

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Item 21, Report No. 31, of the Committee of the Whole, which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on September 16, 2015.

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LICENSING OF TAXI SERVICES

The Committee of the Whole recommends approval of the recommendation contained in the following resolution submitted by Councillor Carella, dated September 9, 2015:

Member's Resolution

Submitted by Councillor Tony Carella.

Whereas, the City of Vaughan is empowered by the *Municipal Act* and other legislation, to license and regulate a variety of business services in the interests of the health, safety and well-being of its citizens; and

Whereas, one such service is provided by taxicabs, involving the owners of licenses, brokerage firms that supply services under a variety of names, and drivers of the vehicles so licensed; and

Whereas, the patrons of the taxicab industry are being offered new services which, it is asserted, fall outside the scope of municipal licensing regimes to which taxicabs have traditionally been subject; and

Whereas, the question---whether these new services meet the standards which are key to the existing licensing regime---is currently at issue in the courts in Ontario, across Canada, and in other countries around the world;

It is therefore recommended:

1. That appropriate staff be directed to develop and execute a public education campaign regarding taxicab services, to educate the public on the principal aim of the taxicab licensing regime; namely, to provide services that promote the health, safety and well-being of taxicab users, by ensuring that
 - a. Only individuals who are medically fit, have a valid driver's license and a good driving record, have provided a police record search and received sensitivity training are permitted to provide the service;
 - b. Only vehicles that have undergone a mechanical safety check, have a calibrated meter to ensure the tariff rates are being met, have a posted 911 alert system, are in clean condition and are insured for commercial use are permitted to provide the service; and
 - c. Only individuals who have passed an examination on the requirements of the City's taxi licensing bylaw are licensed to operate taxicabs.
2. That the said public education campaign be paid for out of previously-approved operating funds from either the Corporate Communications or Licensing Departments, or both.