



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: October 5, 2006
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VanRIMS No.: 08-4000-11
Meeting Date: October 31, 2006

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief License Inspector
SUBJECT: Vehicle Licensing By-Law Amendments

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council approve an amendment to the Vehicle Licensing By-Law which changes the designated annual term for municipal commercial vehicle licenses from the current March 1st to February 28th to the calendar year of January 1st to December 31st.
- B. THAT Council approve an amendment to the Vehicle Licensing By-Law which establishes the current annual fees for municipal commercial vehicle licenses as well as the reduced transition fees for 2006 license permit holders as outlined in this report.
- C. THAT the Director of Legal Services be requested to prepare the necessary By-Law amendments to the Vehicle Licensing By-Law, generally in accordance with Appendix A.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

COUNCIL POLICY

Vehicle Licensing By-Law No 4021 - A By-law to provide for the licensing of, or exempting from licensing of, commercial vehicles, pursuant to the Local Government Act.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for amendments to the Vehicle Licensing By-Law as recently approved by the Provincial Ministry of Community Services. The amendments include changing the designated annual term for municipal commercial vehicle licenses from the current March 1 to February 28 to the calendar year of January 1 to December 31 and establishing current annual fees and reduced transition fees for 2006 license permit holders for municipal commercial vehicle licenses.

BACKGROUND

Municipal commercial vehicle licensing is regulated by Council, through Vehicle Licensing By-Law No. 4021, and by the Ministry of Community Services through the Local Government Act. Being that the Municipal Commercial Vehicle Licensing program is a province-wide effort administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), the Province has the superior role in the regulation of this program. Any action by Council on the issuance of commercial vehicle licenses or corresponding fees is subject to approval by the Ministry of Community Services, while similar proposed changes approved by the Ministry of Community Services must be reflected in the City's Vehicle Licensing by-Law. Although the Ministry of Community Services has superior authority for commercial vehicle licensing, the City's continued role in amending its by-law to reflect the amendments approved by the Province is important as the City provides the numbered license plate identifying the vehicle for commercial purposes and collects the annual fees.

DISCUSSION

In December 2005, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) proposed legislative amendments to the Ministry of Community Services concerning the province-wide Municipal Commercial Vehicle Licensing program. These included a change to the current annual term and the provision of transition or pro-rated fees for 2006 license holders that expire on February 28, 2007.

The current year which runs from March 1 to February 28 has its roots in the old system when all vehicle licenses in BC expired at the end of February and does not correspond with municipal fiscal years. Furthermore, because business licenses are normally renewed at the end of the fiscal calendar year and the commercial vehicle licenses expire on February 28, the public is inconvenienced and municipalities may lose some revenue. An amendment from the existing annual term to a calendar year of January 1 - December 31 should make the renewal of commercial licenses more convenient.

Bill 10, Community Services Statutes Amendments Act, 2006 which contains the change to the January 1 to December 31 annual commercial vehicle license term has now been passed

and comes into effect on November 1, 2006. The new Commercial Vehicle License year will commence on January 1, 2007 with November and December designated as a grace period.

Holders of 2006 permits will be allowed to renew at a pro-rated fee for 2007 only if they provide evidence that they held a 2006 permit. The legislative amendment sets out transition or pro-rated fees for those holding 2006 licenses that expire on February 28, 2007. The annual fee and applicable 2007 fees are shown in the following table:

Gross Vehicle Weight	Annual Fee (\$)	Reduced Transition Fee (\$)
Up to 2,800 kilograms	25.00	21.00
2,801 to 11,800 kilograms	30.00	25.00
11,801 to 20,000 kilograms	35.00	29.50
20,001 kilograms and over	40.00	33.50

The application of the reduced transition fee for 2006 license holders will not affect the current revenue shared between UBCM and the issuing City. UBCM provides the City with \$6.25 from the sale of each license and this amount will not be reduced during the transition fee period.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as the reduced prorated fee will not affect the portion of the revenue provided to the City from the Province (ie. UBCM).

CONCLUSION

This report proposes certain amendments to the Vehicle License By-Law as recently approved by the Provincial Ministry of Community Services. These include amending the designated annual term for municipal commercial vehicle licenses from the current March 1 to February 28 to the calendar year of January 1 to December 31 and establishing current annual fees and reduced transition fees for 2006 license permit holders for municipal commercial vehicle licenses. The application of the reduced transition fees will not affect the portion of the revenue provided to the City for 2007.

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DRAFT VEHICLE LICENSING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

In Section 2 - Definitions, amend the definition of "license year" to read: means the period beginning on the 1st day of January and ending at midnight on the last day of December of the same year.

In Schedule "A", Fees, amend Section (1) Gross Vehicle Weight as indicated in the table below:

Gross Vehicle Weight	New Annual Fee (\$)
Up to 2,800 kilograms	25.00
2,801 to 11,800 kilograms	30.00
11,801 to 20,000 kilograms	35.00
20,001 kilograms and over	40.00

In Schedule "A", Fees, include a new column for the "reduced transition fees for 2006 license holders for the 2007 license year" as indicated in the table below:

Gross Vehicle Weight	Reduced Transition Fee (\$) for 2006 license holders
Up to 2,800 kilograms	21.00
2,801 to 11,800 kilograms	25.00
11,801 to 20,000 kilograms	29.50
20,001 kilograms and over	33.50

In Schedule "A", Fees, amend the fee in Section (2) from \$25.00 to \$30.00.

In Schedule "A", Fees, amend the fee in Section (3) from \$5.00 to \$6.25.