



John Tory
Mayor

December 29, 2015

Councillor Gary Crawford
Budget Chair
100 Queen Street West, Suite A11
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Crawford:

It has come to my attention that pursuant to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 441, Fees and Charges and in accordance with the City's User Fee Policy, there are automatic annual inflationary fee increases, including those for the renewal of taxicab driver and owner licenses. I understand that notification of these fee increases were issued back in late November and early December of 2015 for license renewals in January 2016. I understand the taxi industry receives the same notice as all other license holders, and the increases are based upon the rate of inflation every year.

As you know, the taxi industry presently finds itself in a particularly unique and challenging position for two reasons. First, technology has brought new types of competition, and second, in direct response to these challenges the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards Tracey Cook, at the request of City Council, is presently developing new regulations to allow for a more viable and equitable competitive environment for taxis. Those regulations are expected to be before us this winter, and it would be my expectation that they will likely include alterations to those very same fees for cab drivers and owners.

In light of the challenges facing taxi drivers and owners and in contemplation of these likely fee changes, I am writing to request that you, through Budget Committee, recommend to City Council that these fees remain at 2015 levels until the new regulations are presented. This will offer some modest relief to those paying the fees early in the new year and will reduce amounts needed to be refunded if, for example, the fees in question are in fact reduced under the new rules. I believe such a freeze is fair, sensible and at least allows for Ms. Cook's work and the budget process both to be completed.

.../2

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Tory", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

- c. Peter Wallace, City Manager, City of Toronto
- John Livey, Deputy City Manager, City of Toronto
- Rob Rossini, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, City of Toronto
- Tracey Cook, Executive Director, Municipal and Licensing Standards, City of Toronto