

DATE OF MEETING MAY 14, 2018

AUTHORED BY KAREN FRY, FIRE CHIEF & DIRECTOR PUBLIC SAFETY

SUBJECT CAMERAS IN TAXI CABS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with information on their motion requiring cameras in taxicabs.

Recommendation

That report titled Cameras in Taxi Cabs, dated May 14, 2018, be received for information.

DISCUSSION

At the January 15, 2018 Council meeting, Staff were directed to prepare a report regarding options to implement cameras in taxicabs in the City of Nanaimo and include community consultation with all stakeholders.

The '*Passenger Transportation Act [sbc 2004]* Chapter 39 regulates commercial passenger vehicles in the Province of British Columbia and establishes the Passenger Transportation Board under Section 3.

The Passenger Transportation Board implemented the BC Taxi Camera Rule, updated May 31, 2017. The purposes of the rule include:

1. Enable taxicab licenses in British Columbia to use taxi cameras for driver and passenger safety.
2. Establish privacy safeguards.
3. Establish standards and requirements that must be adhered to when taxi cameras are used.

Staff contacted the BC Passenger Transportation Board to understand how authorization for licensees are implemented. The requirements for authorization are under the Provincial regulations and not the local government. For all areas that are currently authorized to use taxi cameras, it is the taxicab licensees that make the application to run the program, not the local government.

Community consultation with all stakeholders included speaking with the two main operators of taxicabs in the City, Yellow Cab and AC Taxi. The cost of implementing cameras was estimated to be anywhere from \$800 - \$2500 per car. While one of the companies indicated that they would be willing to implement cameras in their taxicabs, it was only under the condition that the other taxi company would also implement cameras. The second company advised that at this

time they would not be interested in implementation of cameras. Licensees are responsible for all costs arising from participation in a taxi camera program. This includes costs of purchase, installation, inspection, maintenance, and replacement or upgrade of taxi camera parts or systems.

A licensee may only install taxi camera equipment after receiving written authorization from the Passenger Transportation Board that requires a request and declaration of compliance, consultation and notification of the local government and police, and notification in the newspaper.

The RCMP have also been in contact with their counterparts where taxicabs have cameras to determine if the local government have bylaws in place requiring taxicab companies to install cameras. There were no bylaws in support of cameras in taxicabs found.

As a result, without the voluntary taxi licensees to start or join a taxi camera program and resulting written authorization from the Passenger Transportation Board the City of Nanaimo is not within its rights to require cameras in taxicabs.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The *BC Passenger Transportation Act* regulates commercial passenger vehicles in the Province of British Columbia
- Taxicab licensees must request from the Passenger Transportation Board to start up or join a taxi camera program after consultation and confirmation on the role of the police in obtaining images.
- There is neither support nor interest for both taxicab companies to join the taxi camera program.
- Without the voluntary taxi licensees to start or join a taxi camera program and resulting written authorization from the Passenger Transportation Board the City of Nanaimo is not within its rights to require cameras in taxicabs.

Submitted by:

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Concurrence by:

Cameron Miller
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