



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: September 23, 2008
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Meeting Date: October 14, 2008

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of Licences and Inspections and Deputy Chief Licence Inspector in consultation with the Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Year 2009 Vehicles for Hire Licence Fee Amendments and Housekeeping Amendments to the Vehicles for Hire By-Law

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Vehicles for Hire licence fees, contained in Schedule "A" of the Vehicles for Hire By-law, be increased by approximately 4.0 percent (when rounded) for Year 2009;
- B. THAT the administrative licence transfer and bicycle courier testing fees, contained immediately after Schedule "A" of the Vehicles for Hire By-Law, be increased by approximately 4.0 percent (when rounded) for Year 2009;
- C. THAT the fee for the issuance of a replacement vehicles for hire plate be increased from \$20 to \$21 for Year 2009;
- D. THAT the three sections in the Vehicles for Hire By-Law which specify an administrative fee be amended to delete the fee amount and replace it with reference to Schedule A, generally in accordance with Appendix A; and
- E. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary By-law amendments to the Vehicles for Hire By-law to implement the revised Fee Schedule and other proposed changes, to be effective January 1, 2009.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

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

COUNCIL POLICY

On January 17, 1991, Council resolved that every department/board review services for which fees are now charged to ensure full cost recovery or that fees are equivalent to competitive charges where the fee is of a market nature.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the Vehicles for Hire licence fees for 2009. The Vehicles for Hire licensing fee update includes increasing the licence transfer fee, the bicycle courier examination fee, the fee for the issuance of replacement vehicles for hire plates and the licence fees for all classifications of vehicles for hire by approximately 4.0 percent (when rounded) as an inflationary adjustment reflecting the estimated growth in City costs.

The report also proposes housekeeping amendments which would eliminate the need to change administrative fees in the text of the Vehicles for Hire By-Law each time adjustments to such fees are approved.

BACKGROUND

In the fall of every year, the Licence Office prepares an administrative report to Council proposing an across-the-board inflationary adjustment in vehicles for hire licence fees which reflects the estimated growth in City costs for the following year. The report also provides staff with the opportunity to make certain housekeeping changes which enhance the by-law by simplifying certain regulations or modernizing existing language.

DISCUSSION

Year 2009 Vehicles for Hire Licence Fees and Administrative Costs

This report recommends that licence fees for all Vehicles for Hire categories contained in "Schedule A" of the Vehicles for Hire By-Law be increased by approximately 4.0 percent (when rounded) for the Year 2009. The proposed 4.0 percent increase represents the inflationary rate of adjustment. This amount is required to achieve cost recovery for the various services required under the Vehicles for Hire By-law.

The administrative cost of licence transfers, bicycle courier testing and issuance of replacement vehicles for hire plates has also risen over the past year, providing justification for the proposed fee increases to recover expenses.

The following table outlines the proposed fee increases for 2009

Current and Proposed (2009) Vehicles for Hire Licence Fees (Schedule "A")

Class of Vehicle		Current Fee (\$)	Proposed Fee (\$)
Airport Shuttle Bus	For each vehicle	66.00	69.00
Airport Transporter	For each vehicle	140.00	146.00
Antique Limousine	For each vehicle	176.00	183.00
Charter Bus	For each vehicle	140.00	146.00
Charter Van	For each vehicle	140.00	146.00
Courier Bicycle	For each vehicle	16.00	17.00
Driver Instruction Vehicle	For each vehicle	140.00	146.00
Dual Taxicab	For each vehicle	461.00	479.00
Funeral Cab	For each vehicle	140.00	146.00
Handicapped Cab	For each vehicle	140.00	146.00
Horse-Drawn Carriage	For each vehicle	460.00	478.00
Luxury Limousine	for each vehicle	176.00	183.00
Motor Stage	for each vehicle	140.00	146.00
Pedicab	for each vehicle	140.00	146.00
For each person operating a leased vehicle on a daily fee basis		11.00	11.00
School Cab	for each vehicle	140.00	146.00
School Shuttle	for each vehicle	140.00	146.00
Sedan Limousine	for each vehicle	176.00	183.00
Sport Utility Limousine	for each vehicle	176.00	183.00
Stretch Limousine	for each vehicle	176.00	183.00
Taxicab	for each vehicle	461.00	479.00
If used also for displaying advertising material, for each vehicle so used, additional fee		29.00	30.00
Tow Truck	for each vehicle	140.00	146.00
U-Drive	For each vehicle (4 or more wheels)	38.00	40.00
	For each other vehicle	12.00	12.00
Unless otherwise provided herein, the license fee to operate a vehicle licensed for one purpose shall be \$66.00 for each additional purpose authorized by this By-law.		63.00	66.00
Administrative Costs not in Schedule "A"		Current Fee (\$)	Proposed Fee (\$)
Cost of Transfer of Licence		113.00	118.00
Cost of Bicycle Courier Testing		30.00	31.00

HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS

Sections 11(4), 12(4) and 15(1) in the Vehicles for Hire By-Law specify an administrative fee in the text of the by-law. As a result, it is necessary to amend each of these sections separately each time a fee change is approved by Council. To eliminate this extra step, staff recommend that the specific fee amounts in each of these sections be deleted and replaced with reference to Schedule "A" in the By-Law.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed inflation adjustments to the vehicles for hire licence fees will result in additional 2009 business licence revenue of approximately \$18,000. The financial implications of this report have already been reflected in the preliminary 2009 operating budget.

CONCLUSION

A 4.0 percent increase (when rounded) for the Year 2009, reflecting the inflationary rate of adjustment, is being proposed for all Vehicles for Hire licence fees and administrative fees associated with licence transfers, bicycle courier testing fees and the issuance of vehicles for hire replacement plates. The report also proposes housekeeping amendments which would eliminate the need to change administrative fees in the text of the Vehicles for Hire By-Law each time fee adjustments are approved.

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DRAFT VEHICLES FOR HIRE BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

- In Section 11(4), replace the \$113.00 fee with “specified in Schedule “A” of this By-law”.
- In Schedule A, insert “Cost of Vehicle for Hire Replacement Plate” with a corresponding cost of \$21.00.
- In Section 12(4), replace the \$20.00 fee with “specified in Schedule “A” of this By-law”.
- In Section 15(1), replace the \$30.00 fee with “specified in Schedule “A” of this By-law”.