



June 24, 2019

Dear Chair and General Government and Licensing Committee Members,

Re: Review of the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 546, Licensing of Vehicles-for-Hire

Through the review of the Vehicle-for-Hire Bylaw, we have the ability to bring about much needed changes for Uber, Lyft and other ridesharing services. In the last few years, we have seen a number of tragic accidents that may have been prevented if we had had stronger safety and training regulations.

I am very glad to see that City staff are recommending improved safety measures - including having drivers that work for ride-sharing companies undergo mandatory safety training that would cover topics including safe driving, sharing the road with cyclists and transit vehicles, serving customers with disabilities, and anti-racism sensitivity.

We need to ensure that these training requirements are as strong as possible and that as a City we are tracking the impacts of the increased use of app-based ridesharing.

It is also critical that we bring in strong low-emissions vehicle requirements for taxicabs and the broader vehicle-for-hire industry. Although these vehicles make up a relatively small portion of the total vehicle stock in Toronto, they are each driven up to 10 times more kilometres/year compared to a personal vehicle. In short, vehicles-for-hire account for a large and growing share of traffic-related carbon emissions and air pollution.

Other jurisdictions such as New York City, Chicago and Montreal have mandated some of the changes proposed above, and this is Toronto's opportunity to do the same.

Recommendations:

That staff report directly to City Council on:

1. Recommendations for implementing required third party safety training that includes in-class and in-car training.
2. Regulations that would require vehicle fuel efficiency standards for all vehicles-for-hire, and would encourage the phased-in use of hybrid vehicles and fully electric vehicles

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3. Options for a strategy to reduce congestion through potential caps on the number of vehicle-for-hire licenses.
 4. Specific requirements for mobile device holders in vehicles that ensure that they are mounted securely.
 5. Requirement for stickers cautioning passengers to watch for cyclists when opening doors.

Thank you,



Councillor Mike Layton
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