

Subject: Vehicle for Hire Bylaw Amendment - Bylaw No. 14/038

APPROVALS:

Bob Couture, Director of RCMP and Bylaw Services
Brian Moore, Acting Executive Director of Community and Protective Services Division
Marcel Ulliac, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Administrative Recommendations:

1. THAT Bylaw No. 14/038, being a bylaw to amend the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw, be read a second time;
2. THAT Schedules “A”, “B” and “C” to Bylaw No. 14/038, as presented at first reading, be deleted, and replaced with the versions of Schedules “A”, “B” and “C”, as identified in Attachment 2 to the report dated, dated December 9, 2014.
3. THAT Bylaw No. 14/038 be read a third time.

Summary:

The Taxi Advisory Committee (TAC), in consultation with vehicle for hire owners, brokers and drivers, the general public, and those concerned with tourism and hospitality has identified a number of changes that are required to the existing Vehicle for Hire (“VFH”) Bylaw.

An amending bylaw to implement the recommended changes, Bylaw No. 14/038 [**Attachment 1 to this Council Report**] was introduced for first reading on October 28, 2014 and at that time Council directed that a non-statutory public hearing be held on December 9, 2014 with 2nd and 3rd readings to follow if Council so decides. **Attachment 3 to this Council Report** is a marked up version of the VHF Bylaw, showing how it will look if all proposed amendments are made.

[Since first reading of Bylaw No. 14/038 some clerical errors, and an omission concerning limousine rates in the rural service area, have been identified in the Schedules to the amending bylaw. Administration therefore recommends that when Bylaw No. 14/038 is put on the floor for second reading, a motion be introduced to amend it by deleting those Schedules and replacing them with the revised versions that are **Attachment 2** to this Council Report. All of these proposed changes are also included in the marked up version that is Attachment 3 to this Council Report.]

Background:

The existing Vehicle for Hire Bylaw was adopted in March, 2013, and subsequently amended in November, 2013. Since that time the TAC has reviewed the effectiveness of the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw and is recommending a number of changes in the following key areas:

- **Simplification:** A number of the changes to the Bylaw are intended to simplify it. Schedule B in particular, which sets the fares, has been simplified by removing most of the

complicated mathematical formulae for fare calculation.

- **Reporting Responsibility:** In the original Bylaw, reports went to the CAO or his delegate. In the amended Bylaw, reports will go to the Chief of Bylaw Services or his delegate.
- **Service of Documents:** One major change is that all documents to be served, including suspensions, notices, and information bulletins will be served by way of electronic mail. This change has been made to facilitate efficient and timely communications.
- **Prosecution Issues:** Several changes have been made to the Bylaw to facilitate effective prosecution of offences. In particular, the Bylaw will now provide that bulletins and notices of suspensions issued by the Chief Taxi Inspector are business records of the Municipality thereby eliminating the need for the Chief Taxi Inspector to come to court. In addition, provisions have been added to address a gap in the previous Bylaw that made it difficult to prosecute drivers who had invalid Permits or Licenses because aspects of their original application for a License or Permit were incomplete, inaccurate, incorrect or invalid.
- **Increased Safety:** Changes have been made to enhance driver and passenger safety. New requirements of vulnerable sector screening, defensive driving courses, child car safety seat availability and additional testing and training to respond to complaints have been added.
- **Clarification:** Changes have been made to enhance the overall clarity of the Bylaw. This includes changes that clarify when Permits or Licenses expire, the process for replacing lost or stolen Permits or Licenses, and the process for appealing Notices of Order.
- **Electronic Payment Options:** In response to public demand, the Bylaw has been amended to ensure all Vehicles for Hire provide functional Electronic Payment Systems and drivers have the training and knowledge to use the Systems and provide proper receipts.

Budget/Financial Implications

The proposed amendments will result in a reduction of revenues which were in the form of direct costs to owners, broker and drivers. This reduction in revenue will be partially offset by the removal of all future rebates.

Rationale for Recommendations:

Administration believes that the recommended amendments are reflective of the consultation that has occurred with the Vehicle for Hire industry, and will provide for a regulated environment in which there will be a willingness to comply.

Attachments:

1. Bylaw No. 14/038, as introduced for first reading on October 28, 2014
2. Proposed Amended Schedule “A”, “B” and “C” [versions proposed for introduction at second reading of Bylaw 14/038]
3. Marked up version of original Vehicle for Hire Bylaw, showing all proposed changes if Bylaw No. 14/038 is passed