



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
TAXICAB AUTHORITY

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**BEFORE THE STATE OF NEVADA TAXICAB AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES**

February 26, 2013

The Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the State of Nevada Taxicab Authority was held on Tuesday, February 26th, 2013. The meeting was held at the Taxicab Authority at 1785 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 200, Las Vegas, Nevada 8910. The meeting began at 9:42 A.M.

Present were: Chairman Ileana Drobkin, Member Joe Hardy and Member Dean Collins. Others present: Charles D. Harvey, Administrator, Legal Counsel, Ryan Sunga, Deputy Attorney General; Ruben Aquino, Chief Investigator; and Recording Secretary, Barbara A. Webb. Absent: Member Josh Miller and Member Dennis Nolan.

1. Call to Order.

Meeting was called to order at 9:42 A.M. Chair Drobkin stated she wanted to share the condolences of the Board to the Desert cabdriver Michael Bolden who was killed in the February 21st, 2013 horrific accident that claimed 3 lives. He leaves behind his 92-year old Mother, a son, grandchild, sisters and brothers. She stated that our investigators were the first responders to that accident and wanted to commend them for what they did. Investigator Rivers pursued the SUV that created the tragedy but had the presence of mind to pull back as to not have any other tragedy occur and return to the accident scene to help his fellow officers. The Chair commended Chief Aquino for the great work he does along with his officers.

She continued stating that during the January Board Meeting she mentioned that the Taxicab Authority was awarded B & I's 2012 Agency of the Year by Director Bruce Breslow. She went on to read what the Director had written about the Agency, Administrator Harvey and his staff.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was lead by Member Dean Collins. Member Collins stated he echoed the Chair's comments about the February 21st accident stating that there is not a finer group than those under Chief Aquino. He stated he would be remiss if he did not also honor Administrator Harvey for his work with Chief and his investigative staff.

The Chair stated that the drivers also do a wonderful job.

3. Compliance with Open Meeting Law.

Administrator Harvey stated that we are in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

4. Public Comment.

There were approximately 100 drivers present at this meeting.

Steven Lanett, Whittlesea driver, spoke of the loss of Michael Bolden and also of a former cabdriver, Karla Hiroupoulos who had passed away in her sleep that same week. He spoke about his radio show and that he discusses issues regarding bellman and pandering among other things with drivers that call in. He stated that one of his sponsors is donating to Michael Bolden's family. He hopes the certificate holders would donate to the family as well.

Alfredo Sardinias commented that he wished the certificate holders only had 3 minutes to speak as do the drivers. He stated that there was a meeting when the Board listened to the drivers and did not give any additional medallions for some conventions and doesn't feel there is a need now either. He said that there are too many cabs on the road and the staging areas are always full and they are chased off the properties sometimes by the TA investigators. He said the companies force the drivers to long haul and he was trained to long haul.

Sara Hall, Frias driver, she said she is here to speak on behalf of the drivers of United Steelworkers because there is no longer a local office here. She commented that the numbers according to the stats are down and doesn't feel any additional temporary medallions are needed as there is no one to drive the extra cabs. She said there is not enough room at LVCVA to stage; the black permanent medallions are hurting them and they cannot provide for their families.

Geveyehu Bekele stated that the hotels do not have enough room for cabs to stage; black medallions are now for 4 days, therefore, no extra medallions are needed. He asked the Board to let them make extra money to take care of their families.

Sara Hall spoke in place of Jose Cortez stating that she makes \$400-\$500 every 2 weeks and cannot take care of his family on that. She said the drivers need help from the Board by not allocating any more cabs.

Niwos Kebede stated that more drivers are needed to attend these meetings, but a lot are working and cannot attend. He said they are their own witnesses. He said that the Venetian had told the drivers to leave because there was not enough room and there is no place for them to go. If more medallions are given there will not be enough room for them. He said with the black medallions for 4 days there are enough medallions on the road. There are no other jobs available which is why he stays driving a cab. He stated he does not like the idea of the FTI because the camera is not for driver safety.

Samuel Liben thanked the Board for a chance to speak and stated that it was unbearable what happened to the cabdriver. He feels a flat rate is the way to go to stop long hauling. He commented that prices should be on the website and that only Frias states the prices. He said why add more cabs when numbers are down.

Sam Moffitt stated he is speaking on a different issue this month. He stated that Greg Bambic, President of Professional Drivers Association, of which he is Vice President and Treasurer, is donating \$5,000 on behalf of P.D.A. to the Bolden family. He said this is the second event in less than 2 years, the first being Tesafaye Arze. He went on to explain that the P.D.A. is a benevolent organization who assists drivers and their families of drivers who are injured or killed in the line of duty. They receive donations from people associated with the industry, i.e., cab companies, gentleman's clubs, bars, restaurants and private donors. He and on behalf of Mr. Bambic, thanked those that do donate to them.



**Board Meeting Minutes
February 26th, 2013**

George Balaban, Desert Cab owner, thanked the entire industry, Mr. Harvey, Chief Aquino, the Board for their support. He spoke to the driver who thought the cab had propane stating his cabs are gasoline cabs saying the cab was spun around and almost cut in half. He said they were both killed on impact; the fire was not the cause of deaths.

Ruthie Jones, ITPEU, proudly stated that drivers should take pride in what they do and that not everyone can be a driver. She said that companies should recognize their drivers. She commented that Karla Hiroupoulos had left the industry in 2008 and extended her condolences. Again, she reminded the drivers to be proud in what they do.

Ademe Nega stated that more medallions are dangerous and asked the Board to tell the companies "no more medallions". He said people used to ask him about the shows and now they ask him how many cabs are there.

Tadios Tessama commented that the Pilot Program is not the way to stop long hauling stating it's the companies promoting it. He said the way to stop long hauling is to have a flat rate. He said if the drivers get fined, so should the companies. He feels the RTI will hurt the drivers and there are better ways. He said more cabs would be ridiculous because none are needed.

At this point during Public Comment, the drivers that were waiting outside were able to come in as the drivers that were inside went outside.

Abera Anbye(sp) stated that there is no place to stage cabs, if they low book they lose their jobs, he took a picture of a cabstand the night before to show how many cabs were there and that they were being kicked off the stand. He said no more cabs are needed, drivers need to work and make money for their families.

Zenegnaw Kebede said he was kicked off the Bellagio and Mirage by an officer because of the long staging lines. Doesn't know why more cabs are needed. He feels that convention medallions should be restricted to when they are needed – before and after shows – not while people are inside the convention.

Driver – did not get name, had wrong TA Permit # - feels that the Board should check what is going on in the city before giving more medallions. They are busy only 1 or 2 hours during a convention and feels the board should think about where they can stage. He says they need more staging areas before more cabs.

Public Comment is closed.

- *5. Driver Appeal - Robert Lax - TA Permit # 28231. This was postponed to a later date as Richard Segerblom of ITPE Union is in Carson City at the Legislative Session and was not available.
- *6. Approval of the January 29th, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion:	Approve the January 29 th , 2013 Board Meeting Minutes
By:	Member Collins
Seconded:	Chair Drobkin
Vote:	Passed unanimously



7. Discussion with Maria Soto, Traffic Manager for LVCVA, regarding recent taxicab service.

Maria Soto passed out flyers and booklets with pictures of staging areas. She mentioned it was challenging during M.A.G.I.C. and that Art Reynolds from Frias was a tremendous help getting cabs out to LVCVA because of the accident. She said supervisors were there all day doing an excellent job getting cabs there. She said it was a successful month for them. With regard to the traffic during M.A.G.I.C., there were some lulls during peak times when there were no cabs. Overall there was only a 20 minute wait for a cab. She said the International Sportsman's Convention will be in town as well as ASD at the LVCVA and the Sands. She extended the LVCVA's condolences to the Bolden family.

8. Discussion with Harry Waters, Assistant Director of Aviation for Landside Operations at McCarran Airport.

Chris Anderson appeared on behalf of Harry Waters stating that their numbers were up over last year – 12,000 more cabs loaded over last year. He said there were no complaints as service was excellent.

9. Discussion with Jeff Zamaria, Director of Events, Sands Expo, regarding recent taxicab service.

Jeff Zamaria was not in attendance.

10. The FTI RideIntegrity pilot program industry study group will present its recommendations for the framework and parameters of the FTI RideIntegrity pilot program for Taxicab Authority Board consideration.

DAG Ryan Sunga stated that the Pilot Program was approved and that this is not an action item regarding the parameters, just for discussion.

Administrator Harvey comments are as follows –

“As directed by the Board at the January Meeting, staff formed an industry study group to establish recommendations for the framework and parameters of the FTI RideIntegrity pilot program. Participants included representatives from Whittlesea, Desert, Frias, YCS and Lucky. 2 Meetings were conducted by the study group and the following framework and parameters for the RideIntegrity Pilot Program were agreed upon.

A copy of this information has been provided in your packets. Madam Chair, if you would like I can read this information into the record.

Intent and Purpose:

The Nevada Taxicab Authority (“TA”) will participate in a pilot program (“pilot”) with FTI to test its RideIntegrity™ real-time data system to gather information and data to determine usability to the TA for administration, regulation and enforcement of Nevada Revised Statutes 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive.

Program Parameters:

1. The pilot will take place over a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum of one (1) year with the understanding that at the six (6) month mark, a determination will be made to ascertain whether or not the one (1) year is required, and involve a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) taxicabs in the TA's jurisdiction.



2. FTi will bear the costs related to the pilot (with the exception of costs incurred by third parties, other than the TA, to voluntarily participate in, monitor or otherwise partake in the pilot)¹ and work directly with the Administrator to share data and information throughout the pilot.
3. Any certificate holder within the TA's jurisdiction may voluntarily participate in the pilot. Such participation shall be in good faith and intended solely to facilitate the gathering of information and data to fulfill the intent and purpose of the pilot.
 - a. Should a certificate holder be interested in voluntarily participating, they will make information outlined in 4 (below) available.
 - b. Reasonable provisions for protection of and confidentiality of any non-public information will be provided by FTi.
 - c. Should a certificate holder express the desire to terminate participation; they will be allowed to do so.
4. During the pilot the following data will be obtained:
 - a. The voluntary participants' details for each participating
 - i. Taxicab unit number;
 - ii. Vehicle identification number; and
 - iii. License plate number;
 - b. Time, place of origin, destination and total fare of each trip, including
 - i. Total time of trip;
 - ii. Route of trip;
 - iii. Speed during the trip; and
 - iv. Fare during the trip;
 - c. Real-time and historical data relating to each trip; and
 - d. A map view showing the real-time and historical location and status of each taxicab.
5. All voluntarily participants will have access to their data described in 4 (above) through a dashboard.
6. During the pilot program, FTi may test other features and capabilities of the system, and may do so with the TA (if the TA so elects) and any other voluntary participant (if such participant so elects).
7. Upon conclusion of the pilot and within thirty (30) days, FTi shall report its conclusions to the TA and industry, which shall address at a minimum the following matters:
 - a. Uptime during the pilot;
 - b. Correctness of the data captured;
 - c. Comprehensiveness of the data; and
 - d. Utility of the user interfaces provided.
8. Any voluntary participant may separately report its findings to the TA and the industry in the same time frame.
9. The Taxicab Authority agrees to not enforce provisions of NRS 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive, to those cabs that are participating in the pilot through information obtained from the pilot for the duration of the program as determined in number 1 (above).

The Board received a letter from Yellow, Checker, Star stating their opposition to the Nevada Taxicab Authority testing of the FTi RideIntegrity System, in violation of the NRS mandated technology acquisition and RFP/TIR procedures of the Nevada Department of Administration, Enterprise IT Services Division.



A copy of this document has been included in each Board Members binder for your review."

Marc Gordon, General Counsel for YCS, wanted their opposition to this to be on the record. He said they did attend the work study group and their position is that there is a process that has to be followed and it is not being done legally. He said he doesn't want the Taxicab Authority to go through with this when there is a problem. He also had an issue with the wording in the January 29th Order and asked that it be put on next month's agenda.

DAG Sunga requested that Mr. Gordon name his pleading an "Application for Rehearing" as this is what NAC 706.972 calls for.

Chair Drobkin asked if there were any questions regarding the parameters. There were none.

The Chair stated that she was going to take Agenda Items 11, 12, 13 and 14 together so when intervenors come up to speak, to please speak on each item. Then a Motion will be taken at the end of all discussion.

- *11. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the allocation of temporary medallions for the 2013 March Madness scheduled for several dates during March.
- *12. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the temporary allocation of medallions for the NASCAR Races from Friday, March 8th through Sunday, March 10th.
- *13. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the temporary allocation of medallions for the 2013 National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) from Monday, April 8th through Thursday, April 11th at the LVCVA with an anticipated attendance of 96,000.
- 14. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the temporary allocation of medallions for the 2013 Electric Daisy Carnival at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway from Friday, June 21st through Sunday, June 23rd with expected attendance of 80,000 per day.

Intervenors were Nellis Cab, Yellow/Checker/Star Cab Companies, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi, Ace Cab, Inc., Union Cab Co., A NLV Cab Co., Vegas-Western Cab Co. and Virgin Valley Cab Company, Inc., A Cab, LLC, Desert Cab Company, Lucky Cab Company, Western Cab Company, ITPE Union.

Jamie Pino, Nellis Cab, requested the following -

Agenda Item 11 – March Madness – stated that some medallions are needed because there are a lot of people that come to town for the tournament. He is requesting the following:

Wednesday, March 20 through Saturday, March 23 – 5 medallions – 12 PM – 2 AM – any 12 hour shift

Bill Shranko, YCS, stated he made a pledge that they would not ask for any medallions unless it was a big event, 86,000 or more. He said trips are down, therefore, they are not asking for any allocations except for Electric Daisy Carnival.

Chair asked about number of attendees for March Madness and Cheryl said it was their best month, numbers are hard to say. LVCVA couldn't give a number either.

Cheryl Knapp, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi – she stated that their drivers' books were high and this gives the drivers a chance to work.



Jay Nady, A Cab, and Ruthie Jones, ITPE Union stated that no additional medallions were needed.

John Hickman, Frias; George Balaban, Desert Cab; Desiree Dante, Lucky Cab; Marilyn Moran, Western Cab stated that they concur with Nellis' request.

Agenda Item 12 – NASCAR –

Jamie Pino, Nellis Cab, stated that he does not support a temporary allocation of medallions for NASCAR.

Bill Shranko, YCS; Cheryl Knapp, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi; John Hickman, Frias; Jay Nady, A Cab; George Balaban, Desert Cab; Desiree Dante, Lucky Cab; Marilyn Moran, Western Cab; Ruthie Jones, ITPE Union, all were in agreement with Jamie Pino.

Agenda Item 13 – National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) –

Jamie Pino, Nellis Cab – requesting the following -

Monday, April 8 through Wednesday, April 10th – 3 medallions – 12 PM – 2 AM – any 12 hour shift

Cheryl Knapp, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi; John Hickman, Frias; Jay Nady, A Cab; George Balaban, Desert Cab; Desiree Dante, Lucky Cab; Marilyn Moran, Western Cab; Ruthie Jones, ITPE Union, all were in agreement with Jamie Pino.

Bill Shranko, YCS; and Ruthie Jones, ITPE Union, do not support an allocation. Ruthie Jones stated that the drivers did a great job last year without an allocation.

Agenda Item 14 – Electric Daisy Carnival –

Jamie Pino, Nellis Cab, stated the numbers last year were outrageous. He is requesting the following:

Friday, June 21st and Saturday, June 22nd – 10 medallions – 12 PM – 2 AM – any 12 hour shift and 10 medallions – 6 PM – 8 AM – any 12 hour shift

Saturday, June 23rd – 8 medallions – 12 PM – 2 AM – any 12 hour shift and 8 medallions – 6 PM – 8 AM – any 12 hour shift

Cheryl Knapp stated that there were not enough medallions allocated last year. George Balaban stated that he has heard that the expected attendance this year is closer to 100,000 – 200,000 which is much more than last year's attendance.

Bill Shranko, YCS; Cheryl Knapp, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi; John Hickman, Frias; Jay Nady, A Cab; George Balaban, Desert Cab; Desiree Dante, Lucky Cab; Marilyn Moran, Western Cab; Ruthie Jones, ITPE Union, all were in agreement with Jamie Pino.



The following are the Motions for Agenda Items 11, 12, 13 and 14:

Agenda Item 11 – 2013 March Madness –

Motion: Deny extra medallions
By: Member Hardy
Seconded: Chair Drobkin
Vote: 2:1 – Member Collins voted nay

Agenda Item 12 – NASCAR –

Motion: No additional medallions
By: Member Collins
Seconded: Member Hardy
Vote: Passed unanimously

Agenda Item 13 – National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) –

Motion: Recommends 3 and 3 Monday through Wednesday
By: Member Hardy – due to the permanent allocation given to cover smaller conventions, in this instance it is a large convention, but it is mid week
Seconded: There was no second to the motion
Vote: 1:2 – Member Collins voted nay, he feels there is not enough information
Chair Drobkin agrees with him

Agenda Item 14 – Electric Daisy Carnival –

Motion: Friday, June 21st and Saturday, June 22nd – 8 and 8 medallions
12 PM – 2 AM and 6 PM – 8 AM – any 12 hours
Sunday, June 23rd – 5 and 5 medallions –
12 PM – 2 AM and 6 PM – 8 AM – any 12 hours
By: Member Hardy
Seconded: Chair Drobkin
Vote: Passed unanimously

15. Public Comment

Steve Lanett, Whittlesea Driver, ask if Nellis Air Force Base route for NASCAR was going to be used for EDC and Chief Aquino advised him that he and his staff were having a meeting with NAFB next week.

Padios Tessema, A NLV driver, stated when more cabs are added, drivers' income goes down; companies get the money. He thanked the Board for not allocating any extra medallions.

Sara Hall, USW, she said that so many drivers attended the meeting today because they need to be heard how they are pressured by the companies to make a high book. She feels the Board has to allow them to make money. She said with regard to NASCAR, it does take time because of the distance, but they can still make money without any additional cabs.



Board Meeting Minutes
February 26th, 2013

Gebeyehu Bekele, Ace driver, thanked the Board because no extra medallions are needed. He said he works 5 days and only makes \$500 and he cannot take care of his family. He doesn't understand why the companies keep asking for more medallions.

16. Staff Report

Monthly stats are available on our website.

17. Report of Legal Counsel

DAG Ryan Sunga stated the Judge Herndon remanded the Déjà Vu issue back to the TA and it will on the next month's agenda.

18. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn
By: Member Hardy
Seconded: Member Collins
Vote: Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

 03-20-2013
Barbara A. Webb, Recording Secretary Date

Approved by:

 05-08-13
Ileana Drobkin, Chairman Date

 4/1/13
Charles D. Harvey, Administrator Date

