

Recommendation

Municipal Compliance

Repeal and replace Administrative Order #39, as set out in Appendix A and amend Administrative Order #15, as set out in Appendix B, including:

- i) Rate increases as outlined in the July 13, 2012 staff report, with an amendment to the drop rate, increasing it from \$3.09 to \$3.10;
- ii) Extension of the current open zones to Thursday midnight to Friday 5:00 a.m.; Friday midnight to Saturday 5:00 a.m.; and Saturday midnight to Sunday 5:00 a.m.; and any Sunday night midnight to Monday 5:00 a.m. of a long weekend created by a holiday in effect on the Monday; and
- iii) Housekeeping and general amendments

Enact By-Law T-1000 Respecting the Regulation of Taxis and Limousines which will repeal and replace By-Law T-108

Background – Rate Increase

Municipal Compliance

- Last rate increase was October 2005 based on fuel costs which were at an all time high of \$1.40 per litre. Shortly afterward fuel prices began to decline.
- Industry submitted a proposal on June 24, 2011, requesting a general rate increase of 10%. This proposal increased a 10 km taxi trip to \$19.47.
- Staff considered the industry's proposal and a 5 year CPI increase at 8.9%

Background – Rate Increase

Municipal Compliance

- Staff reviewed National industry benchmark rates for comparison
- Staff received validation of rate increase from the Greater Halifax Partnership

Rate Increase

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- Rate Increase – 8.9% rate increase included a drop rate of \$3.09, which required a rounding up to \$3.10. This created a new blended rate of 9.07% equating to a 10km trip costing \$19.49
- Rate increase of 9.07% reflected on Cruise Ship, Airport and Limousine rates
- Additionally
 - Extra Passenger Rate - increases from \$.50 to \$.70
 - New - Bridge Toll fee of \$.80

Background- Extension of Zones

Municipal Compliance

- June 17, 2008, Regional Council defeated a motion to eliminate zones however there was approval to open zones from Friday 11:00 p.m. to Saturday 3:00 a.m. and Saturday 11:00 p.m. to Sunday 3:00 a.m.
- Subsequently, September of 2009 and January of 2010, Regional Council considered amending zoning legislation. Both the September recommendation to extend the open zones to seven days a week and the January recommendation to eliminate zones were not approved.
- Council has repeatedly decided not to eliminate zones

Background- Extension of Zones

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- In 2010 Dr. Don Clairmont and the Mayor's Round Table Report on Violence indicated that an absence of transportation in the downtown was contributing to a lack of public safety.
- Current zone restrictions remain an obstacle to enhancing public safety. Staff are therefore recommending the zone hours be extended in accordance with HRP's request.

Extension of Zones

Municipal Compliance

- Recommended Extension of Zones – Thursday midnight to Friday 5:00 a.m.; Friday midnight to Saturday 5:00 a.m.; and Saturday midnight to Sunday 5:00 a.m.; and any Sunday midnight to Monday 5:00 a.m. of a long weekend.

HRP Calls for Service Statistics

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- 2011 Downtown Core call data identifies a significant rise in calls for service on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights between midnight and 500 a.m.

	Sun/Mon	Mon/Tues	Tues/Wed	Wed/Thurs	Thurs/Fri	Fri/Sat	Sat/Sun
Total	156	147	101	217	497	747	820

HRP Assault Statistics

Municipal Compliance

- 2011 assault calls

		Mon/Tues	Tues/Wed	Wed/Thurs	Thurs/Fri	Fri/Sat	Sat/Sun
Total	11	7	2	17	34	58	62

- **Assaults in the core since 2008 have declined with the introduction of the original zone extensions. It is expected that a further extension of the zones would reduce the calls.**

General Amendments

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- Recovery of costs for cleaning or repairs to vehicle caused by passenger
- Taxi roof light illumination turned off when not available for service
- Allow the licensing of 5 or more passenger door vehicles
- Allow existing owners to put names on waiting list for other zones if they have appropriate driver license

General Amendments

Municipal Compliance

- Re-application waiting period for terminated conditional drivers licenses reduced to six months from one year
- Steamer Trunk rate removed
- Multiple taxi and limousine driver licenses consolidated into a single driver license with a 2 year term
- Smoking no longer permitted in vehicles for hire
- Conditional licenses issued to owners awaiting completion of National Certification and/or Criminal Record Reports
- Allow winter rims on vehicles for a specified period of time
- Corporate owned owner licenses become non transferable
- Allow the licensed airport drivers to charge the fares set out by the Halifax Stanfield International Airport

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