

**NEW YORK CITY**  
**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Commission Meeting**

**April 17, 2008**

Present:

Matthew W. Daus, *Commissioner/Chair*  
Elias Arout, *Commissioner*  
Harry Giannoulis, *Commissioner*  
Edward Gonzales, *Commissioner*  
Jeffrey Kay, *Commissioner*  
Lauvienska Polanco, *Commissioner*  
Howard Vargas, *Commissioner*  
Iris Weinshall, *Commissioner*  
Charles Fraser, *General Counsel*

1. The Chair called the meeting to order and reported the following:
  - The Chair reported that TLC's Driver Recognition Ceremony held on March 27, 2008 at the Top of the Rock was a success. Speakers included Ben Bailey of Cash Cab fame, and actor Tom Wopat. (Tr. pp. 3-5)
  - The Chair reported on the death of Marvin Greenberg. Mr. Greenberg was the longest serving Commissioner at the TLC. (Tr. pp. 5-6)
  - The Chair reported on the death of Judge Alex Sherman. Judge Sherman had been an Administrative Law Judge for the TLC for over 30 years. A moment of silence was observed to remember Mr. Greenberg and Judge Sherman. (Tr. pp. 6-7)
  - The Chair reported that in preparation for the Pope's April 20, 2008 visit to Yankee Stadium certain areas will be designated as pick-up and drop-off locations. Details will be available on the TLC website. (Tr. p. 8)
  - The Chair reported on Operation Secret Rider, an initiative to enhance customer service for taxi riders. The compliance rate remains at 91 percent. A total of 3,037 tests were conducted resulting in a total of 402 summonses issued. The Chair noted that the compliance rate for cell phone usage is 94% and the compliance rate for credit card acceptance is 99%. (Tr. p. 8)

- The Chair reported on the Taxi of Tomorrow project. The TLC issued a Request for Information (RFI) requesting information from potential manufacturers in terms of what they believe they can do to build the Taxi of Tomorrow and what interest there is out there by various manufacturers. The due date for final responses is April 21, 2008. So far, the TLC has had over 200 downloads of the RFI from our website. (Tr. p. 9)
- The Chair reported that the upcoming medallion sale and bid collection will start on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and will continue to Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 12:00 PM. Bid opening will take place on Friday, May 2, at 9:00 AM. In total 89 medallions will be auctioned, including: 86 corporate accessible (sold in lots of two, minimum bidding price per lot is \$700,000); one independent accessible medallion (minimum bidding price is \$189,000); and two independent alternative fuel medallions (minimum bidding price of \$300,000). In preparation for the auction, seminars will be held at our Rector Street facility, on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM. A technical workshop, for those interested in submitting bids, will be held on Friday April 25, 2008 at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM at our Rector Street facility. More information is available on the TLC website. (Tr. pp. 9-11)
- The Chair reported on the Taxi Technology Customer Service Enhancements. 10,000 taxis have installed the credit card and taxi technology equipment. That is about 81% of the total fleet. Tips continue to average 20%. Taxicab Technology Corp. (TTC), one of the taxicab technology vendors, has gone bankrupt. Affected medallions are free of their contract with TTC and may approach one of the three remaining vendors. (Tr. pp. 11-12)
- The Chair reported on the Accessible Dispatch Program. The contract was approved by the Comptroller and has been executed and we are in the process of issuing a notice to proceed. We have been meeting with potential driver trainers and expect to post a list of trainers on the website in the near future. (Tr. pp. 12-13)
- The Chair reported that a lease cap hearing was held last month. The response to TLC inquiries for information pertaining to lease caps was disappointing. Due to this lack of response, the deadline for the submission of written comments has been extended through the end of this month. (Tr. pp. 13-14)
- The Chair reported that the LiveScan system is once again online at our Staten Island facility. LiveScan is the system by which fingerprints can be transmitted electronically for processing, expediting the application process greatly. (Tr. pp. 14-15)
- The Chair reported that a taxi stand has opened near Grand Central Station, at the intersection of 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Vanderbilt Avenue. This stand was opened

in conjunction with Grand Central Partnership and they are providing dispatchers to staff the area. (Tr. p. 15)

- The Chair announced tentative dates for the next two commission meetings. The Commission expects to meet on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008. (Tr. pp. 15-16)
- 2. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout to adopt the minutes of the March 13, 2008 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kay, and it was passed 7-0 (Commissioners Daus, Arout, Giannoulis, Gonzales, Kay, Polanco, and Vargas). (Tr. p. 16)
- 3. Georgia Steele-Radway, Base Licensing Supervisor, presented the following base station license applications for consideration:

**NEW (1):**

La Raza Car Service, Inc. B02249

**RENEWAL APPLICATIONS (19):**

Absolute Car & Limousine Service, Inc. B01617

Ahsan Inc. D/b/a Marlboro Car Service B00987

Apollo Radio Dispatch Inc. B02107

Brunwish Enterprises Ltd., D/b/a Eastland Car Service B01509

Castle Car Service, Inc B00827

Discovery Transportation Corp. B02129

Division Car & Limousine Inc. D/b/a Natanya Transportation B01269

Eastern L.P.B. Inc. D/b/a Eastern Car Service B00823

Farmers Express Car Service, Inc. B02109

Golden-Town Car & Limousine Service Inc. B00955

Goodfellows Car Service Inc. D/b/a New Port Car Service B00965

GTWY Inc. D/b/a Gateway Car & Limousine Service B01129

Kingsdale Dispatch Inc B02037

Pacific Express Car Service Inc. B01175

P F Management Inc B00991

Puebla Express Corp. B01996

Qns Community Car Service Inc. B01457

SLMK D/b/a New Richmon B01177

St. George Express Car Service Inc. B01453

**RELOCATION (3):**

Kolel Car & Limousine Transportation, Inc. B02174

New Way Car Service Inc. B02178

Northlands Trips Car Service, Inc. B01927

**RELOCATION & OWNERSHIP CHANGE (1):**

H & B Car & Limousine, Inc. D/b/a Sunnyside Car Service B01616

**OWNERSHIP CHANGE (2):**

A Kings Hwy Car Service, Inc.

B00449

F.J.A. Livery Corp. D/b/a Village Car Service

B00023

**The following base is being recommended for denial:**

**DENIAL (1):**

Herby's Car Service, Inc.

B02235

(Tr. pp. 16-18)

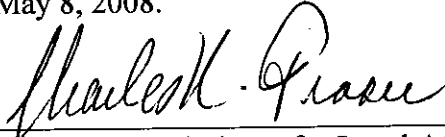
4. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout to approve all of the base station license applications that were recommended for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kay and it was passed 7-0 (Commissioners Daus, Arout, Giannoulis, Gonzales, Kay, Polanco, and Vargas). (Tr. p. 17)
5. A motion was made by Commissioner Polanco to deny the base station license applications that were recommended for denial if they do not comply with requirements within thirty days. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gonzales and it passed unanimously. (Tr. p. 17-18)
6. A public hearing was held on the proposed minimum miles per gallon requirements for black car rules. The following people testified at the hearing: Diana Clemente; Sergio Sanchez, Partners Executive Transportation; Ian Lipton, Green Ride Global; Kathryn Wylde, Partnership for New York City; Richard Kassel, Natural Resources Defense Counsel; Todd Campbell, Clean Energy Corp.; James Caulkin and Ben Bloch, Eco-nation; Neil Zeller, Limo Green Services; Edward Vergopia, Empire Coach Works; John Sansone and James Faust, US Limousine Services; Victor Dizengoff, Black Car Assistance Corp.; Berej Haroutunian; George Fazekas Potter, Skyline Credit Ride, Inc.; Susan Scattergood, Fried Frank; Eddie Burgess, Environmental Defense; John Acierno, Executive Transportation Group; John Gresham, NY Lawyers for the Public Interest; Michael Seilback, American Lung Association of New York State; Josh Nachowitz, NY League of Conservation Voters; Jack Hidary, Smart Transportation; Anne Davis, Taxis for All Campaign; Ron Gulmi, National Grid; Arkady Sheynin, Goldseal Car and Limo Base; Jack Bogart; Tarik Malla, Select Seven; Clair A. Bailon; and Bart Chezar, Sierra Club. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout to approve the rules. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weinshall and it passed unanimously. (Tr. pp. 18-118)
7. Peter Schenkman, Assistant Commissioner for Safety and Emissions, delivered a presentation on the Accessible Toyota Sienna Pilot Project. Commissioner Arout made a motion to extend the pilot project. Commissioner Kay seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0 (Commissioners Daus, Arout, Giannoulis, Gonzales, Kay, and Polanco). (Tr. pp. 118-123)
8. Commissioner Arout made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session without the Chair being present, to consider the appeal of Harold Jean-Baptiste, hack license number 435679. Commissioner Giannoulis seconded the

motion, and it passed 6-0 (Commissioners Daus, Arout, Giannoulis, Gonzales, Kay, and Polanco). (Tr. p. 123)

9. At the executive session, by a vote of 5-0 (Commissioners Arout, Giannoulis, Gonzales, Kay, and Polanco), the Commission voted to adjourn the appeal.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Minutes as approved by the Taxi & Limousine Commission on  
May 8, 2008.



Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs / General Counsel

May 8, 2008  
Date