

Item No. 10.1.2
Halifax Regional Council
February 7, 2012

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

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Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 6, 2012

SUBJECT: By-Law T-108: Temporary Zone Changes

ORIGIN

- Motion 11.1.3, January 11, 2011: Regional Council approved amendment to By-law T-108, Section 46(b) that permitted temporary removal of the zone restrictions “by Administrative Order or Resolution of Council”.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) to permit the removal of zone restrictions for the duration of the Metro Transit strike.

BACKGROUND

On January 11, 2011, Regional Council amended section 46(b) of By-law T-108 to provide the option to permit zone exemptions by way of an Administrative Order or a Resolution of Council. This amendment permits taxis to operate zone free for a specified period.

On February 2, 2012, negotiations between HRM and Metro Transit ATU broke off and unionized staff initiated strike act. Requests for removal of the zone restrictions have been received in order to provide more options for HRM residents through the duration of the strike.

DISCUSSION

During the Metro Transit ATU work stoppage, the use of taxis is an important transportation option for HRM residents and visitors, especially in times of inclement weather. Under the current By-law T-108, zone restrictions limit the number and location in which taxis can provide service. In order to provide more options for residents during the Metro Transit strike, staff recommends that Regional Council remove the zone restrictions for the duration of the strike via the resolution outlined in Attachment 1. At the conclusion of the Metro Transit strike, the zones as specified in T-108 will be immediately reinstated

This change will facilitate more access to taxis for the general public thereby providing more efficient transport of people, especially during inclement weather. As this change is for the duration of the Metro Transit strike only, concerns within the taxi industry related to long term changes to zones should be minimized.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications as a result of this report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Regional Council could choose to not remove the zone restrictions for the duration of the Metro Transit strike. This option is not recommended for the reasons outlined within the report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: By-law T-108 Resolution

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jim Donovan, Manager, Municipal Compliance, 490-6224

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Report Approved by: Denise Schofield, P.Eng., A/Director, Community & Recreation Services 490-6252

Attachment 1

Halifax Regional Municipality

Be It resolved by the Council of Halifax Regional Municipality, under the authority of Section 305 of the Motor Vehicle Act, Chapter 293, R.S.N.S. 1989 and By-law T-108, Respecting Taxi and Limousine Regulations that

Pursuant to Section 46(b) of By-law T-108, taxi drivers licensed under By-law T-108 are permitted to pick up or to accept a passenger in any zone and to carry that passenger to another location within that zone or to a location within any other zone for the duration of the Metro Transit Strike.

Done and passed this day of February, 2012.