

NEW YORK CITY
TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

January 8, 2009

Present:

Matthew W. Daus, *Commissioner/Chair*
Elias Arout, *Commissioner*
Edward Gonzales, *Commissioner*
Lauvienska Polanco, *Commissioner*
Charles Fraser, *General Counsel*

1. The Chair called the meeting to order and reported the following:
 - The Chair reported that 11 volunteers from the TLC helped staff the Your Money Helpline between December 15 and 19, 2008, which gave financial advice to New Yorkers in need. This helpline was put together with assistance from the Mayor, the Daily News, Department of Consumer Affairs, City University and the Office of Financial Empowerment (Tr. pp. 3-4)
 - The Chair reported on the Accessible Dispatch Program. There are 237 accessible taxicabs on the road. As of today, 801 calls have been dispatched. There are 308 drivers trained, a significant increase due to the work of the industry, Samara Epstein and Carolyn Castro. 201 vehicles and drivers have been equipped with Blackberries and an average of 20-30 vehicles are logged into the system at any given time. The Chair anticipates that in the next few weeks the TLC expects to do some outreach to the disability community, in conjunction with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, as the 311 hotline is open to receive dispatch calls on a wider scale. (Tr. pp. 4-5)
 - The Chair reported on the recent media coverage surrounding the TLC's pilot program providing for cameras that record accident data in vehicles. The TLC has received many inquiries on this subject from manufacturers. The TLC has published a Request For Information for this program, which was available at the meeting and on the website. (Tr. pp. 5-6)
 - The Chair gave an update on T-PEP. This process started over four years ago with a Request for Information, the Technology Summit and a Request for Proposals. The Chair is very pleased with how T-PEP is working. Drivers are accepting of it and the vendors have been very responsive to issues arising as

the product developed. The TLC is considering how to improve T-PEP as this project is becoming the model for other cities. The Chair is considering issuing another RFI which will probably cover the following topics: soliciting input from the industry, the technology community, the riding public and the general public, content providers, and anyone who has T-PEP experience. The Chair wants to explore new ideas and applications for the next phase of T-PEP. The Chair thanked the vendors and staff who worked on this project, and noted that it received a citywide award for excellence in technology. (Tr. pp. 6-12)

- The Chair reported on how current economic conditions are affecting the black car and luxury limousine industry and the yellow cab industry. The black car industry is suffering negative revenue impact on their business and is losing some business to the yellow cab industry because of the availability of credit/debit cards. The TLC has a record high of 46,409 licensed hack drivers at the end of the year. Medallion prices have reached an all-time high, with the recent sales of a mini-fleet for \$747,000 and an independent medallion for \$550,000. The Chair was optimistic about the future of the yellow cab industry and noted that the industry was well served by providing a living wage for drivers which has worked to keep experienced drivers and attract new ones. (Tr. pp.12-14)
- The Chair announced that the TLC will hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to the rules governing taximeters. Charles Fraser, the General Counsel, will preside over this hearing. The hearing is scheduled for January 23, 2009 at 2:30 pm. The goal of these proposed rules is to make the rules easier to understand by reorganizing, reordering and rewriting the rules in plain language. The TLC plans to note substantive issues that come up during this process that should be addressed in the next phase of the project. (Tr. pp. 14-15)
- The Chair announced that the next two meetings are scheduled for February 12, 2009 and March 12, 2009. The Chair expects to hold public hearings in February on proposed rules codifying the deferment of the black car MPG rules. In March, the Chair expects to hold a public hearing on the lease cap revisions and modifications. The Chair reported that as of yesterday, we are now at 1756 hybrids, and that number continues to increase. The Chair also noted that the TLC hopes to address livery reforms and issues in the coming year. (Tr. pp. 14-15, 19)
- The Chair made a personnel announcement. The Chair welcomed Raymond Scanlon to the TLC. Mr. Scanlon is the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner for Adjudications. The Chair thanked Peter Tumminelli, Carmena Schwecke, and Sherry Cohen for their hard work during this transition. The Chair presented badges to Raymond Scanlon, and Sara Meyers, Assistant Commissioner for Licensing. (Tr. pp. 16-18)

2. The Chair recognized Stanley Michels, a former TLC Commissioner and longtime public servant for his contributions to the TLC and the City. Mr. Michels passed away in August. The family of Mr. Michels was present, including his wife Molly Michels, his daughters Judge Shari Michels and Karen Michels. Also present was Mr. Michel's former Chief of Staff, Steve Simon. The Chair presented a plaque commemorating Mr. Michel's service to Mr. Michel's family. Mrs. Michels thanked the TLC and spoke about her husband's service to the TLC. Mr. Simon also spoke about Mr. Michel's service to the City. (Tr. pp.19-30)
3. The Chair adjourned the remaining items on the agenda to the next Commission meeting due to a lack of quorum. (Tr. pp. 30-31)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Minutes as approved by the Taxi & Limousine Commission on
February 12, 2009



Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs / General Counsel

February 13, 2009
Date