

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

From: Howard Moscoe

To: The Chair and Members of the Licencing and Standards  
Committee

Re: Protecting the Public: Insurance Rates

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Insurance rates are strangling the taxi industry. Few if any insurance companies are willing to insure taxis and when they do the premiums are astoundingly high. Recently insurance companies have refused to insure beginning drivers.

Part of the reason for high insurance rates is the heavy accident rate in the taxi industry. It has been estimated that on the average one in every two taxis is involved in an accident in any one year.

The City of Toronto has a responsibility to protect the taxi riding public. We can act to reduce insurance and accident rates by weeding out bad drivers. When a driver's licence is first issued the applicant must provide both a police check and a driving abstract. From that time on he/she is never asked again.

We have a complicated threshold system that can result in a driver's record being reviewed by the tribunal but it is hit and miss and dependant on the issuance of traffic tickets.

The system used by the Town of Markham is more comprehensive and efficient. Every time a taxi driver

renews a licence he/she must provide both a police check and a driving abstract. The licencing officials, dependant on the driving abstract, can issue licences for shorter periods of time, (say six months) and renewal will be dependant on the driving record.

We owe it to the taxi riding public to ensure that the taxi they take is driven by a safe driver and we have a responsibility to good taxi drivers to reduce insurance rates by weeding out the bad taxi drivers.

### Recommendation

That this matter be forwarded to staff for a future report to the Committee no later than September 2009 and if bylaw amendments are being recommended the meeting be scheduled as a public hearing.