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VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

**CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION**

**MEETING NO. 9**

**Wednesday, October 13, 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
G. Wylde	Administrative Assistant

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman called the meeting to order at **1:30 p.m.**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED: LEAHEY/ FYSH**

**#1-9-10**

- a) That item 8c Taxi Advertising be added

**FOR THE MOTION:**

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

**MOVED: LEAHEY/ FYSH**

**#2-9-10**

- b) That the agenda be approved as amended.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

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

### 3. Approval of Minutes

**MOVED: KHEHRA/CLARKE**

**#3-9-10**

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on September 8, 2010 be approved as circulated.

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

**CARRIED**

### 4. Public Involvement

*The following individuals requested to speak:*

Mr. Gord Beatty, Mr. Chris Atkinson, Mr. Abdullahi Abdi, Mr. Husni El-Khatib, Mr. Jatindu Deol, Mr. Gary Waraich, Mr. Alla'a Chebli, Mr. George Psychoff, Mr. Nisar Allmas, Mr. Phil Strong, Mr. Jessy Halabi.

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

*Summary of comments/concerns raised:*

#### **Gord Beatty**

- Taxi Emission Reduction Report. The Commission should be aware of the % of Taxi's verses other city owned vehicles. The city should come up with a standard for Emission control and engine size should be taken into account. Therefore it is unfair to penalize the 20% whilst 80% of city owned vehicles are not being placed with the same limits.
- The Commission pointed out that they only have jurisdiction over vehicles for hire.

#### **Abdullahi Abdi**

- Complaint about Airport Taxi Title.
- The Commission explained they have no jurisdiction over the naming of a business.

#### **Husni El-Khatib**

- Disagrees with an age limit on vehicles for Emission Reduction purposes.
- Described numerous negative issues with Limousines parked outside of Sutton Place Hotel.
- Complained about the way in which tickets were issued by mail and the Enforcement officers procedures which warranted tickets outside Sutton Place Hotel.

#### **Jatindu Deal**

- Complained about Airport Taxi coming into the city to pick up fares.
- Disagrees with an age limit on vehicles for Emission Reduction purposes. Stated that some older vehicles were just as well looked after and were as good as new vehicles.

**Gary Waraich**

- The number of Ghost cabs in the city has increased effecting lawful taxi businesses.
- Suggested instead of reducing the car age emissions should be monitored and penalties for higher emissions should be put in place.

**Mr. Allaa Chebli**

- Comparisons between Canadian cities do not seem accurate. More research should be done concerning the emissions report.

**Nisar Allmas**

- Comments were made on Airport Taxi Legislation and what it would take for someone to become a part of that taxi service.

**Phil Strong**

- The emissions report talks about restricting the age of vehicles. This would not be fair to the taxi industry.
- Sutton Place Limo services are breaking the law and this should be looked into.

**Jessy Halabi**

- Explanation of why Limousines were parked outside Sutton Place was given.
- Contractual obligations with Sutton Place were explained.

**5. Business Arising**

- a) **Airport Taxi Broker colour & marking request.**
  - No representatives of Airport Taxi has yet been to the office with regard to finalizing brokerage application.
- b) **Parking enforcement update regading the U of A Hub location**
  - No opportunity has arisen to have a meeting. Pictures have been taken of the taxi stand Signs created by the U of A, not the Taxi Brokers.
  - The Commission does not have jurisdiction over the U of A property.
- c) **Status of input received at August 30<sup>th</sup> Public involvement session.**
  - There is not a complete package however the emissions report has been reviewed and all industry stakeholder speakers are against the age limits on vehicles.
- d) **Alberta King Taxi broker colour and marking implementation**
  - Vehicles have yet to be produced for inspection.
- e) **Gateway Charters license decision**
  - The decision is being appealed by the City.

**MOVED: KATZ/FYSH**

**#4-9-10**

To accept the Business Arising reports.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

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

**6. Reports from Committees**

**a) Executive Committee**

No report from this Committee.

**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 will be held with Hospitality Edmonton regarding the closing hours of certain establishments in the Jasper Avenue Area.

- Carbon Dioxide Emission Reduction Recommendations

The Committee supports the 3 recommendations and timelines presented in the report.

**MOVED: FYSH/LEAHEY**

**#5-9-10**

The Carbon Dioxide Emission Reduction Recommendations be accepted as follows:

1. Commencing on May 1, 2011, no regular taxi vehicle 8 model years or older will be permitted to operate on Edmonton's taxi fleet. The current year is not to be included in this calculation, therefore, starting on May 1, 2011, any vehicle 2003 or older must be retired.

Wheelchair Accessible vehicles and all hybrid vehicles may continue to operate until they are 11 model years old, provided that all mechanical inspection requirements are met.

2. Commencing on May 1, 2012, every taxi vehicle substituted into service must be no more than 2 model years old. The current year is not included in this calculation, therefore, starting May 1, 2012, only 2010 or newer vehicles may be placed into service.

Wheelchair Accessible vehicles put into service may be up to 5 model years old, provided that all mechanical inspection requirements are met.

3. Commencing on May 1, 2013, the maximum age limitation for all regular taxi vehicles will be reduced to 6 model years or older. The current year is not to be included in this calculation, therefore, starting May 1, 2012, any vehicle 2007 or older must be retired.

Wheelchair Accessible vehicles and all hybrid vehicles may continue to operate until they are 9 model years old, provided that all mechanical inspection requirements are met.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Clarke, Katz

**Opposed:**

**CARRIED**

**c) Safety**

- Streamlining the evaluation of criminal criteria
- Reviewing and in favour in general of inspectors being uniformed and vehicles having clear identification.
- On visiting Las Vegas the member found it interesting that Cabs were installed with internal Camera. The overall consensus by taxi drivers was that Big Brother was watching rather than a security benefit.

**MOVED: LEAHEY/KATZ**

**#6-9-10**

To accept the report as presented.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

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

**CARRIED**

**d) Driver Training**

**Annual Driver Appreciation Day:** Deadline for applications the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual driver Appreciation Day is October 15, 2010. The awards will be held November 17 at 12:00pm prior to the Commission meeting. Sponsorship is still being sought from Brokers

**MOVED: KHEHRA/LEAHEY**

**#7-9-10**

To accept the report as presented

**FOR THE MOTION:**

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

**CARRIED**

**7. Administrative Matters**

**a) Vehicle for Hire Commission**

**1) September Services Deliverable Report**

- Answers provided to questions.

**2) 2010 Commission Workplan**

- Taxi ratio to population count unable to account for 2010 population census due to no update in figures, so last years numbers may have to be used.

### **3) 2011 Budget for Commission**

- The information will not be made public for another 2 weeks.
- Promotion of taxi driver licenses from 1 year to 2 years will create cost savings.
- Changing the licence year cycle dates is being discussed.

### **4) Third Quarter Violation Ticket Summary**

- Report Submitted.

### **5) I.A.T.R. Conference report and General Matters**

- Information can be provided upon request.
- Driver distraction was one of the most interesting points.

**MOVED: FYSH/KATZ**

**#8-9-10**

To accept this report for information.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Lubin, Khehra, Clark, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.  
**CARRIED**

**Edmonton Police Service**

**No Comments**

### **b) Edmonton Transportation**

**No Comments**

## **8. New Business**

### **a) Prestige Cab marking change request**

Mr. Ian Lee requested a change in the decaling style with no change in colour.

**MOVED: FYSH/KATZ**

**#9-9-10**

To accept changes as requested by Prestige Cab on new vehicles going forward from October 13<sup>th</sup> 2010, as long as all regulation requirements for markings are met.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Lubin, Khehra, Clark, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.  
**CARRIED**

**b) Taxi Emission Reduction Report**

Report has been completed and has been submitted for Community Services Committee meeting to be held on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2010.

**MOVED: FYSH/KATZ**

**#10-9-10**

To accept this report.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Lubin, Khehra, Clark, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.  
**CARRIED**

**c) Taxi Advertising**

- Concerns have been raised about the mini-van rear lighting on advertising sold by Macdonald Advertising.
- Illumination is illegal.

**MOVED: FYSH/LEAHEY**

**#11-9-10**

The administration will draft a letter for the Commission Chairman signature to the Advertising company requesting them to supply a letter from Alberta Infrastcure and Transportation confirming the Governments approval of the lighting on the mini-van rear tri-panel advertising mechanisms. If the Government does not supply the approval letter then the mini-van rear lighting mechanism must be removed.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Lubin, Khehra, Clark, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.  
**CARRIED**

**9. News Articles**

Mayoral candidate Dorward advocates reform of Edmonton taxi service.

**MOVED: LEAHEY/KATZ**

**#12-9-10**

To accept as information.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Lubin, Khehra, Clark, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.  
**CARRIED**

**10. General Correspondence**

**None at this time.**

**MOVED: LEAHEY/KATZ**

**#13-9-10**

That the meeting now go in-camera.

**FOR THE MOTION:**

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz

**CARRIED**

**11. In-Camera Items**

No Items at this time.

**MOVED: FYSH/KATZ**

**That the public meeting resume.**

**FOR THE MOTION::**

Lubin, Khehra, Clarke, Leahey, Fysh, Katz

**12. Adjournment:**

**MOVED: LEAHEY/FYSH**

**#14-9-10**


That the meeting be adjourned at 4:33pm

**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, November 17, 2010.



L. Lubin, Chairman



J. Arla, Administrative Assistant