

21ST REPORT OF THE
COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOODS COMMITTEE

Meeting held on November 29, 2011, commencing at 4:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor H. L. Usher (Chair), Councillors W. J. Armstrong, M. Brown, S. Orser and P. Van Meerbergen and B. Mercier (Secretary).

ALSO PRESENT: R. L. Fair, P. McNally, I. Collins, H. Colyer, D. Cribbs, C. DeForest, S. Giustizia, N. Graham, C. Holland, C. Howard, O. Katolyk, G. Kotsifas, J. Richardson, F. Schell, J. Smout, J. Stanford and D. Warren.

I YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

Municipality of
Thames Centre
Partnership
Opportunities in
Waste
Management

1. (3) That, on the recommendation of the Director of Environmental Programs and Solid Waste, the following actions be taken with respect to shared waste management services with the Municipality of Thames Centre:

(a) the expansion of the service area of the W12A Landfill to include the Municipality of Thames Centre **BE APPROVED**, subject to the Municipality of Thames Centre:

(i) expanding the service area of its landfill to include the City of London;

(ii) agreeing to accept waste from the City of London up to an amount equal to the waste it disposes at the W12A landfill; and,

(iii) executing a standard Blue Box Processing Agreement to process recyclables at the Manning Drive Material Recovery Facility; and,

(b) the Civic Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to undertake all the administrative acts that are necessary in connection with this matter. (2011-W00-00)

Provincial
Increase to
Maximum Per
Diem Rate and
Personal Needs
Allowance for
Emergency
Shelters

2. (4, 9) That, on the recommendation of the Director of Social and Community Support Services, with the concurrence of the Executive Director of Community Services, the revised proposed by-law, attached as Appendix A, **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on December 6, 2011, to increase the maximum per diem rate payable to emergency shelter operators for costs of board and lodging pursuant to an "Emergency Hostel Services Agreement" from the rate of \$43.00 to \$43.50, in accordance with the provincially-approved maximum cost sharable rate, effective December 1, 2011. (2011-C06-00)

RFP 11-40 –
London CARES
Housing Stability
Component –
Contribution
Agreement with
Unity Project for
Relief of
Homelessness in
London

3. (5) That, on the recommendation of the Director of Social and Community Support Services, with the concurrence of the Executive Director of Community Services, the following actions be taken with respect to RFP 11-40 for the London CARES Housing Stability Component:

(a) the proposal submitted by Unity Project for Relief of Homelessness in London, 717 Dundas Street, London, ON N5W 2Z5, at the allocated annual funding of: 2011 \$66,700; 2012 \$338,157 (plus \$57,960.50 subject to available federal funding); 2013 \$339,307 (plus \$57,960.50 subject to available federal funding), HST included, based on a twenty-five (25) month contract, **BE ACCEPTED**; and,

(b) on the prior condition that (a), above, is accepted, the attached proposed By-law (Appendix A) **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on December 6, 2011, to:

(i) approve the Contribution Agreement to be entered into between the City and Unity Project for Relief of Homelessness in London; and,

(ii) authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute the Contribution Agreement approved in section (b)(i) above; and,

- (c) the Executive Director of Community Services **BE AUTHORIZED** to act under certain sections of the Contribution Agreement approved in section (b)(i) above. (2011-C10-00)

Taxi/Limousine
By-law Review

4. (6, 10) That the following actions be taken with respect to the Taxi/Limousine By-law review:

- (a) the report dated November 29, 2011, from the Director of Building Controls, Chief Building Official and Licence Manager, which includes a proposed draft by-law, **BE RECEIVED** for information;
- (b) the Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back in January 2012 with any proposed changes to the draft by-law referenced in (a) above, in response to comments received at the November 29, 2011 public participation meeting; and,
- (c) the Civic Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back to the Public Safety Committee (PSC) with respect to lifting the limitations imposed on the number of Accessible Cab Owner Licences issued;

it being noted that the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee heard the attached presentation from the Manager of Licensing and Municipal By-law Enforcement Services, and received communications dated November 17, November 21, November 23 and November 29, 2011, from S. J. Baker, President and C. E. O., London International Airport, J. Kukurudziak, 139-305 Briarhill Avenue, M. Manikas, 449 Simcoe Street and R. Amini, President, London Taxi Association, respectively, with respect to this matter;

it being pointed out that at the public participation meeting associated with this matter, the following individuals made an oral submission in connection therewith:

- J. Pepers, General Manager, U-Need-A-Cab, 729 Dundas Street – providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- B. Rice, Checker Limousine, 573 Admiral Court - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- J. Al Fuady, Resident – indicating that there needs to be a definite distinction between limousines and taxis; noting that limousines can behave in a manner as a taxi business; expressing that limousines are luxurious and that is how that business should behave; requesting that the distinction between limousines and taxis be clearly marked.
- H. Savehilaghi, President, Yellow London Taxi Inc., 238 Brunswick Avenue – indicating that the taxi industry is not here to push anyone out of business but stressing the need for distinction between transportation limousines and taxis; noting that limousines are uniformed and expressing that taxis will not tolerate interference in their territories - they pay for it and are licensed for it; further indicating that if he applies for a brokerage he is supplying a taxi service, he can't claim he is a limousine service; stating that it is time for the politicians to come out with a transparent and balanced enforcement solution; and noting that cameras are essential as the initial protection for cab drivers.
- N. Abbasey, 1657 Seymour Crescent - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- N. Favaro, 1385 Corley Drive - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- B. Howell, 62 Forward Avenue - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- N. Vakili, 847 White Oak Road – sharing an ancient parable about a camel and a bird; indicating that limousines are stopping everywhere, and that taxis are playing at being taxis so if you are a limousine then play like a limousine; asking what is behind these tinted windows, and expressing that cameras help keep everyone safe; further expressing that his expenses are less because he doesn't pay dispatch fees, etc.
- Dr. M. Chaudhary, 1095 Jalna Boulevard – providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- A. Cetinkaya, 502-1255 Commissioners Road West – indicating that he has had a taxi license for 14 years and when he started driving taxi his expenses were not as high as now and there were not as many limousines at the bars

when they close at 2:00 a.m., now they are all at the bars at closing time; noting that he works six days a week and only takes one day off; further indicating that the limousines are charging less and giving flat rates, etc., and are hurting the taxi industry; also noting that with over 100 limousines in the City it is getting harder to make a living; noting that he had only one plate last year and is trying to survive; expressing that limousines are for luxury, limousines and taxis should not be the same; and lastly, the limousines should not be allowed on the street, they even come to the bus station.

- J. R. Donnelly, Vice President, The ABOUTOWN Group of Companies, 1 Bathurst Street - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- R. Amini, President London Taxi Association, 309-1 Jacksway Crescent - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- D. Cadman, 1134 Adelaide Street North – indicating that he has been a driver for Checker Limousine for 10 years and there is nothing wrong with Checker, they have treated him great; further indicating that the customers ask why they can't have the service in their town, they feel safe in a nice car and with a company that cares about the drivers and the customers; expressing that London should be given what they want and appreciate.
- O. Hobson, 45 Evergreen Avenue – indicating that the cost of these proposed debts will have to be passed on to the customer, noting that taxi drivers work long hours; asking who is going to pay for the cameras, this cost will be passed on to the drivers; expressing that first aid training should be part of the license; further indicating that any decals on the vehicles should be clearly displayed; further noting that the limousine industry exists and if limousines want to behave like a taxi they must pay the same.
- Dr. D. Yousif, 797 Mapleridge Street - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- Q. Abei, 9 Glenroy Road – indicating that he has issues with Checker Limousine; noting that the City of London can have its own by-law, Council can think for themselves and for us, that is why we elected them; noting that with the last increase in prices, a part-time inspector can be hired and prices have been increased in the past and City staff wants to put it on our shoulders.
- J. Fisher, 54 Ansondale Road – indicating that he was a taxi driver for many years and driving a taxi is a hard job; further indicating that the Province has the right to revoke a license and the City has the authority to put whatever they want in a by-law; noting that taxis have more restrictions and costs – no one but the City has the right to issue a license.
- S. Ghasempour, 931 Fogerty Street - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- F. Musta, 145 North Centre Road - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- J. Kukurudziak, 139-305 Briarhill Avenue - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- M. Esmailbeigi, 472 Castlegrove Boulevard – expressing he doesn't do anything illegal in his car just because the windows are tinted, and that if he pays more it is his business; noting that limousines are a kind of taxi with a higher end; noting that the customers have the right to choose my service, they choose the limousine to get a better service.
- S. Zangeneh, 158-1560 Adelaide Street North – indicating that in his car he can't see the camera; stating he gets customers who have no money to pay and they force him to drive, and spit on him and swear at him, but he reports this to the Police; further indicating that the City cannot interfere unless it is a sexual assault or death – it is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world, he would like to have his job made safe.
- N. Haluga-Jorge, 21 McTaggart Crescent - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- S. Smith, 124 Bruce Street - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.
- S. Al Fuady, Resident - expressing that he has many friends with Checker Limousine, he respects all businesses in the City, noting that the taxi drivers are not trying to shut anyone down, everyone needs to make a living; noting that he believes all licenses in the City belong to the City; indicating that he has come a long way to where he is now and no one is going to shut him down; further noting that he works hard, taxis have to put up with people puking and trying to rob you; further expressing that he joined the army 3 years ago and came back to buy a plate – this is his business; further indicating that 12 years ago he made his

money picking up fares at the clubs and now he is making the same income as he did back then; and lastly, enough is enough, stop playing with our livelihood.

- I. Omer, 585 Proudfoot Lane - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.

- S. Van Den Akker, 746 Oxford Street West – noting that she is representing the business and is neutral in all the other issues; expressing that she is not in agreement with the by-law that restricts business to compete, if a company wants a higher overhead and to charge a price and compete it should be given that right; indicating that if you want to compete you have to be versatile and make adjustments.

- W. Hunter, 449 Simcoe Street – indicating that he is not affiliated with any company, he has travelled in Checker Limousine and found them to be clean, and travelled in Aboutown and they provided good service; stating we have to do what is best for the City of London; noting that London has the worst unemployment rate and we are fighting about who picks up who; further indicating that we have to watch out for the money and the elderly have to be watched out for; expressing that he doesn't feel the in car camera will deter anyone from robbing you, if they are going to rob you they will do it even if a camera is there.

- Z. Amer, 1106 Jalna Boulevard – indicating that he drove four years for a taxi and the last four years with Checker Limousine; noting that the problem is with the economy, there are more cars on the road than there is business; further noting that all calls are recorded with the limousines because the calls all go through a dispatcher; indicating that 50% of our customers are seniors and we serve them very well.

- J. Pournabi, 1360 Elson Road - providing comments as outlined in the attached communication.

- El Kassouf, 184 Elliot Street – indicating that he has been a taxi driver for twelve years, an accessible driver for seven years, driving an accessible taxi is not about money it is about compassion; noting that he is paying for the plate, it would be better for him to go and buy any plate; indicating that he is not making any more money only having more stress – you have to help us out here, gas costs him \$1,500 which he pays with his credit card; further indicating that no one is going to check the cameras, they don't care about the driver only the customer, although is good to have a camera for safety; requesting that pictures be posted of the bad people who hurt cab drivers.

- P. Ferguson, 572 Admiral Court – indicating that he started with Checker 22 years ago and has had very few complaints, the cars are well maintained and have not be taken off the road, our customers are happy with our fares and the drivers are happy with the income they make; noting that Checker has logged 5,000 trips this year; expressing that the individuals coming out of the bars will choose between a taxi and a limousine; further indicating that they set their rates and hours and follow all by-laws - it is all about the customer, you have to compete to be good.

- J. Donnelly Sr., The ABOUTOWN Group of Companies, 1 Bathurst Street – indicating that the customer has to be key, there are the people in the industry, drivers, companies, it is important to have fair regulation, it helps the industry, drivers and customers; noting that you can hail a taxi not a limousine; also noting that you can see a taxi by its bright lights; and lastly, limousine stands should be established, it's all about service; and having security cameras is not about fraud, it is for catching the criminals. (2011-G05-00)

II YOUR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dearness Long
Term Care –
Update

5. That the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee heard the attached presentation from C. Howard, Interim Administrator and H. Colyer, Director of Care, Dearness Home with respect to an update on Dearness Long Term Care.

5th Report of the
CCAC

6. (1) That the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee reviewed and received the 5th Report of the Child Care Advisory Committee from its meeting held on November 16, 2011. (See Report attached.)

11th Report of
the LDRRAC

7. (2) That the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee reviewed and received the 11th Report of the London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee from its meeting held on November 17, 2011. (See Report

attached.)

Lyme Disease
Surveillance and
Promotional
Activities in
Middlesex-
London

8. (7) That the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee reviewed and received a communication dated November 17, 2011, and heard the attached presentation from Dr. G. Pollett, Medical Officer of Health, Dr. B. Warshawsky, Associate Medical Officer of Health, and I. Kalsi, Director of Environmental Health and Chronic Disease Prevention Services, Middlesex-London Health Unit, with respect to Lyme Disease surveillance and promotional activities in Middlesex-London. (2011-C09-00)

Office of the
Independent
Police Review
Director

9. (8) That the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee reviewed and received a communication dated August 31, 2011, and heard the attached presentation from N. Welniak, Regional Outreach and Education Advisory, Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD), with respect to the OIPRD's public complaint system. (2011-P11-00)

London Urban
Services
Organization
(LUSO) –
Banana Hurling
Incident at the
John Labatt
Centre and
Transgendered
Incident

10. (11) That the Community and Neighbourhoods Committee reviewed and received a communication dated November 17, 2011 from E. Rodrigues, Executive Director, and M. Fraser, Anti-Hate and Anti-Bias Program Coordinator, London Urban Services Organization (LUSO) Community Services, in response to the banana hurling incident at the John Labatt Centre and the transgendered individual banned from the Trail's End Farmer's Market. (2011-P07-00)

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.