



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**Licensing and By-law Services Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Planning Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	January 14, 2020
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Release of Standard Taxi Plates - Priority List (PED20011) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Monica Ciriello (905) 546-2424 Ext. 5809
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Ken Leendertse Director, Licensing and By-law Services Planning and Economic Development Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That staff be authorized to issue three standard taxicab plates in January 2020 and an additional three standard taxicab plates per year until the Standard Taxicab Priority List expires.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Standard Taxicab Priority List has 19 applicants and is now closed to new applicants. The applicants pay an annual fee of \$112 to remain on the list to be considered for the issuance of the next round of standard taxicab plates. The last issued standard taxicab plate was in 2014.

Since 2014, 40 accessible taxicab plates have been issued. The total number of taxicab plates in operation in the City of Hamilton (the City) is 471 plates, made up of 431 standard plates and 40 accessible plates.

Taxicab plates are issued based on a population ratio of one plate per every 1,170 residents. Based on the current and projected population for the City, staff are recommending the issuance of three standard taxicab plates on an annual basis until the expiry of the Standard Taxicab Priority List.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

## **FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial / Staffing / Legal: N/A

**Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 3**

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

See Analysis for details.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

N/A

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

City of Hamilton Legal, Risk Management and Strategic Partnerships and Communications as well as external stakeholders including members of the Taxi Industry were consulted in the preparation of this Report.

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Standard Taxicab Priority List is now closed. To remain on the list, applicants must pay an annual fee of \$112 and remain active in the industry as a broker, driver, operator, dispatcher or mechanic. Active is defined as a minimum of 35 hours per week for 40 weeks per year. Names have been removed or applications abandoned over the years. The current list consists of 19 applicants.

Schedule 25 of the Business Licensing By-law 07-170 creates limitations as to the ratio of taxicabs per population. The current ratio of taxicab plate to population is one taxicab plate per 1,170 population.

Using population projections from the Hemson Report, the City population in 2017 was 549,212 and the anticipated growth is 601,160 by 2021.

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
536,917	549,212	561,570	574,205	587,125	601,160

*NB: these are approximations based on 2016 Census data and 2021 population data extracted from the Hemson Report*

Relying on the information in the Hemson Report, it is anticipated that the population of the City in 2020 will be 587,125. Using the current ratio of taxicab plate to the 2020

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population the allotment of taxicab plates would be 501. Since there are currently 471 plates issued, that would allow for the issuance of an additional 30 plates.

Schedule 25, subsection 25(1) states that an applicant issued a standard taxicab plate must, within 30 days of the date of being notified by the Director of Licensing of the available taxicab plate, affix the plate to a vehicle registered as a taxicab and shall continually operate such vehicle as a taxicab.

If the applicant fails to meet the 30-day period set out in subsection 25(1);

- (a) His or her applications for the licence shall be voided;
- (b) He or she shall be ineligible for the licence;
- (c) His or her name shall be struck from the Priority List; and
- (d) The next person on the Priority List shall become eligible for the licence.

Taking into consideration the current demands in the taxi industry, the impact of rideshare, while simultaneously considering the applicants on the priority list, staff is recommending the issuance of three standard taxicab plates annually until the expiry of the Standard Taxicab Priority List. This recommendation will eliminate the current Standard Taxicab Priority List allowing for any future additional taxicab licences to be issued from the Accessible Taxicab Priority List.

#### **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

1. Issue five standard taxicab plates annually, starting in January 2020 and an additional five taxicab plates per year until the Standard Taxicab Priority list expires.
2. As permitted in the Licensing By-law, staff could issue all 19 standard taxicab plates in January 2020, allowing for any future additional taxicab licences to be issued from the Accessible Taxicab Priority List.

#### **ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

##### **Economic Prosperity and Growth**

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

#### **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

None

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