

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Council
From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police/Taxi Authority
Date: April 15th, 2024
Subject: Taxi Bylaw – 2023/24 Annual Report to Council

On July 5th, 2023, the amendments to the Town of Amherst Taxi By-Law came into effect. One of the amendments that was recommended and passed was an annual written report to council. Section 4 of the Taxi By-Law states that the Taxi Authority shall provide a written report that includes:

- i. The number of taxi owners/operators;
- ii. The number of drivers employed by each owner/operator;
- iii. The number of vehicles utilized as taxis by each taxi company;
- iv. The number of taxi licenses assigned to each owner/operator;
- v. The number of bylaw infractions per owner/operator;
- vi. The number of infractions under the Motor Vehicle Act per owner/operator;
- vii. The number of Motor Vehicle Act infractions per driver;
- viii. The number of vehicle inspections carried out annually;
- ix. The number of vehicles in use that are in excess of 3 years old.

At the start of the 2023/2024 fiscal year there were six (6) Taxi companies operating in the Town of Amherst. Of these, four (4) have been compliant with the Town of Amherst By-Law. One of the Companies, 'Magic Taxi' decided not to continue with the application process and ceased operations. The 6th company (Another Taxi) appears to have ceased operations as well and has never complied with the provisions of the By-Law. During the year, the Amherst Police Department supplemented regular inspections by working with Vehicle Compliance Officers and mechanics to do 'traffic blitzes' that often resulted in taxi vehicles being pulled off the road. In total, 18 vehicles were voluntarily inspected. Two vehicles were inspected as part of a traffic blitz when they did not comply with annual inspections. These did not pass and were rejected.

Amherst Taxi

- Amherst Taxi utilized 7 vehicles and had 13 drivers in total;
- All vehicles passed inspections and owner licenses were issued for each;
- Their 13 drivers were all issued drivers licenses under the Taxi Bylaw;
- One driver license application was denied;
- All 7 of their vehicles are older than 3 years old;
- Amherst Taxi had one infraction under the TOA Bylaw which was a warning for a driver smoking in a vehicle.

Baker's Taxi

- Baker's Taxi utilized 2 vehicles and had 1 approved driver;
- Both vehicles passed inspections and owner licenses were issued for each;
- The driver for Baker's taxi was issued a driver's license under the Taxi Bylaw;
- Both vehicles are older than 3 years old;
- Baker's Taxi had no infractions under the TOA Bylaw
- Baker's Taxi had no tickets under the Motor Vehicle Act.

Bordertown Taxi

- Bordertown Taxi utilized 5 vehicles and had 5 approved drivers;
- All vehicles passed inspections and owner licenses were issued for each;
- The drivers for Bordertown taxi were issued driver's licenses under the Taxi Bylaw;
- One driver's license for Bordertown Taxi was denied. The applicant scheduled an appeal hearing but did not appear;
- All 5 vehicles are older than 3 years old;
- Bordertown had one driver warned for smoking in a vehicle under the Town of Amherst By-Law;
- Bordertown Taxi had no tickets under the Motor Vehicle Act.

Your Cab

- "Your Cab" submitted 4 vehicles and 3 driver applications;
- 3 of the 4 vehicles passed inspection and owner licenses were issued for each;
- The 4th vehicle that did not pass was not reinspected or resubmitted;
- The 3 drivers for "Your Cab" were issued driver's licenses under the Taxi Bylaw;
- All 4 vehicles are older than 3 years old, including the one that did not pass inspection and was rejected;
- One of the drivers of "Your Cab" did have an infraction under the Taxi By-law for operating without a license and was issued a warning. That driver submitted the necessary paperwork and was later issued a license.

Another Taxi

- Another Taxi did not submit application for driver's licenses or owner's licenses;
- Another Taxi did not comply with inspections on their 2 vehicles;
- Both vehicles owned by "Another Taxi" are older than 3 years old;
- Another Taxi had three infractions,
 - One driver was warned under the Town of Amherst By-Law for operating without a driver's license; This driver left the company and is now working for Amherst Taxi and is fully licensed;
 - One driver was charged under the Town of Amherst By-Law for operating a taxi without a license;
 - One driver was charged under the Town of Amherst By-Law for operating a taxi without a license;

- One driver was charged under the Town of Amherst By-Law for operating a taxi without a license;
- Both vehicles owned by Another Taxi were stopped during a traffic blitz and both failed inspection;
- Another Taxi is not registered under the Town By-Law and appears to have ceased operations.

Denied Licenses:

- Three people were denied taxi licenses in the 2023/2024 fiscal year. One of these applicants scheduled an appeal but did not appear at the hearing.



Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police/Taxi Authority