

CHEEMA SUBMISSION – PLATE SURRENDER RIGHTS

SUMMARY

Concerns are presented regarding the length of time drivers have the privilege to surrender their Taxi Plate Licences (TPLs) to Livery Transport Services (LTS).

In the current economic climate, demands are much slower and additional supply continues to come online through the release of non-transferable TPLs and the introduction of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs).

Overall, the purpose of this submission is that there should be enough business for available TPLs. That is currently not the case and I don't think in the current economic downturn adding more plates will help drivers to make both ends meet.

TPL holders, particularly those who have made a significant investment in a plate transfer, would appreciate the opportunity to surrender their plates for a longer period of time than currently allowed in the bylaw. This option would provide me the flexibility to temporarily leave the industry and return when business recovers.

You may ask, why don't I contract with another driver for the use of my plate during this time? There is very little incentive to do so without engaging in illegal subleasing. The option to "shelve" my plate would be far preferable.

BACKGROUND

Livery Transport Bylaw 6M2007, section 97.1 (1), states:

An Active T.P.L. Holder and an Active A.T.P.L. Holder must ensure that the T.P.L. or A.T.P.L. he holds is joined to a Livery Vehicle which is in service in the City for a minimum of two hundred and fifty (250) days in the 12 month period preceding the date of renewing the T.P.L. or A.T.P.L.

Livery Transport Bylaw 6M2007, section 104. (1), states:

Upon the written application of the holder of a T.P.L. or A.T.P.L., the Chief Livery Inspector may, if it is in the public interest to do so and is not in conflict with the provisions of this Bylaw, vary for a maximum period of one year any of the requirements necessary to renew the T.P.L. or A.T.P.L.

Livery Transport Bylaw 6M2007, section 105, states:

If a Taxi or Accessible Taxi is not in service as a Taxi or Accessible Taxi for a period greater than thirty (30) days, then the holder of the T.P.L. or A.T.P.L. joined to that Taxi or Accessible Taxi shall:

- (a) notify the Chief Livery Inspector in writing of the lack of use; and*
- (b) surrender the T.P.L. or A.T.P.L to the Chief Livery Inspector for the duration of the period in which the Taxi or Accessible Taxi is not in use.*

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LTAC TO CONSIDER

That LTAC support a bylaw amendment to explicitly define the surrender period as stated in section 105 (b) to be “indefinite, at the sole discretion of the plate holder” and to make consequential changes to sections 97.1 (1) and 104 (1), among others, as necessary.

SUBMISSIONS PRESENTED BY: Jatinder Cheema, TPL#174