



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** September 12, 2017
From: Carli Edwards, P.Eng. **File:** 12-8060-02-01/2017-
Vol 01
Acting Senior Manager, Community Safety,
Policy & Programs and Licencing
Re: **Amendment to Remove Bylaw Reference to Number of Taxicabs**

Staff Recommendation

That Business Licence Bylaw 7360, Amendment Bylaw 9763, to remove reference to the number of taxicabs, be introduced and given first, second and third reading.

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REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO: Law Transportation	CONCURRENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

On June 12, 2017, Council endorsed a referral for staff to report back with criteria upon which taxicab licences may be issued by staff.

Findings of Fact

Business Licence Bylaw No. 7360 establishes the maximum number of taxicabs permitted to be operated and licenced within the jurisdiction of the City. Further regulations dealing with taxicabs in Richmond are covered under Vehicle for Hire Regulation Bylaw No. 6900. Contained in these bylaws are requirements that:

- Vehicles obtain approval from the Passenger Transportation Board (referred to in the bylaw as Motor Carrier Commission);
- Vehicles are inspected by a Licence Inspector;
- Vehicles are kept clean;
- Vehicles must operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week;
- Vehicles must be equipped with a “top light” which must be illuminated when the vehicle is available for hire;
- Vehicles must display permanent signage that displays the name of the company, a telephone number and prominently show the fleet number of the vehicle on the inside and outside of the vehicle;
- Drivers obtain a chauffeur’s permit (which includes a check of criminal and driving offences);
- Drivers must not refuse fares;
- Each vehicle is associated to a Vehicle for Hire Business Office and must pay the fee specified for such office.

From time to time, the Passenger Transportation Board (“PTB”) approves applications to increase the number of taxicabs licenced to operate in Richmond. In order to obtain a business licence to operate the new taxicabs, the taxicab company must make an application to the City to amend the bylaw where it states the maximum number of taxicabs. This amendment must be approved by Council and requires public notification.

Analysis

The licencing requirements in the Business Licence Bylaw and the Vehicle for Hire Regulation Bylaw ensure that all taxicabs are approved by the PTB, in addition to an extensive list of other requirements set by the City of Richmond. Making an application to Council, and amending the Business Licence Bylaw each time additional licences are approved by the PTB, delays the introduction of the new taxicabs into service. The process is rarely opposed by the public. However, given that the taxi industry is changing and there is a potential for new service models, there is a benefit in maintaining Council oversight of some portion of the approval process.

The current bylaw requires that all taxicabs are associated with a vehicle for hire office. It is proposed that instead of using the bylaw to specify the number of cabs, the bylaw could be used to regulate the specific companies that operate taxicabs. This would ensure that public notification and Council approval is required for all new taxicab companies but that existing companies could continue to add taxicabs as part of the PTB approval process. Should the current companies consider changing their delivery models, and even if the PTB approves a change, the current bylaw requirements that regulate the industry in Richmond remain in force and the companies would continue to be obligated to meet the current requirements.

Amending the bylaw as proposed would also allow the PTB to issue temporary licences (to the existing companies) for busy periods such as Christmas/New Years and other special events. Currently, the City is unable to accommodate temporary licences as the time it takes to process a bylaw change exceeds the temporary use period.

As listed in the proposed bylaw amendment, the following three companies are currently licenced as vehicle for hire offices and have approved taxicab licences:

- Garden City Cabs of Richmond Ltd (36 taxicabs);
- Kimber Cabs Ltd (24 taxicabs); and
- Richmond Cabs Ltd (112 taxicabs).

Under the proposed bylaw amendment, these companies would be permitted to add to their taxicab service, subject to approval by the PTB, whether for permanent or temporary licences. Council would then be informed of the new licence, through a memorandum, once staff have reviewed the PTB approval, inspected the new vehicles and are prepared to issue the new licence(s). Should a new company enter the market, Council would be required to approve a bylaw amendment in order for the new company to receive a licence.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

This report proposes changes to the Business Regulation Bylaw such that it no longer references the number of approved taxicabs but rather specifies the companies approved to operate taxicab businesses in Richmond. This will ensure a more timely approval process when the Passenger Transportation Board approves an increase in taxicabs while maintaining Council oversight of taxicab companies.



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Business Licence Bylaw No. 7360, Amendment Bylaw No. 9763

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. Business Licence Bylaw No. 7360, as amended, is further amended at Section 2.1.27:

a. by deleting subsection 2.1.27.3 and replacing it with the following:

“2.1.27.3 Every Class A and Class N taxicab licenced by the **City** under this bylaw, and regulated under the **Vehicle for Hire Regulation Bylaw**, must be operated by one of the following companies having a **vehicle for hire business office** in the **City**:

- a) Garden City Cabs of Richmond Ltd.;
- a) Kimber Cabs Ltd.; or
- b) Richmond Cabs Ltd.”

2. This Bylaw is cited as “**Business Licence Bylaw No. 7360, Amendment Bylaw No. 9763**”.

FIRST READING

PUBLIC HEARING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

OTHER CONDITIONS SATISFIED

ADOPTED



MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER