
VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 10

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

MEMBERS

L. Lubin, Chairman
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:

P. Fearon	Administrator
D. MacDonald	Edmonton Transportation
D. Campbell	Edmonton Police Services

1. Call to Order

Chairman called the meeting to order at **1:45 p.m.**

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED: Fysh/Katz

#1-10-10

- a) That item 12 personnel be added to approve the agenda as circulated.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

MOVED: LEAHEY/ FYSH

#2-10-10

- b) That the agenda be approved as amended.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED: LEAHEY/FYSH

#3-10-10

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on October 13, 2010 be approved as circulated.

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

CARRIED

Resignation of Commission Member Bill Katz

Bill Katz explains briefly his wish to resign from the Vehicle For Hire Commission and recognizes his fellow members as dedicated members and mentioned he will provide a formal letter of resignation to the Commission Chairman.

Commission Chairman regards Bill Katz's resignation

On behalf of the Commission members Mr. Lubin thanks Mr. Bill Katz for his efforts and much appreciated views, advice and knowledge brought to the Commission.

4. Vehicle For Hire Driver Appreciation Event

Chaired by Charan Khehra

7th Annual Driver Appreciation award event

On behalf of the Vehicle For Hire Commission members we want to thank all drivers for their hard work in providing excellent and safe customer service on a daily basis.

Member Chris Leahey

Speaks to the public in appreciation of all drivers and their families for their dedication to the industry and reserves a moment of silence in honour of past fallen drivers.

Commission Chair, Leon Lubin

Apologizes for the error in receiving missing fifteen driver appreciation nominations and will recognize these drivers at the December 8, 2010 Commission meeting. He gives appreciation to one Broker for their continued support during this event.

On behalf of Mayor Stephen Mandel and all Edmontonians they proclaim their appreciation of all the driver's dedication in providing excellent, safe and courteous service. The Mayor's Proclamation for November 17, 2010 is read.

Commission Chair, Leon Lubin and Charan Khehra presented awards to:

Best customer service Limo driver of the year

**awarded to Mr. Fouad Kanbour
in his absence Lyn Greene from
Prestige Limousine accepts his award.**

Best customer service Taxi driver of the year

**awarded to Mr. Balwinder Dhanoa
from Co-op Taxi.**

Special thanks to all sponsors for their gifts.

Break for refreshments @ 2pm

Call to Order @ 2:08 pm

5. Public Involvement

The following individuals requested to speak:

Mr. Paul Minhas, Mr. Kulwinder Samra, Mr. Abdullahi Abdi, Mr. Nisar Ahmad, Mr. Ian Lee, Mr. Jessy Halabi, Mr. Carl Schelpe, Mr. Manjit Mann.

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

Summary of comments/concerns raised:

Paul Minhas

- Disagrees with an age limit on vehicles for Emission Reduction purposes.
- Reconsider the 200 day limit time frame due to lack of drivers because of low income.

Kulwinder Samra

- Disagrees with an age limit on vehicles for Emission Reduction purposes.
- He is a Multi owner which is concerned on replacing older vehicles and wanting a four year grace period to make these changes.

Abdullahi Abdi

- Suggest different categories to be recognized at the driver appreciation.

Nisar Ahmad

- Disagrees with an age limit on vehicles for Emission Reduction purposes.
- Stated that the industry is strict and other cities don't have restrictions and requesting the Commission to reconsider the age limit.

Ian Lee

- This past year has been difficult as the number of cars are not in use as there is not enough income for the drivers. Comparing Winnipeg to Edmonton is not justified and lets prolong the age limitation for newer vehicles.
- Give the drivers a longer grace period of 2014.
- 200 days is not a solution to night time drivers, other suggestion will be made in private with the Chairman.

Jessy Halabi

- Explanation of why Limousines were parked outside Sutton Place was given.
- Contractual obligations with Sutton Place were explained.
- Shuttle service Executive Express is a company providing Calgary to Edmonton executive limousine service, but is not licensed in Calgary. Request that Edmonton ensure proper licensing.
- Taxi driver behaviour is an outrage and inappropriate.

Carl Schelpe

- Disagrees with an age limit on vehicles for Emission Reduction purposes.
- Disagrees with Airport Taxi having all the trips from the airport.

Manjit Mann

- Commission agenda not accessible on the web site.
- Cab driver should not be soliciting business in the hotels, drivers should remain in their vehicles.
- Disagrees with an age limit on vehicles for Emission Reduction purposes cabs have less emission than our industry example diesel trucks/ambulances.
- 200 days operational requirements should not be pursued in 2011.

6. Business Arising**a) Advertising on rear of taxi vehicles.**

- Letter was sent to the advertising agencies that the Commission approval of advertising was subject to complying with all Provincial & Federal statutory requirements for advertising were met which were not. The Commission has advised the advertising company that other regulatory bodies are aware of this and if the company does not comply the other regulatory requirements, appropriate actions will be taken.
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MOVED: LEAHEY/FYSH

#4-10-10

To accept the Business Arising reports.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

7. Reports from Committees

a) Executive Committee

- Convention of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association. See attached letter.

b) Operation & Program Committee

- Notice of Motion for Regulation amendments.
Nothing to vote on due to legal implications still being reviewed.
- Hospitality Edmonton
A meeting was held with Hospitality Edmonton yesterday regarding the Oil City bar after closing hour requesting from the brokers what is the best method/idea of how to transport customers.
- Notice of motion for taxi age restrictions to be approved at the December 8, 2010 Commission meeting for implementation 2011, 2012 & 2013.
- Notice of motion of Annual Review of Taxi and Accessible taxi license numbers.
That the Commission recommends 50 additional licenses be issued by September 1, 2011.

MOVED: KHEHRA/FYSH

#5-10-10

That the Commission recommend at its December 8, 2010 regular meeting that an additional 50 taxi/accessible taxi license be issued by Sept. 1, 2011.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz

Opposed: Clarke

CARRIED

c) Safety

- Nothing to report at this time.

d) Driver Training

Annual Driver Appreciation Day: Recognize the missing driver appreciation nominations to be awarded at the next Commission meeting Dec. 8, 2010. The Commission members thank the broker and driver for their efforts for this event. Special thanks goes out to Commission member Bob Clarke for his hard work in collecting sponsorship prizes. The Commission members would like to acknowledge the following sponsors: Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, Royal Bank of Canada, Canlan Ice Sports, Chapters Calgary Trail, Edmonton YMCA, Marriott at Edmonton River Cree Resort, River Cree Casino, Starbucks Coffee at Century Park and Calgary Trail.

Congratulations goes out to Mr. Fouad Kanbour and Mr. Balwinder Dhanoa.

The Commission acknowledges and appreciates the co-operation from the Brokers regarding driver training.

Appreciation goes to Mr. Ian Lee for having providing his previous training and current training plans.

Final notice of thanks goes to Mr. Bill Katz for his legal advice and much appreciated co-operation with the Commission.

Thank you letters will be sent out to all sponsors that supported our Driver appreciation event.

MOVED: KHEHRA/CLARKE

#6-10-10

To accept the report as presented

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Clarke, Katz.
CARRIED

8. Administrative Matters

a) Vehicle for Hire Commission

1) October Services Deliverable Report

- Substitute vehicle business is slower this year than in the past. We are down 10-15%.
- Report to be attached to meeting minutes.

2) 2010 Commission Workplan

- Continuation to build on this plan as we move forward. The Community Services had three reports due Nov. 15, 2010. The agenda review board bumped all reports until January 2011. Now the Committee will wait to hear four reports until probably February due to members absence in January.

3) Financial Report third quarter of 2010

- End of third quarter has an under expenditure.
- As of Nov 12, 2010 we have retired both pre (2000 year) bylaw vehicles in promoting our age limitation restrictions.

MOVED: FYSH/KATZ

#7-10-10

To accept this report for information.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

b) Edmonton Police Service

Safety information in the industry which is a patron scanning device that the hospitality industry uses in their licensed facilities. What these scanning devices do is scan the persons Driver's lic/ ID card which is scanned as a record of the person entering and again when they exit the licensed facility. What are the Vehicle For Hire Industry views on such a device like this which is another tool for the taxi drivers safety.

Follow up at the next meeting regarding this scanning device information.

Effectively Jan 6, 2011 - March 18, 2011 D. Campbell will be away from the Commission and will have alternative EPS representatives available for the Commission and will return in April 2011.

MOVED: FYSH/LEAHEY

#8-10-10

To receive the Edmonton Police Service report as presented.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

c) Edmonton Transportation

No report at this time.

9. New Business

None at this time.

10. News Articles

- a) Executive Committee Nov. 8, 2010 Globe and mail article "sky-high cab fares a non-issue in Toronto".

MOVED: LEAHEY/CLARKE

#9-10-10

To accept this news article as information.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

11. General Correspondence

1. October 28, 2010 letter from Edmonton International Airport, was read.

MOVED: LEAHEY/KATZ

#10-10-10

That the meeting now goes in-camera.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz
CARRIED

MOVED: LEAHEY/KATZ

#11-10-10

That the public meeting resume.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz
CARRIED

12. In-Camera Items

No Items at this time.

13. Adjournment:

MOVED: LEAHEY/FYSH

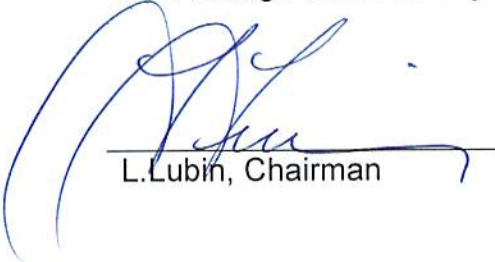
#12-10-10

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:20pm

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
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, December 8, 2010.



L. Lubin, Chairman



J. Arlia, Administrative Assistant