

NEW YORK CITY
TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

December 16, 2010

Present:

David Yassky, *Commissioner/Chair*
Harry Giannoulis, *Commissioner*
Edward Gonzales, *Commissioner*
Lauvienska Polanco, *Commissioner*
Charles Fraser, *General Counsel*

1. Chairman Yassky called the meeting to order and reported on the following:
 - Chairman Yassky reported that the Commission would not be voting on any of the meeting agenda items because not enough Commissioners were present due to several unexpected absences. Public hearings will take place at this meeting, but voting on these items will take place in January. (Tr. pp. 3-4)
 - The Chair reported on the “You the Man” campaign. The TLC is joining with the Department of Transportation and CIROC. 2000 free prepaid cards good for \$25 taxi fares will be distributed. (Tr. pp. 4-5)
 - Chairman Yassky reported on the Taxi of Tomorrow project. TLC has asked the top three candidates to submit a final offer. Their responses are due in January. (Tr. pp. 5-6)
 - Chairman Yassky reported on E-ZPass. An analysis of T-PEP data showed that too many taxi drivers are charging the full cash price on bridges and tunnels and not using their E-ZPasses. TLC rules require that E-ZPass be used on all toll crossings and that the passengers be charged that reduced E-ZPass fare. The TLC has just issued 100 tickets for this and will issue 200 more shortly. TLC is trying to improve compliance with the rule. (Tr. pp. 6-7)
 - The Chair reported that T-PEP data is also showing that drivers are not engaging the meter on flat fare trips from JFK to Manhattan. No one is being overcharged but it is a violation for the meter to not be on. The meter should be engaged at the beginning of every trip. (Tr. p. 9)
 - Chairman Yassky reported on a number of reminders for the industry. DDS will no longer be an approved T-PEP provider. Medallion owners will need to sign up

with CMT or Verifone for T-PEP service by December 31. Installation deadlines will depend on the vehicle. The Chair also reminded medallion owners that TLC staff must be able to reach them 24/7. Owners must provide a telephone number that they can be reached at 24 hours a day. FHV bases, black car bases and luxury limousine bases must make sure all vehicles include that they are licensed by the TLC and their base license number in their vehicles. (Tr. pp. 10-11)

- The Chair reported on upcoming proposals to change the amount of many fines and proposed reductions in fines for licensees who plead guilty before their hearings. The details of these proposals are still in development. In January there will be public hearings on two proposed rules. One will require business licensees to provide TLC with e-mail addresses and the other will revamp aspects of the licensing process with deadlines for completion of license applications, that outstanding fines must be paid for a license application, and unifying late fees. (Tr. pp. 11-12)
 - Chairman Yassky honored former TLC employee Ira Goldstein for his service to the TLC. (Tr. pp. 12-13)
2. Items 2 and 3 are adjourned to the next Commission meeting.
 3. Item 4 (e), Proposed Amendments to the Driver Dress Requirements, was presented to the Commission for public hearing. The following speakers testified at the public hearing: Osman Chowdhury; Bill Lindauer, New York Taxi Workers Alliance (“NYTWA”); and Bhairavi Desai, NYTWA. (Tr. pp. 13-24)
 4. Item 4 (a), Proposed Vehicle Inspections and Inspection Fee Rules, was presented to the Commission for public hearing. Bhairavi Desai, NYTWA, spoke at the public hearing. (Tr. pp. 24-29)
 5. Item 4 (b), Proposed Forms of Payment and Bad Check Fees Rule, was presented to the Commission for public hearing. No one signed up to speak at the public hearing. (Tr. pp. 29-30)
 6. Item 4 (c), Proposed Livery Workers Compensation Rule, was presented to the Commission for public hearing. Richard Thaler, Omni Media spoke at the public hearing. (Tr. pp. 30-32)
 7. Item 4 (d), Proposed Lost Property Rule, was presented to the Commission for public hearing. Osman Chowdhury spoke at the public hearing. (Tr. pp. 32-35)
 8. Item 6, a public hearing on the Accessible Transportation Plan was held before the Commission. Adrian Gonzalez, TLC Policy Analyst, gave a presentation outlining the previous pilot program and plans going forward. A public hearing was held and the following people testified: Victor Dizengoff, on behalf of the for-hire industry; Bill Carter; Avik Kabessa; Ronnie Raymond; Bhairavi Desai,

NYTWA; Ethan Gerber, Greater New York Taxi Association; Peter Mazer, Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade; Mark Hemingway, Executive Transportation; Marvin Wasserman, Brooklyn Center of Independence for the Disabled; David Pollack, Committee for Taxi Safety; Richard Thaler, Omni Media; Jean Ryan, Disabled in Action and Taxis for All; and Beresford Simmons, NYTWA. (Tr. pp. 35-125)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:32 p.m.

Minutes as approved by the Taxi & Limousine Commission on
January 20, 2011



Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs / General Counsel

February 1, 2011
Date