

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

AD HOC TAXICAB REVIEW COMMITTEE

His Worship, the Mayor
and Members of Council

REPORT OF THE AD HOC TAXICAB REVIEW COMMITTEE

Re: Delegation on 1989 May 01 of Ms. Kathy Strenja

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

Council on 1989 May 01 asked the Ad Hoc Taxicab Review Committee to respond to the issues raised by Ms. Kathy Strenja's delegation to Council.

The two issues raised by the delegation were:

1. Alleged criminal behaviour in and around the Bonny's Taxi dispatch office; and
2. Possible biasing of Municipal Taxi Survey results.

The Committee has reviewed these issues and reports as follows:

1. Alleged Criminal Behaviour

This issue is beyond the mandate of the Committee and clearly falls within the jurisdiction of the R.C.M.P.

The Burnaby R.C.M.P. advise that the incidents noted by the delegation had been reported to, investigated by, and dealt with accordingly through the R.C.M.P.

The R.C.M.P. further advise that none of these incidents involved passengers or "clients".

The Committee is satisfied that the R.C.M.P. has and is continuing to take every possible action to ensure public safety.

2. Possible Bias of Municipal Survey

Staff report that they were aware that Bonny's Taxi had made copies of the Municipal Survey. Mr. Barr Turner, General Manager of Bonny's Taxi, informed staff that he would have his customers fill them in and send them directly to the municipality. In addition, Mr. Douglas Oldham, Owner/Manager of Burnaby Select Taxi Ltd., placed his own survey in the Burnaby Now newspaper.

The survey copies circulated by Mr. Turner were reductions of the Municipal Survey. Mr. Oldham's survey was a close reproduction of the Municipal Survey.

Staff advised Mr. Turner and Mr. Oldham that while we were interested in input from their customers, we would not be including the results of the surveys they circulated in our "official" analysis and report to Council. As a result, the biased surveys were not included in the municipal analysis.

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

: - AGENDA 1989 MAY 15
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- DIRECTOR FINANCE

In addition, the public survey results were not the primary basis for staff recommending the increase in the number of taxicab licences. Staff also considered:

- the survey of owners and drivers
- interviews with providers of taxicab service
- discussions with other G.V.R.D. regulators
- results of the regional review
- result of Burnaby municipal taxicab inspections
- survey of other Canadian and American regulators

Subsequent to Ms. Strenja's delegation, Hean Wyle & Company, Solicitors for Bonny's Taxi Ltd., submitted a letter to Council on 1989 May 08 stating that:

"No one at Bonny's Taxi Ltd., on the instructions of Mr. Turner or anyone else, has ever falsified or provided false signatures to survey forms provided by the Municipality of Burnaby, or any other survey forms."

Attached to the letter were statutory declarations of Mr. Turner, of members of the Board of Directors of Bonny's Taxi Ltd, and of the office employees of Bonny's Taxi Ltd., in support of these statements.

As reported to Council on 1989 April 24, the Committee recognized that the issuance of licences on a pro rata basis was a short term solution to meet the immediate needs of the community for service. The Committee will be developing a process for the future issuance of taxicab licences as part of Phase 2 of the review.

In conclusion, the Committee is satisfied that the number and distribution of licences, approved by Council on 1989 April 24, remains valid.

Respectfully submitted,

Ald. Joan Sawicki
CHAIRMAN

Ald. F.G. Randall
MEMBER

Ald. J. Young
MEMBER