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Associated Toronto Taxi-Cab Co-operative Limited
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March 7, 2013

To: The Chair and Committee Members
Licensing and Standards Committee

From: Associated Toronto Taxi-Cab Co-operative Limited (Co-op Cabs)

Re: Taxicab Driver/Owner Licensing Requirements

Recent Toronto Star editorials have highlighted major deficiencies in the current process for renewing taxicab drivers' licences in the City of Toronto. The editorials cite that many taxicab driver licences are renewed by individuals with criminal and Highway Traffic Act (H.T.A.) convictions ranging from assault, sexual assault, uttering threats, dangerous and/or impaired driving.

Public knowledge that a number of drivers are actually operating a taxicab having criminal and H.T.A. convictions certainly does not instill consumer confidence in either the taxicab industry or the City's ability to licence in the "interest of public safety".

At Co-op Cabs, public safety is of utmost importance and as such, all drivers' applying to drive at the company must first provide a criminal records check and an abstract of their driving records. To be eligible to continue work with Co-op Cabs, each individual is required to submit the records on an annual basis, thereafter.

To assist in restoring the public's image and consumer confidence of Toronto's taxicab industry, it is recommended the Licensing and Standards Committee give consideration to amending the City of Toronto's Municipal Code Chapter 545, with respect to the requirements for the annual renewal of taxicab driver and owner licenses as follows:

- any applicant wishing to renew their taxicab driver's license shall, prior to the annual license renewal date, submit to Municipal Licensing and Standards a current record, not older than 30 days from the date of issuance, of both the criminals record check and the abstract of drivers record.
- any taxicab owner, who drives their own taxicab, shall, prior to the annual license renewal date; submit to Municipal Licensing and Standards a current record, not older than 30 days from the date of issuance, of both the criminal records check and an abstract of their drivers record.



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It is further recommended:

- the Licensing and Standards Committee request staff to explore and report on the feasibility of including an on-road defensive driving component to the existing taxicab driver training courses currently being offered by Municipal Licensing and Standards at its 1530 Markham Road training facility.

With the implementation of the above recommendations the City of Toronto can address the concerns that the public may have regarding their safety when using taxicabs in the city.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Zahakos
General Manager
Co-op Cabs