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To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 12/2/2016 5:18:54 PM
Subject: Taxis - holiday capacity

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to provide an update on recent developments pertaining to taxi licensing within the City of Vancouver.

Firstly, further to Council's motion and bylaw enactment to allow additional taxis for the holiday season, staff are preparing to expedite licensing for taxis issued TOP's (temporary operating permits) from the Passenger Transportation Board (PTB) to increase capacity similar to last year.

While we have yet to receive an application, Andreea Toma has been advised by the PTB that they will approve a 10% addition to the Vancouver Taxi Association (VTA) fleet for this holiday season, consistent with 2015. PTB will also approve any of the suburban taxis that were previously approved in 2012 to operate in peak weekend hours in Downtown Vancouver.

Last year, the suburban taxis opted not to apply for temporary operating permits in Vancouver for the holiday season. Only the VTA taxis were processed and licensed. However, the suburban companies are indicating interest this year. Provided those operators have a PTB-approved temporary operating permit and meet CoV bylaw requirements, licenses will be issued to operate for 30 days in City of Vancouver.

With respect to new ongoing taxi capacity in the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Taxi Association submitted an application to the PTB in July 2016 for 175 new permanent taxi licenses. On Wednesday, November 20, the PTB advised VTA that they intend to defer their decision on the 175 additional taxis until October 31, 2017. The board has not decided the merits of application, but rather adjourned their proceedings citing as their rationale the City's moratorium on new permanent licenses. The Board has framed the matter as follows:

"The Board is fully prepared to consider the VTA application in light of its legislative mandate at a time when the potential exists for new taxis to operate in the City of Vancouver. Proceeding with current application at this time adds to regulatory confusion over the supply of taxis in Vancouver. This is not in the interest of the public, nor is it an effective use of public resources."

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Andreea Toma or Kaye Krishna should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Best,
Paul

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