



City Councillor – Ward 17 • Davenport

March 18, 2013

TO: LICENSING AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RE: REQUEST TO REVISIT TAXI CAB SAFETY ISSUES

SUMMARY:

The City is responsible for implementing good public policy that serves the interests of all its citizens. Our main purpose in regulating the Taxi Industry is to ensure that consumers are protected, and further that they enjoy a clean, safe, courteous and dependable ride at a reasonable price.

It is incumbent upon us, as the regulator, to act quickly when issues potentially impacting safety are brought to light. Recent media reports of taxi drivers having their licences renewed after having committed serious offences needs to be investigated and a review of the oversight process needs to be conducted.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, in consultation with the City Solicitor, report to a future Licensing and Standards Committee meeting on:

1. The process, guidelines and criteria that staff use to report to the Toronto Licensing Tribunal and any changes that will improve consumer protection; the health, safety and well-being of passengers and the general public; and the economic, social and environmental well-being of the City.
2. A review of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, Appendix K, Business Licence Thresholds, and any changes that will improve consumer protection; the health, safety and well-being of passengers and the general public; and the economic, social and environmental well-being of the City.
3. The screening requirements, protocols, or guidelines in place to ensure the health and safety of the riding public; include a review of the requirement for more frequent (such as 2 years) Police background checks when Taxi Cab Drivers renew their licence.
4. The roles and responsibilities of City Council, The Licensing Tribunal and City Staff in reviewing applications for licences or licence holders where criminal convictions are involved.

It is my understanding that this process is already being updated to reflect better practices. Therefore, I am requesting that the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards Division give priority to this item and that the report be brought forward to a future meeting of the Licensing and Standards Committee.

Regards,



Councillor Cesar Palacio
Davenport- Ward 17