

# MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2008  
TO: Chair and Members of the ML&S Committee  
RE: TAXI OWNERS' – PLATE LEASES

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I'm writing to request that we take swift action on a growing phenomenon that has been occurring in the taxi industry.

Many drivers lease their plates at rates that are unregulated by the Commission. Because there is a shortage of standard plates, it is not uncommon for them to pay as much as \$1,500 per month. The driver who leases a plate must buy a vehicle to attach to the plate because, under our bylaw, the owner of the plate has to own the vehicle. Drivers have transferred the ownership of the vehicle to the owner of the plate for the purposes of licensing.

The owner of the plate has the unrestricted right to pull the plate at any time without constraint. This means that drivers are at the mercy of the owner, some of whom pull the plates without notice because someone offers them \$100 more, or because they have a vehicle which they could sell to the owner of a new lease at an inflated price.

The City has a policy that unless the vehicle is attached to a new plate within 45 days, it can no longer be used as a taxi. The vehicle itself has no value and therefore the drivers are completely at the mercy of the plate owners.

We have to move quickly to correct this growing injustice.

There are a number of options:

1. We can amend the vehicle policy to require a lease to remain in place for the life of the vehicle;
2. We could extend the 45 days to give the owner of the vehicle more time to find a new plate to attach to the vehicle;
3. We can, under the new City of Toronto Act, more closely regulate the relationship between the owner and the lessee.

This matter is time sensitive and I would request that staff report on the matter to the next ML& S Committee meeting with the view to bringing forward appropriate recommendations.

In the interim, I would move that 45 day limit be extended for those vehicles presently caught in this dilemma until such time as staff has reported and the Committee has resolved this difficulty.

Thank you.

HOWARD MOSCOE  
Chair/ML& S Committee  
Ids/Licensing Committee/Taxi Plate Leasing

C: Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong  
Bruce Robertson  
Richard Mucha  
Frank Weinstock  
Albert Cohen  
All Members of the ML& S Committee