

REPORTS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
1989 OCTOBER 30

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1989 October 26

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY

AD HOC TAXICAB REVIEW COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND ALDERMEN

REPORT OF THE AD HOC TAXICAB REVIEW COMMITTEE

RE: PHASE II STATUS REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes; and
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Bonny's Taxi Ltd. and Burnaby Select Taxi Ltd.

SUMMARY

Council, on 1989 April 24, approved an additional nineteen Class "A" (regular) and six wheelchair accessible taxicab licences.

To date, seventeen of the nineteen Class "A" and two of the wheelchair accessible licences have been issued. Staff are monitoring the progress of the remaining four wheelchair accessible licences to ensure the need for these taxicabs is met as soon as possible.

Since reporting to Council in 1989 April, the Committee has watched very closely the activities of both Burnaby based taxicab companies as well as companies from surrounding communities who are licenced by the Motor Carrier Commission to operate in Burnaby.

The Committee believes there has been an improvement in response times and in the overall quality of service provided by the Burnaby based companies. In this regard, the issuance of the additional licences has met the immediate needs of the community for service.

The Committee is continuing to work with staff on Phase 2 of the Taxicab Review dealing with:

1. the development of a process for the future issuance of licences,
2. the quality of taxicab service, and
3. the expansion of local taxicab business, which includes reviewing the role of non-Burnaby based taxicabs originating trips in Burnaby.

The Committee will keep Council informed by presenting periodic progress reports.

REPORT

A. INTRODUCTION

Council on 1989 April 24 approved the Taxicab Review Committee's recommendation to amend the Burnaby Cab and Commercial Vehicle Bylaw to provide for an additional nineteen Class "A" (regular) taxicabs and six wheelchair accessible taxicabs. At that time, Council also approved the distribution of the new licences to the two Burnaby based taxicab companies (eighteen Class "A" and five wheelchair accessible licences to Bonny's Taxi Ltd. and one Class "A" and one wheelchair accessible licence to Burnaby Select Taxi Ltd.).

In the 1989 April report, the Committee advised Council that the review had been divided into the following two phases:

Phase 1: To address the immediate need for additional taxicab licences and to provide wheelchair accessible taxicabs.

Phase 2: To develop a process for the future issuance of licences, to improve the quality of taxicab service and to encourage the development and expansion of the local taxicab business.

The Committee also advised Council that periodic progress reports would be brought forward to keep Council informed. This is the first such progress report.

B. STATUS OF THE 25 LICENCES APPROVED IN 1989 APRIL

1. CLASS "A" (Regular) Licences

To date, seventeen of the nineteen additional regular taxicab licences approved by Council have been issued. The issuance of each licence required that the taxicab pass the Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Highways Commercial Vehicle mechanical inspection and display a valid commercial vehicle decal before being meter tested and inspected by the municipal-ity. All of the new taxicabs have been granted Motor Carrier Commission licences giving them the ability to deliver to or pick up from other communities in the region. None of the new taxicabs has been granted airport operating rights by Transport Canada.

2. Wheelchair Accessible Taxicabs

To date, two of the six wheelchair accessible taxicab licences approved by Council have been issued. Both have been issued to Bonny's Taxi Ltd. for passenger vans with windows all around.

Bonny's Taxi Ltd. advises that a third wheelchair accessible vehicle has been ordered and is expected to be in service by the end of 1989 November. They also advise that Bonny's Taxi Ltd. will order the remaining two wheelchair accessible taxicabs once the third vehicle is in service. They anticipate these cabs coming into service early in 1990.

Burnaby Select Taxi Ltd. advises that while the cost of purchasing a wheelchair accessible vehicle is prohibitive for a company of their size, they are optimistically hoping to bring one into service by 1989 Christmas.

C. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL TAXICAB LICENCES

Since reporting to Council in 1989 April, the Committee has watched very closely the activities of both Burnaby based taxicab companies as well as companies from surrounding communities who are licensed by the Motor Carrier Commission to operate in Burnaby.

The Committee believes there has been an improvement in response times and in the overall quality of service provided by Burnaby based companies. In this regard, the issuance of the additional licences has met the immediate needs of the community for regular taxicab service.

The Committee is concerned about the delays in providing the wheelchair accessible taxicabs. While it would appear that the critical needs of the community are being met by the two vehicles presently in service, it remains a priority to ensure that all of the needs for this service are met.

The Committee recognizes the difficulties associated with obtaining wheelchair accessible vehicles and is supportive of the efforts by Burnaby's taxicab companies to bring appropriate vehicles into service.

The Committee will continue to monitor the situation as additional wheelchair accessible taxicabs come into service. The Committee feels that once the six wheelchair accessible taxicabs approved by Council are in service, the immediate needs of the community for such service will have been met.

In terms of Class "A" taxicab licences, the Committee believes the number of existing licences is adequate to meet the current demands of the community. Burnaby Select Taxi Ltd. has continued to request additional licences. Similar interest has been shown by companies based in neighbouring communities. The Committee acknowledges these requests and will consider them before making a recommendation on new licences to Council.

D. STATUS OF THE TAXICAB REVIEW: PHASE 2

1. Process for the Future Issuance of Licences

In that the licences approved by Council in 1989 April are still being phased in, the Committee will not be making a recommendation regarding the process for issuing future licences in order to monitor the impact of the recently granted licences on taxicab service. This will also provide an opportunity for the Committee to assess how a recent review of taxi service in the Vancouver area carried out by Mr. George Mussalem for the Solicitor General of B.C. would affect Burnaby.

In the interim, the Committee is continuing to discuss alternative approaches for issuing licences. The Committee is committed to ensuring that the community's needs for taxicab service are fulfilled through a process which is fair and equitable as well as administratively practical. The Committee will bring forward for Council's consideration, a method for determining when additional taxicab licences are required and a process for allocating future licences, before any recommendation on new licences is made.

2. Quality of Taxicab Service

As noted in our 1989 April 24 report to Council, the Motor Carrier Division of the Ministry of Solicitor General is developing a taxi driver standards program. Staff of our Licence Office are participating in the development of the program. The need for municipal standards will be assessed once this work is complete.

3. Expansion of Local Taxicab Business

The Committee is currently examining the role of non-Burnaby based taxicabs operating in Burnaby under limited Motor Carrier Commission operating rights.

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4. Work Program

It is the Committee's intention to proceed with Phase 2 of the review as quickly as possible. The timing of future progress reports to Council will depend on the implementation of the taxicab licences approved by Council in 1989 April, the development of the driver standards program, and the results of the review of regional licencing now being conducted through the Ministry of Solicitor General.

The Committee will present reports for Council's consideration as the work is completed.

This status report is presented for the information of Council.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alderman J. M. Sawicki  
CHAIRMAN

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Alderman F. G. Randall  
MEMBER

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Alderman J. Young  
MEMBER