



December 16, 2021

Via Email

[councilmeeting@toronto.ca](mailto:councilmeeting@toronto.ca)

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors:

**RE: *GL27.19 - Update on Outstanding Vehicle-for-Hire Directives***

We at UFCW Canada fully recognize that we are sending this letter past normal deadlines, but, given the increased calls into our office, we felt we should put the information before you for in the consideration of *GL27.19 - Update on Outstanding Vehicle-for-Hire Directives*.

You may recall that UFCW Canada had called for and continues to support a Driver Training Accreditation Program and an overall cap on Vehicle-for-Hire Driver licenses. While we are glad to see that implementation of the Driver Training program seems to be progressing, we are also concerned that the pause in issuing new licenses until such a training program is in place is causing hardship to potential drivers and the market for their services.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has seen the decline in the number of drivers by almost 50% in the private transportation companies, such as Uber, Lyft and Facedrive. The pause in issuing of licenses is making it impossible to reverse this driver decline, and these are the very calls we have been receiving from both our own members at Uber Black and others wanting to become For-Hire drivers in the city of Toronto.

Knowing that the pause on licensing is related to the training implementation, we ask you consider the following two items during your discussion on *GL27.19*.

1. Implement the training programs immediately; thereby lifting the pause on licensing.
2. Should the training programs require more time, consider allowing for some licensing to be issued immediately. Recognizing the Council would likely need to do so for PTCs, Taxis and Limousines, UFCW Canada would ask for immediate consideration of additional licenses.

There is increasing demand for PTC, Taxi and Limousines services from commuters and companies following enhanced Covid-19 protocols to keep workplaces fully functioning during the pandemic. We believe this demand will also increase with added construction in downtown Toronto next year. We thank you for your consideration on the matter. Please contact Mark Hennessy, in my office, at [mark.hennessy@ufcw.ca](mailto:mark.hennessy@ufcw.ca), should you have any questions or require more information.

Sincerely,

Paul Meinema,  
National President

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