



*City Councillor – Ward 17 • Davenport*

May 9th, 2011

To: Licensing & Standards Committee Members

From: Councillor Cesar Palacio (Chair)

Re: **Comprehensive Reform of the City's Taxi Licensing System**

The time has come for comprehensive reform of the City's taxi licensing system.

In order to ensure that we bring forward a fair and equitable plan, I believe that we must first conduct extensive consultations and get the widest possible input from all the experts and those that will most directly be affected by these reforms.

Taxi drivers, Ambassador owners, standard plate owners, and passengers alike, all have a vested interest in the industry and must have their say to ensure that any action taken will be for the good of everyone within the industry.

The difficulties facing the industry are deeply rooted and will require innovative and effective solutions. The introduction of the Ambassador program in 1998 created a rift and the current two-tier taxi system which pits one group against the other and is one of the most pressing issues that needs to be addressed if we are to move forward in any meaningful way.

However, there are many important interests in the taxi industry that must be properly and formally consulted as part of any significant reform. Therefore I am moving the following recommendation:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards report to the September meeting of Municipal Licensing and Standards Committee with a proposed scope and format for public and stakeholder consultation in relation to comprehensive reform of the City's taxi licensing system.

Yours truly,

Cesar Palacio  
Councillor, Ward 17 – Davenport