

May 21,2020

Dear Mayor and Members of Hamilton City Council,

We are writing this letter on behalf of both City of Hamilton Taxi Brokers asking for some relief with municipal fees related to costs such as; plate renewal fees, lease renewals/registration fees, taxi cab license fees etc.

Hamilton's taxi industry was hit very hard in February because of the province-wide taxi vehicle insurance crisis. In Hamilton, regular vehicle insurance was not available from any insurance company; Taxi operators were forced to get Facility Insurance from the Provincial provider. The annual premiums for this sort of policy were 2 to sometimes 4 times as high, as compared to the prior years insurance premiums paid. Where in 2019 a Taxi Operator in Hamilton may have paid \$6,000 in insurance premiums, the Facility Insurance values were initially arriving at between \$13,000 and \$24,000. It did not matter whether operators had clean driving records with claims free history; this unilateral insurance spike affected all operators in Hamilton. The entire industry in Ontario was hit with this insurance challenge. This forced over 100 operators in the City to stop driving even before we became fully aware of the coronavirus. In March, as with all other businesses in Hamilton, the Taxi industry was hit with Covid-19. This forced hundreds of additional cabs to suspend service. Even at that time, many City of Hamilton Taxi operators made a conscious choice to remain operating, to continue to help residents get to grocery stores, to continue to bring essential workers to their places of employment and to continue to keep Hamilton residents moving for essential reasons.

On behalf of those that are active and those that are not currently active, we are asking the city to provide the taxi industry with some relief by reducing or eliminating some municipal taxi related fees. There are thousands of people, school aged children, Community members with accessibility needs, seniors, people with no credit cards who have no alternative and rely completely on Taxi service. The taxi industry is part of the backbone for local transportation in our City, we are asking for some support from the city at this time of need.

Sincerely,

Anthony Rizzuto-----President, Blue Line Transportation Limited

Ron Van Kleef -----President, Hamilton Cab

Jagtar Singh Chahal----- Chairman & CEO Hamilton Cab