



STAFF REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Update on the Implementation and Enforcement Related to the Ground Transportation Review

Date:	November 2, 2015
To:	City Council
From:	Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster B\MLS\CC15021

SUMMARY

On October 22, 2015, Licensing and Standards Committee requested the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to provide an update to City Council on the implementation and enforcement of City Council directions with respect to Item LS6.1: Ground Transportation Review: Taxis, Limos, and Uber.

ML&S staff are actively conducting investigations pursuant to offences related to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, as amended. As these actions are currently underway, specifics related to the manner in which these activities are being undertaken, will not be disclosed, so as to not jeopardize the investigative process and future prosecutions.

The City is engaged in ongoing communications with representatives from Uber Canada regarding the taxicab broker application process and their continued non-compliance with Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing.

The City is continuing to exercise its enforcement tools as authorized in the Toronto Municipal Code and the *City of Toronto Act*, as appropriate.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its September 30, 2015 meeting, City Council approved changes to the regulations governing Toronto's ground transportation industry, specifically taxicabs and limousines. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.LS6.1>

October 22, 2015, Licensing and Standards Committee directed the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to update City Council on the implementation and enforcement of City Council directions with respect to Item LS6.1: 2015 - Ground Transportation Review: Taxis, Limos, and Uber. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.LS7.7>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its September 30, 2015 meeting, City Council approved changes to the regulations governing Toronto's ground transportation industry, specifically taxicabs and limousines. These changes included updating the definitions of a taxicab brokerage and limousine service company in the Licensing By-law to reflect new dispatch technologies used by companies such as Uber.

On October 22, 2015, Licensing and Standards Committee requested the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to provide an update to City Council on the implementation and enforcement of City Council directions with respect to Item LS6.1: Ground Transportation Review: Taxis, Limos, and Uber.

COMMENTS

Implementation

Since the enactment of the by-law amendments, the City has engaged in ongoing communications with representatives from Uber Canada regarding the taxicab broker application process.

City staff met with Uber representatives on October 14, 2015. At that time, Uber was advised of the changes to the by-law, the requirement for Uber to become licensed to continue taxi brokerage service, and to cease the operations of UberX. Uber was advised that if they did not comply by October 19, 2015, that the City would undertake necessary enforcement action.

Enforcement

ML&S staff are actively conducting investigations pursuant to offences related to Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, as amended. As these actions are

currently underway, specifics related to the manner in which these activities are being undertaken, will not be disclosed, so as to not jeopardize the investigative process and future prosecutions.

As a result of earlier enforcement efforts, 102 UberX drivers have been charged 204 times collectively. These charges are working their way through the Provincial Courts.

The City has also posted a statement on its website outlining the public safety concerns regarding the operation of UberX. As well, ML&S has made statements in response to media inquiries that could inform the public regarding their risks as either a driver or a passenger.

Review

ML&S staff are developing the work plan for the Ground Transportation Review, a component of which will include stakeholder engagement with each of the Taxi and Limousine industries, and other technology based brokerages such as Uber and Lyft.

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SIGNATURE

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