

NEW YORK CITY
TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission Meeting

August 9, 2007

Present:

Matthew W. Daus, *Commissioner/Chair*
Elias Arout, *Commissioner*
Noach Dear, *Commissioner*
Harry Giannoulis, *Commissioner*
Edward Gonzales, *Commissioner*
Jeffrey Kay, *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 introduced Jeffrey Kay, the new mayoral appointee to the Commission. Commissioner Kay is currently the Director of the Mayor's Office of Operations and is a member of the MTA board. (Tr. pp. 3-4)
 - The Chair reported that due to the devastating weather conditions the day before, resulting in public transit disruptions, the Mayor signed an Emergency Order which encouraged group taxicab rides by allowing drivers to collect an additional \$5 over the rate of fare from each person in the vehicle. In addition, all for-hire vehicles except for paratransits are allowed to pick up street hails, and commuter vans may charge a \$5 per person fare. The Emergency Order is in effect until noon today. As of today there are about a thousand functional and operational taxi technology systems in taxicabs, and TLC was able to get the word out that the Mayor signed the Emergency Order via the emergency text messaging capability of these systems. TLC and the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) are excited about the text messaging capabilities, reaching over 13,000 taxicabs when it is fully operational, with critical emergency information such as this. The Chair thanked Commissioner Bruno of OEM, First Deputy Commissioner Andrew Salkin and David Klahr, Chief of Staff to the First Deputy Commissioner, for their hard work in spearheading this plan. (Tr. pp. 5-8)
 - The Chair reported that TLC is working with OEM on a taxi strike contingency plan. One driver group indicated it may go on strike in protest of

the required installation of the taxicab technology enhancements. The Chair stated that the Commission voted for the 2004 fare increase in exchange for providing technology and credit card capabilities to passengers. Not only was the 2004 fare increase the biggest in New York City history, but the drivers received another fare adjustment last year. The Chair stated that drivers are earning more than they have ever earned before. The Chair asked that reasonable and cool minds prevail at the end of the day. If there is a strike, we are going to be ready. (Tr. pp. 8-14)

- The Chair reported that 98 percent of the medallion taxicab owners have complied with the August 1st contracting deadline for the taxicab technology customer service enhancements. The Chair credited Ira Goldstein, Chief of Staff for the Chairman's office and Samara Epstein, Director of Constituent Affairs, for their outreach efforts. By increasing and focusing our communications, encouraging use of our website, and our constituent outreach we did a great job that should be a model for future projects. (Tr. pp. 14-16)
- The Chair reported that the new markings for taxicabs that were adopted on July 12, 2007 can be viewed on the TLC's website in a new link on the homepage, and it includes a list of authorized printers. (Tr. pp. 17-18)
- The Chair reported on customer service improvements at TLC's Licensing and Standards Division. Waiting time on line is down to twenty minutes and processing time to get a hack license is down to twelve days. In addition, to make the experience more pleasant, televisions were installed in the Long Island City facility and a new Customer Service Unit was created. (Tr. pp. 18-21)
- The Chair reported on the Request For Proposals issued by the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for an iconic taxicab consultant. The EDC selection committee awarded the contract to Ricardo, a vendor who has a long track record in this area. (Tr. pp. 21-22)
- The Chair reported on the rules revision project. TLC's contract with TATC Consulting was approved by the Law Department and has been sent to the Comptroller's Office for registration. (Tr. pp. 22-23)
- The Chair reported that medallions sale prices hit a record high last month. In July of 2007, the average sales price for individual medallions was \$424,000, and \$600,000 per medallion for corporate medallions. (Tr. p. 24)
- The Chair recognized TLC's summer interns: Mark Locasano; Jeffrey Hudson; Lola Ajai; Kate Helman; Munya Abraham; Natany Idi; and Craig Joseph. (Tr. pp. 25-27)

2. A motion to adopt the minutes of the July 12, 2007 Commission meeting was made by Commissioner Arout. It was seconded, and passed 7-0. (Tr. p. 33).
3. Georgia Steele-Radway, Base Licensing Supervisor, presented the following base station license applications for consideration:

The following bases were recommended for approval:

NEW (1)

La Poblanita Car Service Corp. B02206

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS (19)

910 Car Service Inc.	B00459
Best Deal Private Car Service Inc.	B01239
Continental Radio Dispatch Corp.	B00325
Early Bird Car Service Inc.	B00485
Kexpress Car Service	B01703
Laurelton Car Service Inc.	B01855
Liberty Car Service Inc.	B00095
Mazin Car & Limo. Service	B02050
Mirage Limousine Service Inc. d/b/a UFO Private Car & Limo Service	B00990
New Bell Car Service Corp.	B01190
NY Kings Transportation Inc. d/b/a Kings Car Service	B01650
Parsons Car Service Inc.	B01510
Quick Ride Corp.	B01764
Raja Car & Limousine Service Inc.	B01973
Red Carpet Car Services Corp.	B01541
Speed Inc.	B01537
Stillwell Avenue Inc. d/b/a Tee Jay Car Service	B01147
The Excellent Car Service Inc.	B00375
T-D Maintenance Corp. d/b/a Four Ones Car Service	B00009

RENEWAL & RELOCATION (1)

Discovery Online Corp. B02097

RENEWAL & OWNERSHIP CHANGE (3)

Alexandria Limo & Car Service	B00309
Linda & M Transportation Inc. d/b/a New Yorker Car Service	B00992

U.S.A. Car Service Inc. B01977

RELOCATION & OWNERSHIP CHANGE (1)

TS Limo C LLC d/b/a Continental Private Car & Limo Service B00710

RELOCATION & OWNERSHIP CHANGE (1)

TS Limo C LLC d/b/a Continental Private Car & Limo Service B00710

OWNERSHIP CHANGE (4)

Alex II B01195
Dreamland Car & Limo Service B01979
T & S Hillside Inc. d/b/a Red Cap Car Service B00756
Winthrop Holding of New York Inc. B00536

The following bases were recommended for denial:

DENIALS (6):

Foxhill Car Service B01950
New American Car & Limousine Service B01057
New Jerusalem Car Service B01555
New York 75 Car Service Corp. B02059
Supreme Edenwald Car Service Inc. B00743
Wakefield Leasing Maintenance Corp. B00597

(Tr. pp. 34-36).

4. Commissioner Arout made a motion to approve all of the base station license applications that were recommended for approval. The motion was seconded and passed 7-0. (Tr. p. 36).
5. Commissioner Arout made a motion to deny both 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 by Commissioner Weinshall, and the motion passed 7-0. (Tr. p. 36).
6. Ariel Dannis, Director of Licensing and Standards, delivered a presentation on proposed changes to the paratransit rules. (Tr. pp. 40-42)
7. A public hearing was conducted on proposed rules relating to paratransit licensing and vehicle retirement. The following individuals testified at the hearing: Steven Solarsh, Executive Director of the New York Ambulette Coalition; Craig Vorselen, president of Sterling Ambulette; Bill Lindauer, member of the New

York City Taxi Workers Alliance; and Mark Hanukov, from Alert Ambulance Service. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout approve the rules. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kay, and was passed by a vote of 7-0. (Tr. pp. 42-82)

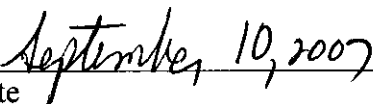
8. A public hearing had been held on June 14, 2007 on the medallion auction rules and the amended rulemaking was put forward for Commission action. A motion was made by Commissioner Weinshall to approve the rules. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arout, and was passed by vote of 7-0. (Tr. pp. 83-90)
9. The Chair recommended that a proposed pilot program for Evo Wash, a waterless car washing liquid, be denied. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout to deny going forward with a pilot program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vargas, and was passed by a vote of 7-0. (Tr. pp. 90-92)
10. Jennifer Palmer, Director of Special Projects, and Reyna Jenkins, of the Mayor's Volunteer Center, presented for Commission approval a taxicab interior decal that explains the Garden in Transit project and would be displayed during the run of the project, from September 1 through December 31, 2007. A motion was made by Commissioner Daus to approve the decal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arout and was passed by a vote of 7-0. (Tr. pp. 92-96)
11. Gary Roth, Systems Implementation Analyst, presented for Commission approval a taxicab exterior decal that would display the types of credit cards accepted by the individual taxicab. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout to approve the decal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kay and was passed by a vote of 8-0. (Tr. pp. 96-101)
12. The Chair tabled agenda item number 7b for a future Commission meeting. (Tr. pp. 101-102)
13. Samara Epstein, Director of Constituent Affairs, delivered a presentation on the Accessible Vehicle Demonstration Project. (Tr. pp. 102-130).
14. Commissioner Arout made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Weinshall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. (Tr. p. 130).

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.

Minutes as approved by the Taxi & Limousine Commission on
September 10, 2007.



Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs / General Counsel



Date