

T.T.B.A

T O R O N T O T A X I C A B B R O K E R A G E A S S O C I A T I O N

6 September 2007

Dear Committee Member,

I am writing you as President of the Toronto Taxicab Alliance, an industry stakeholder group representing the majority of Toronto licensed plate owners, fleet operators and major taxicab brokerages.

We strongly support council's position with removing the Toronto point of pick up airport exemption for GTAA licensed vehicles. For almost thirty years GTAA taxicabs and limousines not licensed in the City of Toronto have been able to siphon business away from Toronto licensed vehicles because of the specific point of pick up exemption under the old Municipal Act.

There are close to 5000 licensed taxicabs and 600 licensed limousines in Toronto with nearly 11,000 licensed drivers. The City of Toronto's Municipal Code 545, has established the highest training standards and stringent vehicle standards in Canada. The Toronto taxicab industry pays to the city over \$7.5 million dollars in license renewals annually.

When a Toronto taxicab drops off a customer at the airport we do not have the licensing privileges to pick up at the airport with the case exception of paying \$10.00 to the GTAA for a pre-arranged pickup trip. The GTAA generates more than 5 million dollars annually on these "pre-arranged pick-up fees." Reciprocity pick up rights are not provided to Toronto licensed taxicabs in any surrounding municipality and reciprocal pick up privileges in Toronto should not be granted to GTAA licensed vehicles.

GTAA vehicles' flat rate pricing to the airport are lower in many cases than Toronto licensed taxicabs which must use Toronto Council approved Taxicab Tariff "A". This provides an environment for downtown hotels to steer customers away from properly licensed Toronto taxicabs to these GTAA licensees who are exempt from Toronto By-laws and rate structure. The TTA requests the Committee to adopt the Staff report recommendation allowing Toronto licensed taxicabs to mirror the GTAA flat rate fare structure.

The TTA implores you to stay the course in the removal of the pick up exemption for GTAA vehicles and to start enforcement of the current By-Laws with GTAA vehicles not licensed by the City of Toronto which do not meet Toronto licensing requirements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Bell
President
Toronto Taxicab Alliance
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