

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

**Minutes of Commission Meeting**

**February 14, 2008**

Present:

Matthew W. Daus, *Commissioner/Chair*

Elias Arout, *Commissioner*

Harry Giannoulis, *Commissioner*

Edward Gonzales, *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 the TLC's Driver Recognition Ceremony will be held on March 27, 2008, at the Top of the Rock. TLC will honor taxi and for-hire vehicle drivers who have gone above and beyond in providing customer service. (Tr. pp. 3-4)
  - The Chair reported on Operation Secret Rider, an initiative to enhance customer service for taxi riders. Undercover officers are taking taxi rides, with an eye towards enforcing the Passenger Bill of Rights; credit card refusals; cell phones; cab cleanliness; and working seatbelts. The Chair reported that the results are encouraging; that TLC has consistently found since the start of the Operation a ninety percent compliance rate. (Tr. pp. 4-8)
  - The Chair reported on the Taxi of Tomorrow project. The TLC will be issuing a Request for Information within the next week to request 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. (Tr. p. 8)
  - The Chair reported on the last taxicab medallion sale. Of the 63 medallions that were auctioned, 28 accessible medallions have completed their closings and 25 accessible taxis are on the road from the last auction held in November. (Tr. pp. 8-9)

- The Chair reported on the Accessible Dispatch program. The Mayor's Office of Contracts has approved the TLC's contract with the vendor, Executive Charge, Inc. As soon as Executive Charge, Inc. signs the contract, it will be sent to the New York City Comptroller's Office for approval and registration, which can take up to thirty days. (Tr. pp. 9-10)
  - The Chair reported that he had testified before the Transportation Committee of the City Council on the final publication of Roads Forward, a collaborative effort of the TLC and the Design Trust for Public Space. (Tr. pp. 10-11)
  - The Chair reported that TLC's Annual Report to the City Council was submitted on time, and that it is available for download on our website. (Tr. p. 11)
  - The Chair announced that the next two Commission meetings are scheduled for March 13, 2008 and April 10, 2008. In addition, we will hold a separate hearing for the review of the leasing system and leasing caps, as mandated in our rules; the hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2008. (Tr. pp. 11-12)
2. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout to adopt the minutes of the January 10, 2008 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Polanco, and it was passed 7-0. (Tr. pp. 12-13)
  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)**

Stripes Car & Limousine Service, Inc.	B02232
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**RENEWAL APPLICATIONS (11)**

B.O.B. Express, Inc.	B01631
Brothers Car Service	B01469
Central Car Service, Inc.	B00625
Crossbay Car Service, Inc.	B00881
Kings Plaza Car & Limo, Inc.	B02121
New Experience No. 1, Inc.	B01467
New Golden Horse Car & Limousine Service, Inc.	B01667
R & B Car & Limousine Service Corp.	B01565
State Car & Limousine Service	B01982
The Central Radio Dispatcher, Inc.	B01739
V.I.T. Car Service, Inc.	B01315

**RENEWAL & RELOCATION (1)**

Chelsea Express Car, Inc. d/b/a Dial 4 Limo B01868

**OWNERSHIP CHANGE & NAME CHANGE (1)**

Cibao Express Car & Limousine Service, Inc. to be changed to  
Dominicana Limousine Service B01455

**OWNERSHIP CHANGE (4)**

60<sup>th</sup> Street Car Service d/b/a Joy's Car Service B00314  
Continental Radio Dispatcher Corp. B00325  
High Class Limo. Car Service Corp. B01639  
Puebla Express Corp. B01996

**The following bases were recommended for denial:**

**DENIALS (1):**

New Special, Inc. B01760

**RECONSIDERATION (1)**


Merengue Limo and Car Service, Inc. B01437  
(Tr. pp. 13-15).


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 Polanco and it was passed 7-0. (Tr. pp. 13-14).
5. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout 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 Gonzalez and it was passed 7-0. (Tr. pp. 14-15).
6. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout to reconsider B01437 and give the base an additional thirty days to comply with requirements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and it was passed 7-0. (Tr. p. 15).
7. David Klahr, Chief of Staff for the First Deputy Commissioner's Office, delivered a presentation on a proposed pilot program testing a solar powered vehicle battery charger by Nest Energy Systems. The Chair recommended that the Commission deny the pilot because it was not something that would benefit the industry. A motion was made by Commissioner Arout to deny the pilot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and it was passed 7-0. (Tr. pp. 17-19)

8. Mr. Klahr delivered a presentation on a proposed pilot program testing a modified rear-entry Toyota Sienna accessible taxicab by Freedom Motors. He was joined by Erasmo Bocanegra, National Sales Manager for Freedom Motors. A motion was made by Commissioner Weinshall to approve the pilot program proposal, with a duration of up to thirteen months, with an unlimited number of participants, utilizing two to four vehicles per participant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arout and passed 7-0. (Tr. pp. 19-49)
9. Deborah Marton, Executive Director of the Design Trust for Public Space, delivered a presentation on Taxi 07: Roads Forward. (Tr. pp. 49-67)
10. Ira Goldstein, Chief of Staff for the Chairman's Office, delivered a presentation on the Taxicab Technology Enhancements Project. (Tr. pp. 67-82)
11. Commissioner Arout made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into executive session without the Chair being present, to consider the appeal of Fazal Wali, license number 446339. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0 (Commissioners Arout, Giannoulis, Gonzales, Polanco, and Vargas). (Tr. p. 83)
12. Commissioner Arout made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Polanco seconded the motion, and it passed 6-0 (Commissioners Daus, Arout, Giannoulis, Gonzales, Polanco, and Vargas). (Tr. pp. 83-84)
13. At the executive session, the appeal of Fazal Wali, license number 446339, was heard. The respondent and his attorney, Cynthia Fisher, appeared. By a vote of 5-0 (Commissioners Arout, Giannoulis, Gonzales, Polanco, and Vargas), the Commission reduced the penalty from revocation to suspension (time served), fine of \$1,000 remains, and one year's probation.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Minutes as approved by the Taxi & Limousine Commission on  
March 13, 2008.

  
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Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs / General Counsel

  
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Date