

NO: R020

COUNCIL DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2015

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **January 29, 2015**

FROM: **City Solicitor**

FILE: **4320-60**

XC: **3900-20-13610**

SUBJECT: **Increase of Taxi Licenses**

RECOMMENDATION

The Legal Services Division recommends that Council:

- 1 That Council adopt the amendments to the City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610 which would authorize the one time increase in taxicab licenses from 282 to 305 based on the approval of the licenses by the Passenger Transportation Board ("PTB");
- 2 Approve an amendment to the City of Surrey Vehicle For Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610, as documented in Appendix "I" of this report;
- 3 Authorize the City Clerk to bring forward the related by-law amendment as described in this report for the required readings and adoption.

INTENT

The intent of this report is to introduce amendments to City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law that if approved, will facilitate future increases to taxicab licenses.

DISCUSSION

In 1999, the Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610, was approved by Council. Since that time, a number of changes have been made with respect to the taxi industry. A consultation process was developed through meetings with the owners within the industry. There have been some changes since that time and our By-Law and Licensing Section has worked with the taxi industry to ensure that the regulations have met both the needs of the public and the owners of the taxi industry.

Under the current Vehicle for Hire By-law, the number of vehicles which may be licensed by the City of Surrey for use as a Class "A" Taxicab is limited to 282, and may only be increased by an application to Council from the taxi industry within the guidelines of the Passenger Transportation Board, and any such increase in license plates shall be offered to public bids from the taxi industry, provided that a Motor Carrier License is held by the bidder.

The Passenger Transportation Board has recently approved 23 additional licenses for 4 taxi companies operating in Surrey, those companies have requested an increase to their Class "A" taxicab licenses from the City of Surrey.

Currently the By-Law and Licensing and Transportation Division receive the Notice of Intent for an increase to the number of taxicabs after it has been reviewed by the Passenger Transportation Board. The City must respond with any recommendations to the Passenger Transportation Board within 30 days.

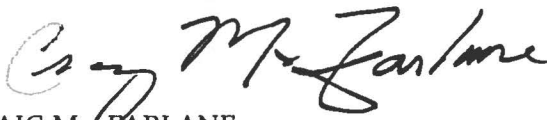
Staff are currently in consultation with the taxi industry to develop a new recommended streamlined process to address future taxi license increases. The new approval framework will require taxicab companies to submit the Notice of Intent for an increase to the number of taxicabs to By-Law and Licensing and Transportation Division prior to being submitted to the Passenger Transportation Board. This will provide staff the opportunity to review the Notice of Intent and consult with the taxi industry on their application. Any recommendations from the City will then be submitted at the same time with the Notice of Intent to the Passenger Transportation Board.

This will provide the Passenger Transportation Board the opportunity to have all of the information at the time of the submissions thus reducing the processing timelines.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, the Legal Services Division recommends that Council:

- That Council adopt the amendments to the City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610 which would authorize the one time increase in taxicab licenses from 282 to 305 based on the approval of the licenses by the Passenger Transportation Board ("PTB");
- Approve an amendment to the City of Surrey Vehicle For Hire By-law, 1999. No. 13610, as documented in Appendix "I" of this report;
- Authorize the City Clerk to bring forward the related by-law amendment as described in this report for the required readings and adoption.



CRAIG MacFARLANE
City Solicitor
JR/nj

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cc: Manager, By-law Enforcement & Licensing Services

Appendix "I" – Proposed Amendment to City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No. 13610

APPENDIX "I"
City of Surrey
By-Law No. 13610

A by-law to amend the provisions of "City of Surrey
Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No.13610" as amended
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The Council of the City of Surrey, in open meeting assembled, Enacts as follows:

1. City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No.13610 as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:
 - a) Part 2- Licensing is amended in Section 6 "Number of Licenses" by deleting the number "282" and inserting the number "305" in its place.
2. This By-law shall be cited for all purposes as the "City of Surrey Vehicle for Hire By-law, 1999, No.13610, Amendment By-law, 2015, No. _____".

PASSED FIRST READING on the ____ day of _____, 2015.

PASSED SECOND READING on the ____ day of _____, 2015.

PASSED THIRD READING on the ____ day of _____, 2015.

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed with the Corporate Seal on the ____ day of _____, 2015.

_____ MAYOR

_____ CLERK