

December 19th, 2011

**MEDIA ADVISORY
ALDERMAN DIANE COLLEY-URQUHART**

**IMPROVING LATE NIGHT TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS IN
RESPONSE TO ALBERTA'S BILL 26**

Calgary AB – Today in Council Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart asked her Council colleagues to support a motion requesting that the Taxi Limousine Advisory Committee (TLAC) work with City Administration to jointly explore further opportunities in light of Bill 26 to enhancing transportation service to citizens during weekends, special events and seasonal holiday peak demand periods. “As an official spokesman of MADD I am a strong supporter of the tougher legislation in bill 26.” said Alderman Colley-Urquhart.

“Citizens need to know they can get home safely and that there are different transportation options for them,” stated Alderman Colley-Urquhart. Demand for taxis has been increasing for several years now and I expect that there will be a significant increase in demand given the new drinking and driving rules in Bill 26.”

The City of Calgary like many other municipal jurisdictions currently experiences a taxi shortage during the winter holiday season particularly during weekend bar closing times between 2:00 am to 3:00 am with significant winter weather events further reducing the compliment of taxis available to the public during a period already experiencing high demand.

With Bill 26 the opportunity exists to explore the seasonal, special and night time plate concept with a night time fleet that could work year round from 6 pm to 6 am, and those plates could be used as full service daytime plates during major weather or special events.

The request for the release of seasonal plates for major events could also be integrated into the TLAC process by Tourism Calgary and/or the Calgary Hotel Association who have a pulse on demand requirements.

The adopted motion requests a report directly to Council by April 2012 on;

- a) increasing the current compliment of available accessible taxis,
- b) developing a non transferable special occasion taxi plate licensing program,
- c) imposing additional requirements and/or conditions on current taxi licenses, including piloting the release of a limited number of non-transferable “night time only plates”,
- d) alleviating driver safety concerns through the mandatory implementation of safety shields,
- e) developing complimentary options and cost to expand transit service.



For further information call Alderman Colley-Urquhart at 403-875-7413 or dcolley@calgary.ca