



**Regional Municipality of Waterloo**  
**Licensing and Hearings Committee**  
**Minutes**

Tuesday, August 11, 2015

1:30 p.m.

Regional Council Chamber

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

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Present were: Chair J. Mitchell, L. Armstrong, D. Craig, G. Lorentz, J. Nowak, and K. Seiling\*

Also present: T. Galloway, D. Jaworsky, H. Jowett, K. Kiefer, K. Redman, S. Shantz, S. Strickland, and B. Vrbanovic

**Motion To Reconvene Into Open Session**

Moved by L. Armstrong

Seconded by D. Craig

That the meeting reconvene into open session.

Carried

**Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Under The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**

None declared.

**Reports – Planning, Development, and Legislative Services**

**3.1 PDL-CAS-15-08, Taxi By-law Review**

\*K. Seiling entered the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Kris Fletcher, Regional Clerk, provided an overview of the plan for the review of the taxi by-law. She explained that the underlying principles for the review include ensuring consumer protection; that both cars and drivers are safe; accessible services are available; and that all types of rides for hire are regulated, or none are. She explained that the changes proposed in the draft by-law include creating two categories of vehicles, taxis and auxiliary taxis; removing the requirement for brokers to have at least ten owner licenses; and issuing new taxi owner licenses through a lottery. She noted that all taxi and auxiliary taxi drivers would be required to pass a vulnerable sector screen and all vehicles would be required to pass safety requirements, be covered by \$2 million in commercial liability insurance, and be equipped with a closed circuit recording system. K. Fletcher stated that this is the beginning of the consultation phase of the review which includes meetings with industry stakeholders and opportunities for public input.

In response to a question from the Committee, K. Fletcher stated that historically there has not been a limit on the number of licenses issued for limousines or special transportation vehicles and there is no limit proposed on the auxiliary taxis in the draft by-law. She explained that the draft by-law proposes a maximum rate for taxis rather than the set rate in the current by-law. This will allow taxis to build some incentives into their fares. The discussion guide for the public consultation asks whether the Region should be setting rates. K. Fletcher confirmed that all of the information is available on the Region's website and that members of the public have the opportunity to provide their feedback through an online survey.

The Committee discussed the challenges with regulating ride sharing apps. It was noted that provincial support or legislation is important for municipalities to address this issue. In response to a question from the Committee, K. Fletcher stated that the Region has currently received sixty-three registered complaints regarding Uber vehicles that will be investigated. She explained the process for investigating and the available penalties under the current by-law should a complaint be substantiated.

Received for information.

## **Other Business**

### **Adjourn**

Moved by G. Lorentz

Seconded by L. Armstrong

That the meeting adjourn at 2:06 p.m.

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Carried

**Committee Chair**, J. Mitchell

**Committee Clerk**, T. Brubacher