Kevin Christenson  
Town of Dundas  
City Clerk  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
L8P 4Y5  
sent via fax: 1-(905) 546-2095

May 15, 2007

Dear Mr. Christenson:

RE: GTAA AIRPORT TAXI/LIMOUSINE ISSUE

Please be advised that the Town of Markham General Committee, at its meeting held on May 14, 2007 made the following resolution in respect of the above item. This resolution will go to Council on May 22, 2007 where staff anticipate adoption.

GTAA AIRPORT TAXI/LIMOUSINE ISSUE

"WHEREAS Council of the City of Toronto at its meeting on April 24, 2007 passed By-law 425-2007 to remove the airport taxicab and limousine exemption from the City of Toronto Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS the removal of the airport exemption from the City of Toronto Municipal Code will prohibit all taxicabs or limousines holding a GTAA (Greater Toronto Airport Authority) permit from picking up passengers within the City of Toronto; and

WHEREAS Town of Markham licenses and regulates 52 GTAA vehicles; and

WHEREAS Town of Markham staff advise the removal of the airport exemption will have a potentially adverse financial impact on both the GTAA licensed vehicles as well as the industry serviced by municipally licensed vehicles in the Town of Markham and in neighbouring municipalities; and

WHEREAS the removal of the airport exemption will have an adverse environmental impact by increasing the likelihood of taxicabs and/or limousines making one-way trips without a customer in the vehicle; and
WHEREAS Council of the City of Toronto also recommended that the Licensing and Standards Committee undertake consultations with other stakeholders including other governments in the GTA to determine whether reciprocal licensing arrangements are possible to enhance the quality of service to residents, businesses and to report on any proposals they deem worthy of further discussion; and

WHEREAS the Town of Markham has not been consulted on the potential impact of By-law 435-2007; and

WHEREAS the Town of Markham has reason to believe other municipalities also impacted by By-law 435-2007 have not yet been consulted;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The Town of Markham Council advise the Mayor of Toronto that it does not support By-law 435-2007 passed by the Council of the City of Toronto on April 24, 2007 for the aforementioned reasons and request that the GTAA take steps to immediately deal with this issue; and,

2. That Town of Markham request Council of the City of Toronto repeal By-law 435-2007 and take no further action to amend provisions which would affect the conveyance of passengers to and from Lester B. Pearson International Airport until such time as consultation occurs with the GTAA, municipalities adjacent to the City of Toronto and other interested stakeholders on this issue due to the fact that the removal of the exemption from the City of Toronto Municipal Code will have immediate repercussions in other jurisdictions and is not in the best interests of the Province, the travelling public, air quality and the environment; and,

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Markham Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and relevant taxi industry stakeholders in Markham; and,

4. And that a copy of this resolution also be sent to the seven other area municipalities which GTAA taxicab licences, namely the City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, City of Vaughan, Town of Richmond Hill, City of Kawartha Lakes, Town of Pickering and Town of Dundas, along with a request for the Councils of these municipalities to expeditiously adopt a similar resolution”.

I understand this issue will be raised at the Toronto City Council meeting to be held on May 23 and 24. Given the potential negative implications of By-law 435-2007, I encourage you to request your respective Councils adopt a similar resolution. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 905-477-7000, ext. 8220.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Kimberley Kitteringham,
Deputy Clerk