
VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION PUBLIC INPUT PROCESSES

The Vehicle For Hire Commission continues to grow as it incorporates its expanded and new mandate to regulate all forms of "vehicles for hire" in Edmonton. One of the growing pains the Commission is experiencing is that some industry members appear frustrated in their attempts to express their views and opinions to the Commission on various matters. This phenomenon is complicated when drivers or business owners in one segment of this industry engage in conflicting open dialogue with drivers or owners from another segment of the industry, during the course of Commission meetings.

The Commission is planning a refreshed approach to its manner of doing business fulfilling its mandate to Edmonton's City Council, while at the same time gaining input from the general public and industry stakeholders. Over the next couple of months you will notice that our agenda format will be somewhat modified to achieve this purpose.

It will remain a "standard of practice" that the Commission agenda will be posted on our web-site one week prior to each meeting. Should any industry stakeholder wish to have a specific matter addressed by the Commission, they must provide some form of written request to address their matter --- complete with details regarding their matter, by the FIRST DAY OF ANY MONTH, in order to have this matter addressed by the Commission. This information can be delivered to the Commission office, faxed or e-mailed in. The practice of "walking a matter onto the agenda" on the day of a Commission meeting provides absolutely no time for the Commission members to prepare themselves for the discussion in any meaningful manner. We CANNOT operate Commission meetings in this manner.

The Commission also plans to continue its recent practice of having either 2 or 3 evening meetings each year, including an open agenda to hear input on any matter that a member of the general public or industry stakeholder may wish to bring forward. The next such meeting will likely be held in late November, with one topic for discussion being the probable release of additional taxi vehicle licence plates, in keeping with the Commission's formula of one taxi vehicle licence plate for every 10,000 persons living in Edmonton. The recently completed 2008 Civic Census seems to indicate that an additional 50 Taxi Vehicle Licence plates should be recommended to City Council for release in Edmonton.