

VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

CITY OF EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

MEETING NO. 8

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

MEMBERS

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

PRESENT

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

P. Fearon	Administrator
D. Campbell	Edmonton Police Services
D. MacDonald	Edmonton Transportation
G. Wylde	Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED: LEAHEY/ FYSH

#1-8-10

- a) That item 8b be moved to 4a and make 4a 4b

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

MOVED: FYSH/ KHEHRA

#2-8-10

- b) That the agenda be approved as amended.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

MOVED: KATZ/LEAHEY

#3-8-10

That the minutes from the regular meeting held on August 11, 2010 be approved.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

4. New Business

a) Edmonton Police Service

- Criminal record check service, Heather Bettke spoke on behalf of EPS. RCMP made some enhancements to the Canadian Police Information Checklist (CPIC), regarding a vulnerable sector query. If a name, or date of birth is similar to that of someone held within the national repository records then a fingerprint check has to be done according to CPIC law. However, Digital fingerprinting is being introduced to EPS and once full training is complete, by mid October, the turnaround time for these checks should be as little as 72 hours.
- For clarification these changes are brought in by the Federal government in Ottawa. EPS has been proactive in that it has gained new software to ensure this process will be as quick as possible

b) New Taxi broker color & markings request for approval

- New taxi broker color & markings request by Alberta King Taxi.
 - a) Mr. Palani provided a presentation on his company application, and responded to questions. Royal Blue, the former Skyline Taxi Color is being requested, with white markings.
- The application for color is complete. The Chief Livery Officer therefore recommends as long as all Bylaw and regulations are followed that the application be approved.

MOVED: LEAHEY/FYSH

#4-8-10

That the colors and markings as requested in writing by Alberta King Taxi be approved as long as all Bylaw and regulation requirements are met.

5. Public Involvement

The following individuals requested to speak:

Mr. Rafique Moledina, Mr. Abdi Abdullahi, Mr. Allaa Chebli, Mr. Steve Alvanos, Mr. Akram Shamie, Mr. Phil Strong, Mr. Jessy Halabi.

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

Summary of comments/concerns raised:

Rafique Moledina

- Safety issues were raised concerning how the advertising signs are secured to the rear of mini-van vehicles. Suggestion was to get written assurance from insurers that the new advertising mechanisms are fully covered for all forms of possible liability.
- Renewal of permits for security clearance should be done directly online between the Edmonton Police Service and the Vehicle for Hire Commission, for more convenience.

Allaa Chebli

- Clearance for fingerprints, cost comes out of driver's pocket.

Steve Alvanos

- Extension of operating hours for Jasper Avenue bars will create problems for customers as there are not enough taxi's available at the hours suggested.

Akram Shamie

- Drives for Airport Taxi, representing 245 drivers from 15 countries.
- He supports a unionized work force with a collective agreement, as Airport Taxi Service presently has.
- He would like to see a taxi medallion system between the city of Edmonton and the International Airport.

Phil Strong

- The colors red and white are not appropriate for a new taxi broker in Edmonton.

Jessy Halabi

- Congratulations to the EPS on security check issues
- If Airport Taxi's are not prepared to give up exclusive rights to the airport then the city of Edmonton licensed drivers should not have to give up the right to exclusive rights to the city.

- Is there a make and model of authorized sedan limousines? P. Fearon, answered, there is no specific list at present.

Abdi Abdwiahie

- Airport taxi's should not be allowed to come into the city unless they are licensed by the city.

6. Business Arising

a) Airport Taxi Broker color & marking request

A decision was reserved at last months meeting due to outstanding questions for Airport Taxi. Mr. Rob Sterr advised:

History is 18 years in taxi business with 2 other partners, having 16 and 14 years experience respectively.

Only vehicles licensed within the city of Edmonton will be colored the proposed red and white. Airport Taxi will produce a letter to this effect and will also accept it as a condition of their taxi broker license.

Chief Livery Officer believes the colors are distinctive and recommends the color and markings as applied for by Airport Taxi.

MOVED: KATZ/FYSH

#5-8-10

That Airport Taxi Brokerage application is approved as long as all Bylaw and Regulation requirements are met.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

MOVED: KATZ/FYSH

#6-8-10

That Airport Taxi color of red and white and shown markings (in coloured examples) be approved as long as all Bylaw and regulation requirements are met.

Comments

B. Katz finds the colors distinctive.

If this motion fails the only other color previously approved by the Commission is mid or medium brown.

**FOR THE MOTION:
OPPOSED:**

**Katz, Lubin,
Khehra, Leahey, Fysh**

Lost.

Question from Mr. Sterr, will the question of color choice have to be reviewed at next months meeting

Answer: Yes

b) Parking enforcement update regarding the U of A HUB location

University Security staff are enforcing parking restrictions at this location. A meeting has yet to be set up with the University regarding this issue, an attempt will be made to set one up before the next Commission meeting.

MOVED: FYSH/KATZ

#7-8-10

To accept the report as presented

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

c) Status of input received at August 30 Public Involvement session

The plan is to create a document that shows comments received and what the Commission plans to do with that information.

MOVED: FYSH/KHEHRA

#8-8-10

To accept the report as presented

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

7. Reports from Committees

a) Executive Committee

The Commission will follow up all concerns as presented however not all concerns will be acted upon depending on the value of the public good.

2 reports were presented to the Community Services Committee on August 23. Representations on both of these reports were brought forward by Phil Strong and the United Cabbies Association. The Committee agreed to receive these reports as information.

MOVED: LUBIN/LEAHEY

#9-8-10

To accept the report as presented

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

Operation & Program Committee

Responsible Hospitality Edmonton. When more information is gained it will be brought before the committee.

Regulation amendment recommendations are addressed as follows.

MOVED: FYSH/KHEHRA

#10-8-10

Amendments to the Regulations under Bylaw 14700, as prepared by the Commission with submissions from the industry, be approved at next months meeting. Amendment recommendations are attached to these meeting minutes.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

b) Safety

No safety meetings have been held. Constable Steven Sharp gave an excellent presentation at the Public meeting held on August 30th. Thanks to Edmonton Police Service.

MOVED: LEAHEY/KHEHRA

#11-8-10

To accept the report as presented

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

c) Driver Training

1. **Driver Training and Testing Program Observation:** The committee expects the brokers to provide their driver-training course and testing dates to the Commission office on a regular basis.
2. **Annual Driver Appreciation Day:** Deadline for the 7th Annual driver Appreciation Day is October 15, 2010.
3. **Alberta Motor Association Advice:** The committee has been in contact with the association for advice on driver training and testing.
4. **Limousine Driver Training:** The committee would like to renew and extend their invitation to the Alberta Limousine Association, limousine

owner/drivers and other stakeholder to meet and discuss driver-training needs of this sector in the near future.

- 5. Providing Input to Committee:** Should any broker, driver, training instructor or other stakeholder wish to provide any advice or input to the committee, they may contact the Commission office or the committee.

MOVED: KHEHRA/LEAHEY

#12-8-10

To accept the report as presented

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

MOVED: LUBIN/LEAHEY

#13-8-10

Withdraw previous meeting Driver Training and Testing proposed amendments.

MOVED: KHEHRA/LEAHEY

#14-8-10

The Administration require that the brokers:

- a) Notify the Administration a minimum of ten days in advance of their upcoming driver training courses and testing dates,
- b) Provide the Administration copies of their driver training materials and tests,
- c) Retain for the Commission or Administration review their driver testing results, including the copies of tests administered and the marked test sheets for each candidate, for a period of 12 months, and
- d) Advise the brokers that all matters of non-compliance will be dealt with as provided in Bylaw 14700, Sections 115 and 120.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

8. Administrative Matters

a) Vehicle for Hire Commission

1) August Services Deliverable Report

Answers provided to questions.

2) 2010 Commission Workplan

No comments

3) 2011 Budget for Commission

Can we get the uniform cost report before the Commission. Answer: Yes.

4) General Matters

- A Court of Queens Bench decision was received concerning Skyshuttle. They do not need to be licensed by the city. Phil Fearon is meeting with City Lawyers to discuss action on this matter.
- A sting operation was run on August 27 and was very successful, with 30 Violation Tickets being issued.

MOVED: FYSH/LEAHEY

#15-8-10

To accept this report for information

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

b) Edmonton Transportation

1) General Matters

No Comments

9. News Articles

None at this time.

10. General Correspondence

MOVED: FYSH/KATZ

#16-8-10

To accept the following 4 pieces of correspondence as information:

- a) August 20, 2010 letter from United Cabbies Association titled "Chaos in Cab Industry"
- b) August 27 e-mail from Tegan Williams complaining about reflective glare from mini-van advertising signs during night time driving
- c) August 30 e-mail from Debby Soldan complaining about mini-vans with distracting rear advertising and covering the vehicle license plate
- d) "A selection of Safe Practices" handout received from EPS at the August 30 Public Involvement Session.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.

CARRIED

**Request for Another Speaker Granted
Speaker Balraj Manhas:**

The Commission should have a quicker policy on approving colors, and should hear public comments before acting on a motion to approve colors.

MOVED: LEAHEY/FYSH

#17-8-10

If Airport taxi will accept the previously Commission approved color mid brown the Administration will approve the color choice and avoid the 30 day hold up.

**FOR THE MOTION:
OPPOSED:**

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh,
Katz.

CARRIED

MOVED: LEAHEY/KATZ

#18-8-10

That the meeting now go in-camera.

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz

CARRIED

11. In-Camera Items
No Items at this time.

MOVED: FYSH/KATZ

That the public meeting resume.

FOR THE MOTION:

All Carried

12. Adjournment:

MOVED: LEAHEY/FYSH

#18-8-10

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:16pm

FOR THE MOTION:

Lubin, Khehra, Leahey, Fysh, Katz.
CARRIED

The next regular Vehicle For Hire Commission meeting will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Edmonton Room at the Stanley Milner Library, Wednesday, October 13, 2010.

L.Lubin, Chairman

G.Wylde, Administrative Assistant

** Minutes Revised Oct. 6, 2010 by Phil Fearon.**

DRAFT