



Corporate *NO: R026*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: February 17, 2003*

REGULAR			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	February 11, 2003
FROM:	City Solicitor	FILE:	3900-20-13610
SUBJECT:	Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No 13610		

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the proposed revisions to the Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610 attached as Appendix "A" to this report.

INTENT

The proposed changes to the Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610, as amended (the "Vehicle for Hire By-law") are to:

1. make a number of housekeeping amendments;
2. allow Class "A" taxis older than seven (7) model years if the interior furnishings and exterior appearance of the vehicle meets all the necessary requirements and conditions and is of a standard commensurate with its original condition; and
3. increase the permitted number of Class "A" taxis from 281 to 282.

DISCUSSION

In 1999, the Vehicle for Hire By-law was approved by Council. Since that time, a number of changes had been made with respect to the taxi industry. A consultation process ensued through meetings with both the owners and drivers within the industry. Some changes have been made since that time and our By-law & Licensing Section has worked with the taxi industry to ensure that the regulations meet both the needs of the public and the employees. Under the current Vehicle for Hire By-law, effective December 31, 2002, no taxicabs within the City of Surrey (the "City") will exceed seven (7) model years of age. In some cases, the industry has vehicles that exceed these guidelines and yet the vehicle, due to proper care and servicing, still remains in

excellent condition both mechanically and in appearance.

In the year 2000, the Motor Carrier Commission granted 23 additional Class "A" taxi licenses to six (6) taxi companies operating within the City. Considerable discussion ensued on the issuing of these licenses within the City with Council amending the Vehicle for Hire By-law on July 9, 2001. This amendment allowed for the issuance of 23 additional Class "A" taxi licenses in the City. Tsawwassen Taxi Ltd. requested at that time only three (3) licenses from the Motor Carrier Commission with the other companies receiving four (4) additional licenses. Tsawwassen Taxi Ltd. was subsequently granted an additional license from the Motor Carrier Commission for a total of four (4) new licenses to equal the four (4) additional licenses granted to the other companies operating within the City. It should be noted that these licenses were for handicap equipment vehicles and the additional license is also for a handicap equipped vehicle. An amendment is required to increase the permitted number of taxis from 281 to 282 to facilitate the licensing of this additional Class "A" taxi within the City.

The issue of transferring a vehicle for hire plate from the old vehicle to the new replacement vehicle has been addressed with the transfer costs eliminated. By-law & Licensing are presently dealing with the administrative procedures as they relate to fees for the criminal record check on the yearly renewal of chauffeur's permits.

CONCLUSION

The proposed by-law amendments will address these inequities within the Vehicle for Hire By-law, make allowances for those vehicles that are the exception to the seven (7) year regulation and allow for the increase of one additional Class "A" taxi (handicap equipped vehicle). It is recommended that Council approve the amendments to the Vehicle for Hire By-law.

CRAIG MacFARLANE

City Solicitor

CM:mlg

JS/ln

Encl. - Appendix "A"

c.c. John Sherstone - Manager, By-laws & Licensing Services

U:\LEGALSRV\LEGAL\CORP_REP\2002\12180813

MLG-2/19/03 9:32 AM

CITY OF SURREY

BY-LAW NO. 14824

A by-law to amend the provisions of "City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610" as amended.

.....

The Council of the City of Surrey, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. "City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610" as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

- (a) Part 2 - Licensing is amended in Section 6 "Number of Licenses" by deleting the number "281" and inserting the number "282" in its place.
- (b) Part 2 - Licensing is amended in Section 10 by deleting the word "grated" from the second sentence and inserting the word "granted".
- (c) Part 2 - Licensing is amended in Section 13 by deleting the word "designation" and inserting the word "destination".
- (d) Part 2 - Licensing is amended in Section 14(b) by deleting the words "Subsection (2)" and inserting the words "Subsection (a)".
- (e) Part 2 - Licensing is amended in Section 14(d) as follows:
 - (i) Delete the words "Subsection (2)" and insert the words "Subsection (a)"; and
 - (ii) Delete the word "Vancouver" and insert the words "the City of Surrey".
- (f) Part 8 - General Provisions is amended by deleting Section 58 in its entirety and replacing it with a new Section 58 as follows:

"58. No taxicab shall be eligible for licensing in the City of Surrey after December 31, 2002 if the vehicle exceeds even (7) model years of age, except that the Inspector may approve a license in respect of an older vehicle for a limited period of time specified in the license where the exterior appearance of the vehicle and the condition of its interior furnishings are of a standard commensurate with its original condition and where the vehicle is otherwise in compliance with the requirements of this By-law."

2. This By-law shall be cited for all purposes as "City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610, Amendment By-law, 2003, No. 14824".

PASSED THREE READINGS on the ____ day of _____, 2003.

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed with the Corporate Seal on the ____ day of _____, 2003.

_____MAYOR

_____CLERK

