

Mayor Olivia Chow & Members of Toronto Council 100 Queen Street West Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Re: EX2025.21.5: Vehicle Age Limits for Vehicles for Hire

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto Council:

Please accept this letter as our strong support for the supplementary staff report being submitted to the Wednesday, March 26th Council meeting that was requested at the Wednesday, March 19th Executive Committee meeting regarding Item EX21.5: Extending Vehicle Age Limits for Vehicles for Hire.

We would like to submit the following input to you as you consider this staff report:

- 1.) We object to a three-year blanket extension to all taxi sedan model years 2016 & 2017.
- 2.) We do not want the City to mistakenly reward bad behaviour: The vast majority of drivers have already replaced their vehicles or are in the process of replacing their vehicles. We support an extension for drivers who have a purchase order for their new vehicles but are facing delays due to dealership delivery delays or delays due to the City's "Meter shop" being behind schedule. We do not support an extension to drivers who have not bothered to adhere to City requirements and have not bothered to purchase a new vehicle, hoping to save themselves money by simply extending the life of their existing vehicles. If a blanket extension is given, the drivers who follow the rules will be punished (by incurring the extra cost of purchasing a new vehicle) while those who are not following the rules will be rewarded (by avoiding the cost of purchasing a new vehicle).
- 3.) We do not want the City to create a precedent for future year model extension requests: Our Co-operative supports the current City standard of a seven-year life for vehicles as this helps to ensure the sedans are in good working order and are fit to drive. If the City extends a blanket approval for all 2016 and 2017 model years, what will stop future requests for extensions of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 model years. While extending the life of a sedan financially benefits an individual driver, it will lower the overall quality of the fleet and lead to the same complaints from the public that required taxi fleet reforms in the past.

Our input is based on the recommendations passed by the Executive Committee, specifically:

The Executive Committee directed the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, in consultation with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to report directly to the March 26, 27 and 28, 2025 meeting of City Council on:



a. the anticipated impact of tariffs on the price and supply of automobiles that are eligible to be operated as a taxicab; and

b. whether, due to tariff impacts on relevant automobiles, the date by which a registered taxicab with the model year 2016 or 2017 is required to be replaced should be extended beyond March 31, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to discussing these matters with you.

Cheers,

Abdulkadir Mohamoud, CEO & General Manager, Co-Op Cabs, Crown Taxi, Royal Taxi <u>Co-op Cabs</u>