



Wednesday January 21, 2015

Chair Cesar Palacio
Members of the Licensing and Standards Committee:

Motion Re: Standard Taxi Licence Rights

BACKGROUND:

The City of Toronto's taxi licensing system is unstable and uncertain because City Council recently took actions that modified the regulatory framework of the industry, using an abbreviated approval process. Furthermore, the Council decision of February 19, 2014, had the effect of violating a fundamental notion of entrenched rights, bringing more turmoil to the industry.

Historically, pre-existing rights or licences with specific attributes have received protection under new legislation or regulations. Council's decision in February 2014 stripped standard taxi licences of that protection.

It is imperative that this fundamental right be protected if the industry is to succeed in embracing new technology and more effective operations. Any changes to the licensing structure of the industry must assess the economic viability and sustainability of the industry as well as provide for a reasonable and equitable phased implementation of initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to report back to the Committee at its March 24, 2015, meeting on the feasibility of reinstating the Toronto taxi licensing regulations for standard plate licences that existed prior to February 19, 2014.

Sincerely,



Councillor Frank Di Giorgio
Ward 12, York South – Weston

Cc: Councillor Cesar Palacio, Chair, Licensing and Standards Committee