

**Subject: RE: North Shore Taxi**

**Date:** Sat, 22 Nov 2003 00:31:19 +0000 (GMT)

**From:** Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

**To:** Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, JRidge@cdnv.org, Ernie Crist <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**CC:** fonvca@fonvca.org

22 November 2003

RE: NORTH SHORE TAXIS VEHICLE VIOLATIONS

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Dear Mayor and Council:

The swift responses from Council regarding the serious problems with North Shore Taxi - from Clr. McKeon-Holmes, Clr. Crist and Mayor Bell -are appreciated.

Mayor Bell echoed the points raised in my email, reviewed the past history between Council and the Company, and outlined current and proposed actions to deal with the matter.

That said, I remain of the opinion that, once the dust settles, nothing much will change with company operations unless and until the owners are persuaded that the Provincial Government, the governments of all five North Shore municipalities AND the law all mean business.

In view of past history and the owner's attitude on camera, the Mayor's information that the company "has replaced 10 taxis and had 16 repaired" gives only small comfort.

Unless government and police forces have stronger measures in place to confirm the accuracy of the company claim, and until citizens can be assured that the "replacements" are not just vehicle rejects from elsewhere in the Province, it is doubtful that anyone will be comfortable riding in a North Shore Taxi.

It is to be hoped that, this time, new regulations to cover vehicle age and mileage limits will be enacted, and that appropriate, coordinated inspection and certification procedures will be implemented.

North Shore citizens - and others who share the roads with North Shore Taxi vehicles - can thank their lucky stars that, in the four years since "DNV Council began discussions about drafting a bylaw," no fatalities have occurred as a result of the behaviour of this company.

Some final comments: At meeting after meeting, Council discussion continues until 11 p.m. and beyond. More and more frequently, agendas are taken up with DVP's, or discussions as trivial as what a new logo should look like. This past year, what with August holidays, 3-day weekends and the Mayor's new policy on replacing "regular" Council meetings with "special meetings," the time available for discussion - even of billion-dollar GVRD projects - has dwindled to a trickle. And now this.....

It is appalling that it has taken Council from 1999 until November 2003 to begin biting the bullet to finalize action on such a very serious safety issue.

It is to be hoped that the new CAO, Mr. Ridge, will find a way to set more appropriate priorities for future Council agendas.

Thank you, again, for your various communications - as I said at the outset, they are appreciated.

Yours truly,

Liz James

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