

Informational Supplemental Seasonal Licences Report

Date	June 24, 2020
To	City Council
From	City Solicitor's Office
Service Area	Licensing & Parking Services
Item No.	CM20-17

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council receive and file this report.

ISSUE

On June 3, 2020, the Community and Protective Services Committee considered CPS20-11 Seasonal Taxi Licences Report, which included recommended changes to *The Taxi Bylaw, 1994*. At the meeting, Administration undertook to contact taxi industry stakeholders for additional input regarding the elimination of seasonal taxi licences through a lottery and provide to City Council at its June 24, 2020 meeting.

IMPACTS

None with respect to this supplementary report.

OTHER OPTIONS

None with respect to this supplementary report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Administration contacted members of the taxi industry via mail, requesting feedback on the proposed amendments to the seasonal taxicab licences by June 12, 2020.

DISCUSSION

In March 2019, Administration requested feedback from the taxi industry, including brokers, licence holders and drivers on potential amendments to *The Taxi Bylaw, 1994*. Most of the input received came from the taxi brokerages with only three submissions from others in the industry. Further discussions were held with the brokers to discuss options related to the seasonal taxicab licence program. Brokers shared that they were not in support of issuing any seasonal licences through a lottery and preferred the option of returning to the “old way” of issuing seasonal licences. This method would see seasonal licences issued directly to the brokers in an amount equal to 37 per cent of regular and temporary taxicab licences in their fleet.

As opinions in the industry were varied when the current process of issuing seasonal taxicab licences was developed, it was important to gather feedback from industry members other than taxi brokers. On June 4, 2020 Administration mailed four hundred letters to taxicab licence holders and taxi drivers requesting feedback on the recommended changes to the seasonal taxicab licence program. There were 51 responses received and are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 - Seasonal Taxi Industry Responses

Feedback Received	Quantity
The lottery system did not work	24
Issue all current seasonal licences (amount equal to 37% of regular taxi licences) directly to the brokers	25
Cancel the seasonal licence program entirely	2
Continue to issue seasonal licences to the broker and through a lottery but reverse the amount issued to each group allocating the total seasonal licences 60% to the brokers and 40% through a lottery	2
Reduce the number of seasonal plates issued	1
Do not change how the seasonal licences are issued	3

The table above indicates that 50 per cent of the respondents support changing the current seasonal licence program by issuing all current seasonal licences (amount equal to 37 per cent of regular taxi licences) directly to the brokers. Although 24 respondents believed the lottery system of issuing licences did not work, the majority of those did not offer an alternate option. Those that supported all seasonal licences be issued directly to the brokers maintained that providing the brokers the ability to manage the licences ensures timely service for their customers. It also allows the brokers to acquire new customers which assists in their ability to get through the leaner months.

Respondents that did not support this option suggested that seasonal licences are no longer required at all or that continuing to issue some licences through a lottery allows drivers the opportunity to manage a licence and reduce their operating costs.

DECISION HISTORY

CPS20-11 was presented to the Community and Protective Services Committee at its June 3, 2020 meeting. During consideration of the report, Administration undertook to contact taxi industry stakeholders for additional input regarding the elimination of seasonal taxi licences through a lottery and provide to City Council at its June 24, 2020 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dawn Schikowski, Manager Licensing & Parking Services 6/17/2020

Respectfully Submitted,



Byron Werry, City Solicitor

6/18/2020

Prepared by: Benjamin Cowman, Policy Analyst