

## MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Toronto General Government and Licensing Committee

SUBJECT: GL32.29 - Extending the Vehicle Age Limit for Accessible Taxicabs

DATE: June 29, 2022

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Uber Canada welcomes the opportunity to comment on *GL32.29* which takes a sensible and pragmatic approach to an issue facing owners and operators of wheelchair-accessible taxicabs. **Uber Canada is supportive of the staff recommendation and urges Committee members to move this recommendation forward to Council for swift approval.**

This staff report recognizes the challenges that the entire accessible Vehicle for Hire industry is facing with respect to the vehicle supply chain. We can say for certain that the issues raised in this report mirror the experience that Uber Canada has been hearing from several drivers about the difficulties acquiring new Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV).

As part of Uber Canada's ongoing commitment towards equitable service, Uber Canada remains pleased to make WAV service available throughout the City of Toronto in the rides app. Uber's affiliated WAV drivers continue to come to the Uber WAV platform primarily from two sources: drivers can bring their own qualified WAV, including a WAV taxi, or obtain a WAV through a leasing provider such as Jim Peplinski Leasing. We continue to ensure that affiliated WAV drivers have completed the requisite WAV-specific training.

If this report is approved as is by Council, this policy intervention will help WAV drivers stay on the road and provide an important service to the community. This is critical as the City re-emerges from the pandemic and demand picks up again.

As an important next step outlined in the report, Staff rightfully remain committed to continued engagement about accessibility-related improvements. Uber Canada renews its commitment to be a constructive part of these discussions. We look forward to working with community members and industry stakeholders to ensure the City is continuing to meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration and please let us know if you have any questions.

Jake Brockman  
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Uber Canada