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**Date** November 9, 2023 **Report No.** 2023-655  
**To** Chair and Members  
Brantford Accessibility Advisory Committee  
**From** Chris Gauthier  
City Clerk and Director of Clerks Services

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### 1.0 Type of Report

Consent Item   
Item For Consideration

### 2.0 Topic **Review of Taxicab Licensing Regulations in the City of Brantford [No financial impact]**

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### 3.0 Recommendation

- a. THAT Report 2023-655, Review of Taxicab Licensing Regulations in the City of Brantford, BE RECEIVED; and,
- b. THAT the following comments regarding the Review of Taxicab Licensing Regulations in the City of Brantford BE FORWARDED to Staff:
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_; and
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_; and
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_.

### 4.0 Background

The administration and enforcement of taxicab licensing and regulations was transferred from the Brantford Police Service to the City of Brantford (City) in 2018. Staff are now undertaking a comprehensive review to ensure the

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regulations meet the needs of the community from a public safety perspective and will position the City well to respond to future growth.

A City cross-departmental team is facilitating the by-law review to modernize the current standards to ensure they address they are responsive to the needs of the community now, and in the future. The focus of the review includes but is not limited to:

- Accessibility as it relates to taxicab service and Transportation Network Companies (TNC) e.g. Uber and Lyft
  - Including definitions for “Accessible Taxicab” and “Disability” as per the Human Rights Code, as amended from time to time.
- Current limit on vehicle licences
- Evolution of TNCs
- Fares/rates for trips
- Synergies with the County of Brant Vehicle for Hire By-Law
- Vehicle inspections
- Additional items resulting from consultation

Staff are connecting with the Brantford Accessibility Advisory Committee (BAAC) to promote the various ways to engage in the review and highlight accessible services for consideration.

## 5.0 Analysis

Included is a brief overview of the ratio of accessible taxis required by by-law in the current fleet of taxi licence plates available, opportunities for public consultation and information on next steps.

### 5.1 Current Taxi Regulations Pertaining to Accessibility

There are three (3) licensed taxi brokers in the City (Brant Taxi, Bell City Taxi, EasyRide Taxi Inc.) who collectively operate a total of 94 taxi licensed plates issued by the City. The number of 94 plates is limited by the by-law and has not been changed in many years. The by-law also states that of those 94 plates, one per every 18 plates needs to be an accessible vehicle. Staff estimate that as of the last inspection in September 2023, one (1) per every nine (9) plates are affixed to an accessible vehicle, representing two (2) times the minimum standard established in the by-law.

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Staff consulted with brokers regarding the review and some have expressed a desire for more plates in order to operate more accessible vehicles.

## **5.2 Public Consultation**

Questions designed to extract information from the public based on their experiences specific to accessible taxicabs and other vehicles for hire have been included in the survey currently available on the engagement platform "[Let's Talk Brantford](#)". The survey was circulated to a number of community partners via email and hard copy flyers that include a QR code to the survey. The consultation is available electronically, online and alternate formats are available upon request.

## **5.3 Next Steps**

Staff will collect and analyze the data resulting from consultation. Once the analysis is complete, recommendations will be presented to Committee of the Whole-Planning and Administration (COW-PA) and a later Council meeting for ratification. Staff are targeting a COW-PA meeting in Q1 of 2024 to ensure consultation has been as thorough as possible in 2023.

## **6.0 Financial Implications**

The City's current year operating budget allocates for the staff time and materials associated with the review thus far. Additional analysis will be undertaken to review various licensing and fees associated with any recommendations resulting from the review.

## **7.0 Climate and Environmental Implications**

As the city grows, so will the demand for taxis and TNC services, which would add more vehicles to the road. Vehicle technology continues to advance with hybrid and fully electric vehicles. While the full climate and environmental implications remain unknown, the introduction of TNCs could support carpooling, taking more vehicles off the road by promoting rideshare opportunities.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

As the review continues, staff will update the BAAC as part of the engagement process. Staff will develop recommendations that thoughtfully reflect the

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consultation with the BAAC and others, data from municipal comparators and industry best practices, to a COW-PA in Q1 of 2024. Staff sincerely appreciates the BAAC's attention to the review.



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Chris Gauthier  
City Clerk and Director of Clerks Services

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In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required  yes  no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk  yes  no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council?  yes  no