

Taxi and Limousine Commission Meeting
December 3, 2015

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NEW YORK CITY
TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING

December 3, 2015
10:25 a.m.

33 Beaver Street
New York, New York

Present:

MEERA JOSHI, Chair and Chief Executive Officer

CHARLES WILSON, General Counsel

Board of Commissioners:

ELIAS AROUT
EDWARD GONZALES
LAUVIENSKA POLANCO
NORA C. MARINO
FRANK V. CARONE
JACQUES JIHA

Reported By: Nicole Ellis

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CHAIR JOSHI: Good morning. The time is 10:25, and we're going to start our public meeting. And I just want to note, this is our last Commission Meeting of the year, so I want to take the opportunity to wish everybody a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season, and best wishes in the new year.

We got a little -- an early holiday present. On November 7th, baby Darlee Lu (phonetically) Lu was born in a taxicab. Her driver, Mr. Saha, picked the couple up on the way to the emergency room at Mount Sinai Hospital, a six-minute journey. They made it all the way to the front of the ER and little baby Darley decided to be born right there in the cab before they could make it into the emergency room. So we -- a heartfelt thanks to Mr. Saha who was calm, cool, and collected through the whole drive and the delivery, and we look forward to thanking him in person in the new year at our Commission Meeting in 2016.

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(Applause.)

CHAIR JOSHI: As you all know, our Licensing facility moved last month -- well, I think it was November 12th. We're in the Falchi Building in Long Island City. It's been a transition, but I want to thank everybody for their patience, especially for the Licensing staff, who not only have been working exceedingly hard during the actual move, but exceedingly harder and harder as they transition into the new space. And it's taking a lot of adjustments to get used to the different format of this building. And we'll be working on a lot of improvements for how we move people through the lines, so that when licensees come to the Falchi Building, the time that they spend there to get processed is less. But more importantly, we want to make sure licensees can do more things online so they don't actually have to come into the Licensing facility at Falchi. Not that they're not always welcome, but they

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probably have better things to do. So we look forward to rolling out and hopefully you seeing the benefits of some of those efficiencies in the next couple of months.

And today we have a pretty short meeting. On the agenda are only two items. One is an amendment to a pilot that we approved last month, basically providing alternative leasing options for garages as long as they don't go over the aggregate lease cap. And then the second item on the agenda is some changes to our green taxi rules, basically to mirror some of the transfer requirements on the medallion side so there's notification to equipment vendors when a green taxi permit is transferred, and that all fines due are taken care of before those transfers take place.

So with that, I'm going to turn over to Licensing to go over our -- I'm sorry, adoption of the minutes. With that, we'll turn to adoption of the minutes.

All in favor of adopting the minutes

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do with whether or not the vehicle can be operated beyond that point time. And if somebody gets appointed to run the estate, and we say okay, they can continue operating indefinitely until we schedule that.

MR. GARCIA: (Through an interpreter) He says he hopes that everything will work out well, and we'll keep in touch, and hope that you keep making great moves for the SHL. Thank you.

CHAIR JOSHI: Thank you.

MR. WILSON: Thank you.

As local law requires, the final rule for Commission action, which was changed from the proposed rule was posted on the TLC website on November 30th and sent to the Commissioners on that date.

Do people have any questions, otherwise are we ready for a vote?

(No response.)

MR. WILSON: Okay. All in favor.

(Unanimous silent indication.)

MR. WILSON: And so it passes

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2 unanimously.

3 Next on the agenda is an amendment to
4 pilot to test taxi leasing models. As you'll
5 recall in October, you approved a resolution
6 to start a taxicab leasing pilot program to
7 test and evaluate increased flexibility
8 in arrangements for leasing taxicabs.

9 Licensees, since the resolution passed, have
10 expressed desire for an even more flexible
11 leasing models beyond the fair-splitting or
12 Commission models approved in the
13 resolution.

14 The amendment to the pilot resolution,
15 if approved, would allow taxicab lessors to
16 propose shift hours and lease caps specific
17 to each lessor and make periodic
18 modifications for their leasing models.

19 This amendment contains additional
20 reporting requirements to further protect
21 drivers from overcharges, while also
22 providing more information that is readily
23 available to drivers under the current
24 lease cap system.

25 All lessors' specific leasing models

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2 will be posted on the TLC website as well
3 as the lessors' facility at least seven days
4 before going into effect. Additionally, the
5 TLC will post some information about each
6 participating lessor such as shift change
7 location and average age of lessors'
8 taxicabs. The TLC hopes the drivers will
9 utilize this information in determining which
10 lessors provide the type of service drivers
11 desire in competitive lease prices.

12 Finally, the amendment will require
13 that each prospective lessor send a plan
14 offering his or her evening shift change
15 outside the 4 to 8 p.m. hours prior to
16 receiving approval from TLC participation
17 (inaudible).

18 As local law requires, the proposed
19 resolution was posted on the TLC website on
20 November 30th and sent to the Commissioners
21 on that date. Any questions?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. WILSON: All in favor?

24 (Unanimous silent indication.)

25 MR. WILSON: Okay, that's the agenda.

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2 very brief meeting, but I do want to note
3 one anniversary, a very important
4 anniversary. Our Commissioner Elias Arout
5 and his wife celebrated 60 years of
6 marriage.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIR JOSHI: Congratulations.

9 COMMISSIONER AROUT: Thank you.

10 CHAIR JOSHI: And with that brings our
11 meeting to a close. Happy holidays
12 everyone.

13 COMMISSIONER AROUT: May I? I just
14 like to ask anyone in the audience that
15 has a base who lives in Staten Island?

16 (No response.)

17 COMMISSIONER AROUT: None, right?

18 Well, that's okay. Well we're building a
19 new building for the TLC where operators
20 and Licensing, and so forth and so on were
21 in the halfway stage now. I hope by the
22 end of December we'll have a building
23 there where the laws that we have will be
24 taken care of. I make -- I go there every
25 two or three weeks to see what's

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2 happening. Everything's coming along, but
3 I'm not too happy about it, but it's being
4 made. So I hope by the end of this month
5 we will have a base on Staten Island where
6 the drivers that live on Staten Island
7 will work on Staten Island and it will be
8 much help for those that want to do some
9 transfers and so forth and so on, it will
10 be done on Staten Island.

11 So hopefully by January 1st it'll be
12 an operation. Thank you.

13 CHAIR JOSHI: Thank you. And we'll,
14 of course, post and put out an industry
15 notice as soon as that Staten Island
16 facility is open, and we are working
17 quickly to get there.

18 So thank you everybody, and have a
19 great year. And this ends today's meeting
20 at 10:40.

21 (Time noted: 10:40 a.m.)
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