1. Department Re-organization**

Mr. Dziwenka stated that he has not been advised under which Department the Vehicle For Hire Commission staff will be placed. Service deliverables to the Commission will remain status quo.

**2. Temporary Taxi Drivers Licence Policy**

The policy implemented for temporary licences will be offered until August 2011. Applicants who have applied and not yet received their clearance can attend the EPS office where they will receive a stamped form. They can present this form to the licence section and receive a 2 week temporary licence. The problem of obtaining EPS clearances should be rectified in the near future.

**3. May Service Deliverables Report/Renewal Update**

Mr. Dziwenka elaborated on the statistics attached to the agenda and advised of the status of renewal to date. He thanked the Brokers for their co-operation in this effort.

**4. April 2011 Violation Report**

Mr. Dziwenka indicated that the violation report suggests that the service deliverables have remained the same, however, there has been a huge reduction in offences.

**5. General Matters**

Mr. Dziwenka advised that a written response to Mr. Spicer will be available by Friday and that a response to Mr. Keez is currently being prepared. Additionally, he reported that the MEO uniforms were introduced on Monday and are currently being worn by all enforcement personnel.

**MOVED FYSH/LEAHEY**

**#6-05-11**

That the Administrators report be received as information.,

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Leahey, Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Fysh

**CARRIED**

Chairman called for a five minute recess of the meeting.

The meeting was re-convened and Mr. Khehra, who arrived at the meeting during the break, was requested to offer his driver training report.

**d. Driver Training**

Committee Chairman reported that Commission members participated in a webinar presented by the Transportation Livery and Paratransit Association - Learning and Management Branch. The Association was not able to provide the cost for the training courses being promoted in the webinar. He will continue to monitor whether the association has any courses to offer that may be applicable to the Edmonton industry.

MOVED KHEHRA/CLARKE

**#7-05-11**

That the Driver Training Committee report be received as information.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Leahey, Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Fysh

**CARRIED**

**b) Edmonton Police Service**

Chairman welcomed back Superintendent Danielle Campbell, our Police Representative who has been on course and on vacation for the past few weeks.

Superintendent Campbell stated that she had hoped to have Heather Bettke, who is the EPS Security Check Supervisor attend the meeting today, however she is attending a course in Ottawa. She will be in attendance at the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss any concerns there may be regarding clearances. Ms. Bettke did offer some information for Superintendent Campbell to advise the industry including the fact that many of the delays encountered were at a National level. Also, digital prints cannot be accepted a second time in an effort to speed up the process and, if a driver is aware they have a record – attend Police Services early as it may take longer to obtain them. Superintendent Campbell also suggested to the industry that they bring forward any questions or concerns regarding clearances to the next meeting or, if possible, submit them early to the VFH Administration office.

**c) Edmonton Transportation**

Mr. MacDonald stated there is no new information to report.

Chairman inquired if there were any individuals who wished to address the Commission subsequent to hearing meeting content.

Mr. Ian Lee, representing the Yellow Cab group advised the Commission that Mr. John Barrigan, who drives Barrel Taxi #128 was recently awarded the title of Best Driver of the Year.

Mr. Balraj Manhas, representing the Driver Association thanked Mr. Lubin for his effort and leadership while part of the Commission and indicated it was very much appreciated.

Ms. Marjorie Julseth, representing the Yellow Cab group inquired if there was a method of obtaining restitution for damages caused by a customer when they have no means of paying for them.

Superintendent Campbell suggested that the Victims of Crime Fund may be able to assist as well as the Solicitor General's Victim Services Office. She offered to give Ms. Julseth her business card to further discuss details.

Mr. Al-Khateeb stated the points he would like to have the Commission consider which were; training, enforcement, industry members on the Commission, using the industry cell. phone network for safety and the airport contract.

Mr. Balraj Manhas updated members on a meeting he had with the Mayor and the Health Minister regarding vehicle emissions. The meeting was very successful and the Mayor will be discussing further details with the Commission.

Mr. Fysh expressed his gratitude to Mr. Lubin for his contribution to the Commission and wished him success in his future endeavours.

Mr. Khehra echoed the comments made by Mr. Fysh to Mr. Lubin thanking him for all his efforts and offering best wishes for the future.

## **8. New Business**

- Appointment of New Members

G. Dziwenka

Mr. Dziwenka stated that the recruitment process for new Commission members is closed and the applicants are being interviewed. They are scheduled to be appointed by City Council on June 1<sup>st</sup> and should be attending the June meeting.

**9. News Articles**

1. Calgary Herald article dated April 18, 2011 re; taxi parking.
2. Calgary Herald article dated May 5, 2011 re; airport transportation.
3. New York City article re; taxi vehicle contract.

**MOVED CLARKE/FYSH**

**#8-05-11**

To accept the attached news articles as information.

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

**CARRIED**

**10. General Correspondence**

There are no items of general correspondence to be presented at this time.

**11. In-Camera Items**

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

Mr. Lubin thanked all members of the Vehicle For Hire Commission for their support through the years and stated he feels they have performed a valuable service and achieved a lot of success. He wishes the Commission and its members every success in the future and he encourages them to continue with the great job they have done to date.

**12. Adjournment**

**MOVED FYSH/CLARKE**

**#8-05-11**

That the meeting be adjourned.

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

**CARRIED**



The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room at City Hall, Wednesday, June 8 2011.

for Mack Fygh  
L. Lubin, Chairman

S. Weller  
S. Weller, Administrative Assistant