

November 29, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the General Government and Licensing Committee,

Re: GL27.19 Update on Outstanding Vehicle for Hire Directives

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 that will improve public safety and the industry's environmental impact.

Now is a key moment to review how our regulations for vehicles for hire can be linked to our climate action plan that will be voted on at the same council meeting this December.

We must be ambitious with our targets and goals. Change has needed to occur for years and the City of Toronto has been slow to implement the needed improvements to support environmentally friendly infrastructure. The proposed recommendations are a step in the right direction, but we must be bolder and make industry act.

We should not need to spend another year studying baseline estimates since we already have baseline emissions estimates for the industry. Instead we should set a goal of Net Zero for 2030 and our policy working group, including The Atmospheric Fund, Environment and Energy Division, Municipal Licensing and Standards and industry stakeholders can be tasked to develop policy and program recommendations to make this a reality.

The major ride hailing companies have already stated that 2030 is a target for Net Zero emissions. We need Toronto to take strong action to make sure this promise becomes a reality, and that it is implemented in an equitable way, that supports drivers to make the transition, while holding the industry accountable.

I would therefore like to suggest the following amendments to the item recommendations as shared below.

2. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, in consultation with the Director, Environment and Energy and The Atmospheric Fund, to establish a Vehicle-for-Hire group, under the already established Electric Vehicle Working Group, that brings relevant stakeholders together to develop a strategy to accelerate emissions reductions and electrification of the vehicle-for-hire industry, including considerations for equity and potential implementation challenges for any proposed advice. The results of this work shall be considered

by the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards as an input to the development of any requirements or programs that seek to reduce emissions in the Vehicle-for-Hire industry.

3. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to set a goal of Net Zero for 2030 for vehicles for hire, and to align the plans for vehicle electrification and emissions reduction to achieve this goal
4. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to report back in the First Quarter 2023 on recommended bylaw updates and complementary programs to achieve the vehicle electrification and emissions reductions targets for the vehicle-for-hire industry, including outcomes of the proposed Vehicle-for-Hire group under the Electric Vehicle Working Group, and results of the third-party vehicle-for-hire emissions study, with implementation beginning by the end of 2023.

Thank you,



Councillor Mike Layton
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