

NEW YORK CITY
TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

March 8, 2007

Present:

Matthew W. Daus, *Commissioner/Chair*

Elias Arout, *Commissioner*

Noach Dear, *Commissioner*

Harry Giannoulis, *Commissioner*

Edward Gonzales, *Commissioner*

Charles Fraser, *General Counsel*

1. The Chair called the meeting to order and reported the following:
 - The Chair reported that the TLC was in the middle of the March licensing renewal period. (Tr. p. 3).
 - The Chair announced that the TLC website has a new e-mail subscription center available at www.nyc.gov/taxi (Tr. p. 4).
 - The Chair reported that the new Daylight Saving Time change-over date may require reprogramming of taximeters, and recommended contacting the taximeter businesses with any questions. (Tr. pp. 4-6).
 - The Chair reported that the Adjudications Division is now accepting credit card payments, and that this will be expanded to other TLC departments. (Tr. pp. 6-7).
 - The Chair announced that, regarding the rule review and update project, the revised request for proposals was released on March 7, 2007. (Tr. pp. 7-9).
 - The Chair reported that the annual driver recognition ceremony would be held on March 29, 2007 at the Rooftop Gardens at 620 Fifth Avenue. (Tr. pp. 9-10).
 - The Chair reported that 2007 is the 100th anniversary of the taxicab in New York City, which will be celebrated with Taxi Week from April 6 through April 15, 2007 including events such as the New York International Auto Show, an exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York, and a film at the Independent Film Center. (Tr. pp. 10-11).

- The Chair reported that the Garden in Transit project was moving forward, and encouraged volunteers to participate in painting decals for taxicabs. (Tr. pp. 12-14).
 - The Chair reported that the next Commission meeting was scheduled for April 12, 2007. He reported that public hearings for rules related to partitions and cameras, as well as clean air and accessible vehicle retirement incentives and markings were scheduled for that meeting. (Tr. p. 14).
 - The Chair reported that the following meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 10, 2007, and that the staff was working on medallion transfer and paratransit rules proposals. (Tr. pp. 14-15).
2. A motion to adopt the minutes of the February 8, 2007 Commission meeting was made by Commissioner Arout. It was seconded, and passed unanimously. (Tr. p. 25).
 3. The Chair reported that he asked the staff to expedite a plan to reform base licensing including a timeline, base visits, and reports. Sara Meyers, Director of Special Projects, reported that an inter-divisional committee was formed to address these issues including staff from the Licensing, Enforcement, and Legal divisions and the First Deputy Commissioner's Office. The committee will review the rules and policies that regulate the for-hire vehicle industry, and present a plan to the Commission at the May meeting. (Tr. pp. 16-21).
 4. Sara Meyers presented the following base station license renewal applications for consideration:

The following base stations were recommended for approval:

The following bases are being recommended for approval

NEW (1)

Laura Car & Limo. Services Inc.	B02172
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RENEWAL APPLICATIONS (7)

510 Car Service Corp.	B00948
Catch Ah Ride Limo. Inc	B02045
Evelyn Car Service Inc.	B01148
Five Star	B01466
Optimum Rad. Disp. Inc. D/b/a Inwood Optimum Rad. Disp.	B02065
Transport One Inc. D/b/a Imperial Car Service	B01640
Uniworld Bros. Entp. Inc	B01478

RENEWAL & RELOCATION (1)

Paisa 2 Car & Limousine Service Inc B01088

RENEWAL & OWNERSHIP CHANGE (4)

Active Express Car & Limo. Service Inc. B01552
C & D Car Service Inc. B01951
Church Avenue Car Service Inc. B01146
New Superior Radio Group Corp B01768

OWNERSHIP CHANGE (1)

Rego Park Express Inc. B01444

The following bases are being recommended for denial (4) B02046

Bakoss Trading Inc. B02034
CIA Car & Limousine Service B01498
Mega Car Service Inc B01498
Pak-Eagle Inc B01128

(Tr. pp. 20-22).

5. Commissioner Dear made a motion to approve all of the base station license applications that were recommended for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Giannoulis, and the motion passed unanimously. (Tr. p. 22).
6. Chairman Daus made a motion to deny all of the base station license applications that were recommended for denial if they do not comply with requirements within thirty days. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. (Tr. p. 25).
7. Samara Epstein, Director of Constituent Management, delivered a presentation on a proposed rule relating to for-hire vehicle inspections, markings, and license display. (Tr. pp. 27-44.)
8. A public hearing was conducted on the proposed rules regarding for-hire vehicle inspections, markings, and license display. The following individuals spoke at the hearing: Deputy Inspector Ann Marie Connell, Commanding Officer of the Special Victims Division of the Police Department; Captain Pat Carney, Commanding Officer of the Surface Transportation Enforcement District of the Police Department; Vincent Sapone, Managing Director of the League of Mutual Taxi Owners; Darlyn Sanchez, representing United as One; David Pollack, Executive Director of the Committee for Taxi Safety; Fernando Mateo, New York State Federation of Taxi Drivers; Victor Dizengoff, Executive Director of the Black Car Assistance Corporation and Executive Director of the New York Black

Car Operators' Injury Compensation Fund; Berj Haroutunian, President of the Black Car Assistance Corporation; Eugene Pirro, President of the Livery Owners Coalition and member of the TLC Livery Advisory Board; Arty Grover; Erhan Tuncel; Eileen Kelly, member of the Livery Advisory Board; Michael Grodonsky, President of Dial Car; Michael Woloz, representing the Metropolitan Taxi Board of Trade; Enrico Basos from Carmel Car Service. The rules proposal was tabled. (Tr. pp. 44- 107).

9. The Chairman announced that Eric Kim, Chief of Staff to the First Deputy Commissioner, would be leaving the TLC for the private sector, and thanked him for his contributions to the agency. (Tr. pp. 108-110).
10. Eric Kim delivered a presentation on proposed rules relating to taxicab vehicle retirement. (Tr. pp. 107-112).
11. A public hearing was conducted on the proposed taxicab vehicle retirement rules. The following individuals testified at the hearing: Vincent Sapone, Managing Director of the League of Mutual Taxi Owners; David Pollack, Executive Director of the Committee for Taxi Safety; and Erhan Tuncel, taxicab driver. A motion was made to approve the rules with the qualification that the provision relating to the hardship exception would remain the same, and would be reconsidered at a future Commission meeting. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. (Tr. pp. 113-138).
12. Ira Goldstein, Chief of Staff, and Gary Roth, Systems Implementation Manager, delivered a presentation on proposed amendments to rules relating to the taxicab customer service enhancements project, and on the status of the project. (Tr. pp. 142- 175).
13. A public hearing on proposed rules regarding the taxicab customer service enhancements was conducted. The following individuals testified at the hearing: Solomon Neushotz, taxicab driver; Bill Lindauer, member of the New York City Taxi Workers Alliance; Fernando Mateo, representing the New York State Federation of Taxi Drivers; Bhairavi Desai, representing the New York City Taxi Workers Alliance; Beresford Simmons, taxicab driver; Bernarndo Celerino, taxicab driver; Jason Snyder, representing Taxi Technology Corporation; Ed Sloam, President of Taxi Technology Corporation; David Pollack, Executive Director of the Committee for Taxi Safety; Luis Espinoza, reading a letter from Councilperson Diana Reyna; Michael Levine, President of Ronart Leasing Company of New York City; George Lipsky, Vice-President of Research and Development and Operations for Digital Dispatch; Jesse Davis, President / COO of Creative Mobile Technologies, LLC, Agent of Mobile Knowledge Corp.; Joseph Gianetto, Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade; Paul Gilman, taxicab driver; Osman Choudhury, taxicab driver; Lawrence DiMatteo, taxicab driver; Richard Thaler; Ajay Gupta; Biju Matthew, representing the New York Taxi Workers Alliance and professor of information and communication technology;

Morcelino Hervias; Krishna Goswami; Victor Salazar, taxicab owner-operator; Ronald Blount, Taxiworkers Alliance of Pennsylvania; Luis Molina, member, New York City Taxiworkers Alliance; Abdul Qayyum, taxicab driver; Michael Higgins; and Kevin Fitzpatrick, taxicab driver. Commissioner Dear made a motion to approve the rules with the caveats that the provisions regarding the 3.75 percent credit card transaction charge to taxicab drivers was tabled, and the compatibility provision regarding taximeters and taxicab technology systems was tabled, and the proposed rule was revised to allow a vehicle that is scheduled to be retired within six months of the compliance date to wait until such vehicle is replaced by a new vehicle before requiring the installation the system. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. (Tr. pp. 175-292).

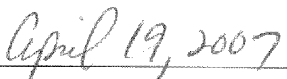
14. The Chairman asked the staff to work on a proposal on credit card stickers. (Tr. p 293).
15. The Chairman asked the staff to analyze allowing use of a bevel on the passenger information monitor to display advertising. (Tr. p. 293).
16. Commissioner Dear made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, and it passed unanimously. (Tr. p. 298).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Minutes as approved by the Taxi & Limousine Commission on
April 12, 2007.



Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs / General Counsel



Date