

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: A NEW MOBILE LICENSING MODEL
Date: Monday, June 7, 2021

THE CHAIR & MEMBERS,

PVAC.

Since the advent of ridesharing companies, the Vehicle For Hire industry has undergone a complete transformation - one that has witnessed a sharp decline in the demand for taxis. Under the circumstances, continuing to impose a licensing model and corresponding fee schedule designed for a bygone era is neither just nor sustainable - certainly not for the many cabbies whose earnings have either plummeted or ceased to exist.

In short, a licence model/fee schedule that reflects current realities is in order - one that abandons the false dichotomy between taxis and transportation network companies. The fact is there no distinction between them, seeing as they simply represent two sides of the same VFH coin.

One approach would be to eliminate the current twin licensing arrangement in favour a single Vehicle For Hire licence. Taxi owners, brokers and TNC's would receive a transferable VFH licence. The taxicab driver's licence would be eliminated altogether. After all, drivers affiliated with Uber and Lyft do not require a municipal driver's licence, so why should those individuals who operate taxis? Just like Uber/Lyft drivers are required to register with their respective companies, so, too, would those individuals driving for a taxi broker.

For those drivers who lease a plate, and operate independently, as opposed to affiliating with a broker, they would register directly with the City.

What's good for the goose, is good for the gander. Either all VFH drivers are licensed as such, or no VFH driver's licences should be required. Clearly, the current system discriminates against those on the taxi side.

Against the urgings of the taxi industry, the City elected to go down the path of deregulation. Fair dinkum. Surely, the time has come to treat all parties in this brave new world equitably, and, at the same time, bring the administration of the Vehicle For Hire industry into the 21st century.

A golden opportunity exists for the City of Mississauga to take a leadership role in this area by establishing a new mobile licensing model.

Thank you.

PETER D. PELLIER,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]