

MOTION ON NOTICE

B.1

1. City Action to Ensure Innovative, Increased Taxi Service

MOVER: Councillor Meggs

SECONDER:

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has long had a taxi policy framework with a view to ensuring the best possible service at a reasonable cost, delivered by an industry committed to the highest possible standards for safety, innovation, accessibility and environmental sustainability;
2. Vancouver's taxi industry has become an industry leader in smartphone dispatching systems, driver training, vehicle cleanliness, safety, and low emission vehicles;
3. Recent court decisions have emphasized the city's responsibility, along with the Passenger Transportation Branch (PTB), to regulate the industry; and
4. The PTB's decision to approve temporary operating permits in Vancouver to certain suburban taxi companies, along with the declared intention of so-called "ride-sharing" companies to enter the market with or without City and PTB approval, mark a fundamental change in the industry that threatens existing standards and operators without ensuring appropriate standards for timely, safe, economical quality service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirm its commitment to ensure Vancouver's taxi service remains an industry leader in the provision of safe, timely, economical, accessible, green and innovative service.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to prepare an amendment to the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* to suspend the issuance of any new licences for a period of six months to allow for consultation with the Taxi Roundtable and other stakeholders and to report to Council at the end of that time on:
 - measures necessary to expand service, while ensuring the industry responds to the needs of consumers and stakeholders in the tourism, hospitality and the disability community through innovation and best-in-class standards for safety and service;
 - a process to respond to the PTB decision to allow suburban taxis to work in Vancouver during certain periods;
 - the Vancouver Taxi Association's proposal to add 78 full-time accessible taxis to the city fleet, which is now under PTB review; and
 - measures to ensure customers achieve the full benefits of new "ride-sharing" technology without undermining the existing industry's standards for safety, driver training and green technology.

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