



# ***THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PORT COQUITLAM***

## **BYLAW NO. 1131**

*A Bylaw to regulate taxis and taxi-drivers within the City of Port Coquitlam.*

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***WHEREAS*** pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Act*, being Chapter 255 of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1960, as amended, the Council may by Bylaw regulate carriers of persons or chattels to the extent to which they are not subject to any regulation or order under any other Act;

***AND WHEREAS*** pursuant to the provisions of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, being Chapter 253 of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1960, as amended, the Council may provide for the regulating of taxi-drivers within the City and for the issuing of permits to taxi-drivers by the Chief of Police;

***NOW THEREFORE*** the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Coquitlam, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

**“Chief of Police”** means the officer in charge of the Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police policing the City of Port Coquitlam.

**“City”** means the Municipal area comprised within the boundaries of The Corporation of the City of Port Coquitlam, or the Corporation of the City of Port Coquitlam, as the context may require.

**“Licence Inspector”** means the Licence Inspector appointed pursuant to the Business Bylaw of the City.

**“Passenger Transportation Act”** means the *Passenger Transportation Act* of the Province of British Columbia, 2004, as amended from time to time.

**“Passenger Transportation Board”** means the regulatory body established by the Lieutenant Governor in Council pursuant to the *Passenger Transportation Act*.

**“Taxi”** means a passenger-directed vehicle as defined by the *Passenger Transportation Act*.

**“Taxi-Driver”** means a person who drives, operates, or is in charge of a taxi.

2. This Bylaw shall extend to and regulate taxis and taxi-drivers to the extent to which they are not subject to any Regulation or Order under the *Passenger Transportation Act* or any other Act.

### **REGULATION OF TAXIS**

3. No taxi shall be used or operated in the City unless a licence therefore has been issued under the current Business Bylaw of the City.

4. (a) A Business Licence as aforesaid shall only be granted to the owner of a taxi licenced pursuant to the provisions of the *Passenger Transportation Act* as a limited-passenger vehicle to serve an area that includes the City or a portion thereof as a part of such area and the Licence Inspector may require proof to his satisfaction of such licencing before issuing or renewing a Business Licence for a taxi.
- (b) A Business Licence granted to the owner of a taxi licenced pursuant to the provisions of the *Passenger Transportation Act* for an area that includes a portion only of the City shall be valid for operation of the taxi in that area of the City only and shall not extend the area of operation of the taxi into any area of the City not included in the area covered by the licence issued under the *Passenger Transportation Act*.
5. A taxi driver must not charge an amount for the hire of a taxi that exceeds the amount permitted under a tariff or rule approved from time to time by the Passenger Transportation Board under the authority of the *Passenger Transportation Act*.
6. Despite the number of passengers carried on a single trip by a taxi, a taxi driver must charge only a single fare for that trip.
7. A taxi driver must not charge for carrying a passenger's luggage or freight unless the passenger expressly agrees to the amount of the charge before the luggage or freight is carried.
8. The applicant for a Business Licence as aforesaid shall, in addition to the requirements imposed by this Bylaw, be governed by the Business Bylaw of the City and Division (1) of Part X of the Municipal Act and the application shall be dealt with accordingly by the Licence Inspector.
9. No licensee shall employ, engage, or permit any person to operate or drive any taxi unless such person holds a valid and subsisting taxi-driver's permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this Bylaw.

#### **REGULATION OF TAXI-DRIVERS**

10. No person shall drive, operate, or be in charge of a taxi unless he is the full age of nineteen years and is the holder of a permit therefor issued to him by the Chief of Police.
11. Before issuing a permit to any applicant, the Chief of Police shall satisfy himself that the applicant is not unfit to act as a taxi-driver by reason of his use of or dealing in intoxicants or narcotic drugs, or for any other reason.
12. Where a person holding a taxi-driver's permit becomes unfit to act as a taxi-driver for the reasons aforesaid, the Chief of Police, upon proof of his satisfaction of such unfitness, may suspend or cancel the permit.
13. Every taxi-driver's permit shall be issued and renewed annually, without charge, so as to expire on the last day of February in the year following its issuance.
14. Where an applicant for a taxi-driver's permit is refused or a taxi-driver's permit is suspended or cancelled by the Chief of Police, the Chief of Police shall within twenty-four hours after the refusal, suspension, or cancellation notify the applicant or holder in writing of the refusal, suspension, or cancellation stating the grounds thereof, and an appeal shall lie to the Council from the refusal, suspension, or cancellation stating the grounds thereof, and the decision of the Council thereon shall be final.

15. Every taxi-driver shall have his taxi-driver's permit in his possession at all times while driving or operating a motor-vehicle on any highway and shall produce the permit for inspection at any time upon the demand of any Peace Officer or Constable.
16. No taxi-driver shall:
  - (a) permit any person to enter or alight from a taxi while such taxi is in motion.
  - (b) collect fares or give change while the taxi being operated by him is in motion.
  - (c) loiter or cruise about the street with his taxi in such a manner as to obstruct or impede the normal flow of traffic.
17. (a) Every owner and driver of a taxi shall accommodate persons desiring to engage his service in the order of their application and if a taxi cab is not available to give the desired service forthwith then the applicant shall be so informed.
  - (b) No owner or driver shall refuse or neglect to convey an orderly person upon request by such person unless previously engaged or prohibited by Law.
18. (a) When a passenger has engaged a taxi he shall have the free and exclusive right to the passenger seating capacity of the taxi.
  - (b) No driver shall solicit or carry additional passengers in such taxi without receiving the prior consent of the passenger who first engaged the taxi.
19. Any driver engaged to carry passengers to a definite destination shall take the most direct route possible that will carry the passengers safely and expeditiously to such destination.
20. No driver of any taxi, upon receipt of payment of the fare registered by the taxi-meter in such taxi shall refuse to give a receipt upon the request of the passenger making such payment.

### **TAXI SAFETY STANDARD**

21. In addition to the requirements of any other authority and unless repugnant thereto, every taxi operated in the City shall:
  - (a) have painted or permanently affixed on both sides thereof a business name which include the word "taxi" or "cab" printed in lettering not less than two inches high and kept clean and distinguishable at all times.
  - (b) have an internally lighted sign mounted on the exterior of the roof of the taxi having the word "taxi", "cab", a telephone number, or other appropriate wording printed in lettering clearly legible from a distance of one hundred feet on not less than two sides of the said internally lighted sign and such sign shall be kept lighted at all times, except when the vehicle is under hire.
  - (c) be kept clean and in good repair and the interior shall be disinfected as required.
  - (d) be equipped with a taxi-meter which mechanically registers the distance and corresponding rate or charge while under hire, kept in a condition assuring accuracy and continuous registration during hire, and shall be so installed as to be automatically operated when the taxi is in motion as well as when such taxi is standing under hire and the said taxi-meter shall be subject to testing, inspection and sealing whenever the same is reasonably required by the Licence Inspector.

- (e) have displayed therein a schedule showing the rates and charges for the taxi as authorized to be charged. Such schedule shall be kept and displayed so as to face the passenger in a place designated by the Licence Inspector or shall be shown on the meter. No person shall remove such schedule or mutilate, deface or otherwise dispose of the same.
  - (f) generally be in a fit, proper, and safe condition to be operated as a taxi.
22. Every person issued a licence to operate an automobile as a taxi cab shall at such time and place as the Chief of Police or Licence Inspector may appoint, produce the motor vehicle so licenced for inspection, and if the said motor vehicle is found, due to any defect in its mechanical, physical or sanitary condition, to be unsafe or unfit to operate as a taxi cab, the said licence shall be suspended by the Licence Inspector until said motor vehicle is put into a safe and fit condition, at which time it may be reinstated by the Licence Inspector.
  23. Every person who violates any of the provisions of this Bylaw or who permits any act or thing to be done in contravention or in violation of any of the provisions of this Bylaw, or who neglects to do or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any of the provisions of this Bylaw, or who does any act which violates any of the provisions of this Bylaw shall be guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction and shall be liable to a fine of not more than \$2,000.00 or to imprisonment for not more than six months, or to both, the penalties being enforced and the fines and costs being recoverable upon summary conviction in the manner provided by the Offence Act R.S.B.C. 1979, c. 305 as amended.
  24. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the “City of Port Coquitlam Taxi and Taxi-Driver Regulation Bylaw, 1972, No. 1131”.

*Read a first time by the Municipal Council this 10th day of January, 1972.*

*Read a second time by the Municipal Council this 10th day of January, 1972.*

*Read a third time by the Municipal Council this 10th day of January, 1972.*

*Reconsidered, finally passed, and adopted by the Municipal Council of The Corporation of The City of Port Coquitlam this 24th day of January, 1972.*

L.B. SCOTT  
*Mayor*

R.A. FREEMAN  
*City Clerk*

**RECORD OF AMENDMENT**

<u>BYLAW NO.</u>	<u>AMENDED SECTION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1145	17	
1871	23	
3642	1, 3, 5, 6, & 7	2008 07 28