Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Members Present:
City Councillor G. Dhillon – Wards 9 and 10, Chair
City Councillor P. Fortini – Wards 7 and 8, Vice Chair

Broker Representatives:
Milton Bhangoo
Joe Farrugia
Avtar Grewal

Plate Owner Representatives:
Louis Gotzamanis
Amarjit Grewal
Jaswant Uppal

Driver Representatives:
Daljit Gill
Rajinder Rai
Lynn Slade

Citizen Representatives:
Ravinder Chahal
Sushil Ninawat

Accessibility Advisory Committee Representative:
Raymond Shaver

Members Absent:
Makhan Dholder, Broker Representative (regrets)
Ravinder Chahal, Citizen Representative (regrets)
Zafar Tariq, Plate Owner Representative

Staff Present:
Corporate Services:
John Avbar, Director, Enforcement and By-law Services
James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement
Earl Evans, Deputy City Clerk
Sonya Pacheco, Legislative Coordinator
The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m. and adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

   The following motion was considered.

TC008-2016 That the agenda for the Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting of April 19, 2016 be approved as printed and circulated.

   Carried

   The following delegation was received by the City Clerk’s Office after the agenda was printed and relates to Item 6.1 (Transportation Network Companies – Uber) on the published Agenda. In accordance with Procedure By-law 160-2004, as amended, Committee approval was not required to add this item:


2. **Declarations of Interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act** – nil

3. **Previous Minutes**

3.1. **Minutes – Taxicab Advisory Committee – March 29, 2016**

   The minutes were pending consideration by the Corporate Services Committee on April 20, 2016 and the recommendations were pending approval by Council on April 27, 2016. The minutes were provided for Committee’s information.

4. **Delegations/Presentations**


   Ms. Harjit Kaur Sanghera outlined her concerns regarding Uber operations, and provided her opinion that the practices of this company are illegal and unsafe. Her concerns included:
   - insufficient commercial insurance held by Uber drivers
   - public safety concerns, particularly for children riding with Uber
• criminal record searches for Uber drivers, which are not accessible by City staff
• lack of in-car surveillance cameras in Uber vehicles
• compensation and fairness to plate owners
  o Ms. Sanghera provided information regarding a proposed compensation and lease structure for Brampton taxi plates

The following motion was considered.

TC009-2016 That the delegation from Harjit Kaur Sanghera, affiliate of the Brampton Taxi Industry, to the Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting of April 19, 2016, re: Uber – Public Safety Concerns be received.

Carried

5. Reports – nil

6. Other/New Business

6.1. Discussion, re: Transportation Network Companies – Uber
  a. Enforcement
  b. Regulation
  c. Tariffs
  d. Public Safety / Customer Service
  e. Driver Training

Committee discussion took place with respect to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), including Uber, as follows:
• Status of enforcement activities relating to Uber operations
  o Staff advised that enforcement is on-going and an update on enforcement activities would be provided at a future meeting
• Indication that staff is unable to confirm whether or not Uber drivers have commercial insurance or have completed criminal record searches
• Public safety concerns relating to services provided by Uber
• Process for reporting by-law contraventions by Uber drivers and an indication from staff that such complaints are difficult to enforce
• Decision passed by the City of Mississauga’s Public Vehicle Advisory Committee to restrict Uber drivers from operating in the City
• Decisions made by the cities of Toronto and Ottawa regarding Uber operations
• Suggestion that the taxi industry and TNCs (e.g. Uber) operate under the same standards / regulations
• Opinion that the existing taxi regulations are adequate
• High operational costs for taxi drivers
• Negative impact of Uber operations on the taxi industry
• Reasons that drivers and the public choose to drive/ride with Uber (e.g. lower rates, quick service, app technology, driver rating system, ability to select a driver/vehicle, easy driver application process)
• Suggestions to:
  o improve/revise existing taxi regulations
  o improve services provided by the taxi industry in order to enhance the customer experience
  o deregulate and reduce costs to assist the taxi industry to operate more efficiently
  o increase enforcement activities
  o review the taxi tariff for possible adjustments
  o simplify the process to obtain a taxi driver license
  o require all TNC vehicles to be equipped with in-car surveillance cameras, no smoking stickers, and a sticker identifying the vehicle (as Uber)

City Councillor Dhillon, Chair, highlighted the key discussion points from Committee members for staff’s consideration in a report back to a future Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting.

6.2. Verbal Update from James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, re: Taxicab Driver Training Program.

James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, provided an update to Committee on the Taxicab Driver Training Program. Mr. Bisson provided details on the opportunity to issue conditional licenses to individuals that previously held a taxicab drivers license. He added that new (first time) applicants will continue to be required to complete the driver training courses prior to being issued a license, and highlighted the importance of these courses.

In response to questions from Committee, Mr. Bisson advised that he would determine if there is an online option to complete the driver training courses.

The following motion was considered.

TC010-2016 That the verbal update from James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, to the Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting of April 19, 2016, re: Taxicab Driver Training Program be received. Carried
6.3. Discussion, re: **Next Meeting Date / 2016 Meeting Schedule**.

Committee considered options for the next meeting date in May 2016.

The following motion was considered.

TC011-2016 That the next Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting be scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

Carried

7. **Correspondence** – nil

8. **Information Items** – nil

9. **Question Period**

1. In response to questions from City Councillor Fortini, Committee members provided information with respect to the following:
   - Average weekly earnings for taxi drivers
   - Average monthly lease costs
   - Annual licensing fees
   - Fuel costs

10. **Public Question Period**

1. In response to a question from Harjit Kaur Sanghera as to why the City cannot deem Uber operations illegal, enforce the current by-law and deal with taxi service improvements later, City Councillor Fortini advised that a Council Resolution was passed requesting Uber/TNC drivers to cease operating in Brampton.

   James Bisson, Manager, Licensing Enforcement, Corporate Services, added that staff is looking at all legal options to enforce the by-law.

11. **Adjournment**

The following motion was considered.
TC012-2016  That the Taxicab Advisory Committee do now adjourn to meet again on May 24, 2016 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

City Councillor G. Dhillon, Chair