



CITY OF VANCOUVER  
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

# A1

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Meeting Date: June 27, 2006

TO: City Council  
FROM: Chief License Inspector  
SUBJECT: Vehicles for Hire By-law Amendment - Issuance of Chauffeur's Permits

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

- A. THAT Council approve an amendment to the Vehicles for Hire By-law which would establish the expiration of a chauffeur's permit as the holder's month of birth instead of the current February 28<sup>th</sup> of every year.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be requested to prepare the necessary By-Law amendments to the Vehicles for Hire By-Law generally as set out in this report.

### ***GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS***

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of the above recommendations.

### ***COUNCIL POLICY***

The Vehicles for Hire By-law No.6066 licenses and regulates the owners and drivers of vehicles for hire in the City of Vancouver.

### ***PURPOSE***

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for an amendment to the Vehicles for Hire By-law with respect to staggered expiration dates for chauffeur's permits.

## ***BACKGROUND***

Section 6 of the Vehicles for Hire By-Law stipulates conditions for the issuance of a chauffeur's permit by the Chief Constable to drivers of limousines, school shuttle vans or taxicabs. All chauffeur's permits currently expire on February 28<sup>th</sup> of each year. In 2005 the Chief Constable issued approximately 2400 chauffeur's permits of which approximately 300 were new applicants. With all permits expiring on the same date each year, the VPD's annual permit issuance process, which includes a police records check, has become onerous and inefficient.

## ***DISCUSSION***

As all chauffeur's permits currently expire on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the amount of work required to process such a large volume of permits places a heavy burden on the Vancouver Police Taxi Unit and Records Clearances. Expiration dates staggered throughout the year would alleviate pressure on the processing staff and improve the permit issuance process for the applicants. Staggering expiration dates to coincide with the applicant's month of birth, similar to the process for a regular driver's license, is a logical and feasible option.

Currently, existing chauffeur's permit holders would apply for a new permit prior to February 28 every year. This involves paying a \$55 cost recovery charge for a police records check. Under the proposed birth-month issuance system, the expiration date for all existing permits would be extended to the holder's next birthday. Therefore, with the exception of those holders born in January or February, all existing chauffeur's permits would be deemed to be valid until the month of the holder's birth in 2007. As holders with January or February birthdays would still be holding a valid chauffeur's permit on their 2007 birthday, their permit would be extended ie. deemed to be valid until their next birthday in 2008.

All existing chauffeur's permits would be manually amended to reflect the new 2007 or 2008 expiration date. Thirty days before the expiration date of the permit in 2007 or 2008, the holder would be issued a new chauffeur's permit expiring on their month of birth in 2008 or 2009. At this time, they would be charged a \$55 cost recovery fee for a police records check. This would bring all existing permit holders in rotation for the years 2007 and 2008.

Currently with respect to new chauffeur's permits, those persons who apply anytime in 2006 would be issued permits that expire on February 28, 2007. Those persons who apply in January or February 2007 would be issued chauffeur's permits with a February 28, 2008 expiry date. All new applicants with a permit term greater than two months are required to pay a \$55 cost recovery fee when being issued a new permit prior to the February expiry date.

Under the proposed month of birth permit issuance system, new applicants would be charged a cost recovery fee of \$55 for a police records check and be issued a chauffeur's permit expiring on their next birthday (ie. month of birth). For example, assuming the proposed permit issuance system is implemented in July 2006, a new applicant applying in July 2006 whose birthday is in June would be issued a 12-month chauffeur's permit expiring on their birthday in June 2007. A new applicant applying

in July 2006 whose birthday is in September would be issued a 2-month chauffeur's permit expiring on their birthday in September 2006.

The two tables in Appendix A illustrate the expiration dates under the new proposed birth-month expiration system based on the assumption that the system is implemented in July 2006.

Initially, only the new chauffeur's permit applicants would be charged the cost recovery fee of \$55 as existing permit holders would simply have the validity of their existing permit extended until their next birthday. The proposed month of birth expiration system would distribute the workload of the Vancouver Police Taxi Unit and Records Clearances more evenly over a year, making the chauffeur's permit issuance process more streamlined and efficient for both Police and drivers.

Once all drivers are in rotation with permit expiry dates coinciding with their month of birth in 2006, 2007 or 2008, the second phase would consider the possibility of implementing a two year chauffeur's permit renewal time for all holders.

#### Industry Consultation

The proposed change to the issuance of chauffeur's permits outlined in this report has been discussed with the taxi industry at the Vancouver Taxi Roundtable. The industry has expressed support for this initiative and agree with the recommendations in this report. All licensed limousine companies in the City were notified of the proposed change on June 1, 2006. Although the new birth-month permit issuance system would also apply to school shuttle van drivers, there are currently no licenses for this vehicle for hire category.

#### *FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS*

Implementing the proposed staggered month of birth expiration system would result in some permits lasting for greater than 12 months for the usual annual fee of \$55. Since the fee collected is strictly a cost recovery charge there is no rationale for pro-rating this cost. Therefore there are no financial implications for the City. This would be a cost savings for the drivers as the approved period for the permit would be extended.

#### *IMPLEMENTATION PLAN*

Implementation would be managed by the Vancouver Police Taxi Unit and License staff. Staff hope to implement the proposed staggering of permit expiration dates by July 2006 pending Council approval. Upon successful integration of the new staggered expiry dates, staff will revisit the term of the permit with consideration to extending the term from one to two years.

#### *CONCLUSION*

This proposal recommends that the chauffeur's permit expiration date be changed from February 28<sup>th</sup> of each year to coincide with the holders' month of birth. This will alleviate pressure experienced every year during the current renewal period in February and will improve efficiencies for the VPD and the taxi industry.

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APPENDIX A

Chauffeur's Permits: Expiration Dates under Proposed Month of Birth System

Existing Chauffeur's Permit Holders

MONTH OF BIRTH	CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE	NEW EXPIRATION DATE	EXTENSION PERIOD
January	February 28, 2007	January 2008	11 months
February	February 28, 2007	February 2008	12 months
March	February 28, 2007	March 2007	1 month
April	February 28, 2007	April 2007	2 months
May	February 28, 2007	May 2007	3 months
June	February 28, 2007	June 2007	4 months
July	February 28, 2007	July 2007	5 months
August	February 28, 2007	August 2007	6 months
September	February 28, 2007	September 2007	7 months
October	February 28, 2007	October 2007	8 months
November	February 28, 2007	November 2007	9 months
December	February 28, 2007	December 2007	10 months

Notes: Existing chauffeur's permits are to be deemed valid until the holder's next birthday in 2007, with the exception of January and February birthday holders whose permits would expire on their birthday in 2008.

New Chauffeur's Permit Holders

MONTH OF BIRTH	MONTH OF APPLICATION	NEW EXPIRATION DATE	PERMIT TERM
January	July 2006	January 2007	6 months
February	July 2006	February 2007	7 months
March	July 2006	March 2007	8 months
April	July 2006	April 2007	9 months
May	July 2006	May 2007	10 months
June	July 2006	June 2007	11 months
July	July 2006	July 2007	12 months
August	July 2006	August, 2006	1 month
September	July 2006	September, 2006	2 months
October	July 2006	October, 2006	3 months
November	July 2006	November, 2006	4 months
December	July 2006	December, 2006	5 months

Note: Assumption made that new chauffeur's permit issuance system will be implemented in July 2006.