



STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
TAXICAB AUTHORITY

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BRUCE BRESLOW  
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CHARLES D. HARVEY  
Administrator  
ILEANA DROBKIN  
Chairman  
VACANT  
Vice Chairman  
Members  
JOSHUA C. MILLER  
DENNIS NOLAN  
DEAN COLLINS  
BRUCE AGUILERA, ESQ.

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

July 29, 2014

The Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the State of Nevada Taxicab Authority was held on Tuesday, July 29, 2014. The meeting was held in the Taxicab Authority Boardroom at 2080 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 114, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. The meeting began at 9:30 A.M.

Present were: Chairman Ileana Drobkin, Member Dennis Nolan, Member Dean Collins and new Member Bruce Aguilera. Others present: Charles D. Harvey, Administrator; Legal Counsel for the Taxicab Authority, Ryan Sunga, Deputy Attorney General; Ruben Aquino, Chief Investigator; Legal Counsel for the Board, Christine Guerri-Nyhus, Deputy Attorney General and Recording Secretary, Barbara A. Webb. Absent: Member Josh Miller

1. Call to Order –

Chair Drobkin called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Member Bruce Aguilera.

3. Compliance with Open Meeting Law

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

4. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

\* 5. Approval of the June 26th, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion:	Approval of the June 26th, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes
By:	Member Collins with the correction to one of the drivers' names under Agenda 13 - Driver Appeal
Seconded:	Member Nolan
Vote:	Passed with changes to driver's name

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

Marie Soto gave a handout to the Board talking about events in July such as the AAU Hockey and Champs Expo stating they received great cab service. Again, she thanked Road Supervisors from Frias and YCS making sure they had the cab service they needed.

Association of Surplus Dealers will be in town August 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup> with an anticipated attendance of 50,000. August 18<sup>th</sup> through August 20<sup>th</sup> is MAGIC with an expected attendance of 90,000. She stated that along with MAGIC there will be several smaller events overlapping at all 4 locations and is hoping for enough cabs for all events.

Board Member Aguilera asked who notifies her of upcoming events at the hotels and she said hotel marketing and the LVCVA calendar. She said hotels also notify her if and when cabs are needed at which time she contacts the companies.

7. Discussion with Freddie Kirtley, Assistant Director, Landside Operations, McCarran International Airport.

No one attended.

8. Discussion with David Borowski, Sands Expo, regarding recent taxicab service.

No one attended.

- \* 9. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the Application of Rick Joel Willden II, to Potentially Act as a Successor Trustee of Both the DJW 2010 YCS Retained Annuity Trust and the LJW 2010 YCS Retained Annuity Trust.

Background Investigator Antione "Chris" Rivers did a background investigation on Rick Joel Willden II and stated he meets all the requirements set forth under NAC 706.453 and NAC 706.465.

Motion:	To approve Rick Joel Willden II application to Potentially Act as a Successor Trustee of Both the DJW 2010 YCS Retained Annuity Trust and the LJW 2010 YCS Retained Annuity Trust
By:	Member Aguilera
Seconded:	Member Nolan
Vote:	Passed unanimously

- \*10. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the request of George Balaban, Desert Cab, for the possible issue of a temporary allocation of 2 medallions for the Laughlin River Regatta which runs from Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 2014.

Desert's request for the Laughlin River Regatta is as follows –

*2 medallions to run continuously from Noon Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup> through Noon Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>.*

Annette Watson, MA II, for the Taxicab Authority gave her presentation regarding the Laughlin River Regatta stating that the Taxicab Authority has never in the past given a temporary allocation for this event and there has never been a request for a temporary allocation. She stated that this year there is an anticipated attendance of 30,000. She agreed with the request of 2 medallions.





Chair Drobkin allow intervenors.

Intervenors are Desert Cab, Lucky Cab and Western Cab.

No one was in attendance from Desert Cab.

Desiree Dante from Lucky Cab stated that this event has been in Laughlin for the past 8 years and getting larger each year to where it now has more attendees than the Laughlin River Run. She supports Desert's requests.

Chair Drobkin asked for any discussion from the Board. Member Nolan wanted to know why in the past no one asked for a temporary allocation and now they are requesting one. He asked for more information. Desiree Dante stated because it brings in more people than the Laughlin River Run and that last year drivers had \$400 averages.

Motion:	Supports an allocation of 2 temporary medallions for the Laughlin River Regatta which runs from Friday, August 8 <sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 10 <sup>th</sup> 2014
By:	Member Nolan
Seconded:	Member Aguilera
Vote:	Passed unanimously

- \*11. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the possible issue of a temporary allocation of medallions for the 2014 M.A.G.I.C. Convention to be held at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority from Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

All companies agreed with the following –

*5 medallions - Monday, August 18th through Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 PM to 2:00 AM, any 12 hours.*

Annette Watson made her presentation stating that for the Fall M.A.G.I.C. Show, no medallions have been allocated for the past couple of years. She stated that this year there will be several smaller conventions in at the same time – WWE at the Thomas & Mack Center and the EXPO at the Venetian. There is an anticipated attendance of 16,500 for both of these events. She is in agreement with the temporary allocation requested.

Member Aguilera asked if there would be shuttle buses for these events and Marie Soto of LVCVA stated yes. She commented that last year's event was smaller.

Chair Drobkin allowed intervenors -

Intervenors were Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi, Desert Cab, Yellow/Checker/Star Cab Companies, Nellis Cab Company, Western Cab Company, Lucky Cab Company, Frias, and ITPE Union.

Cheryl Knapp, WB/Henderson Taxi, stated that last year there were 60,000 attendees and service was less than average. This year it is anticipated to be 80,000 plus the other venues that are have smaller events. M.A.G.I.C. comes twice a year and we don't want them to leave Las Vegas for another city because of bad cab service. She said they have made a commitment to LVCVA for ensure great service, so anything less than 5 temporary medallions would not be good.

Desert – no one attended.



Bill Shranko of YCS, Jamie Pino of Nellis Cab, Marilyn Moran of Western support the requested 5 cabs with comments that to have better service and if it proves too many, the Administrator can pull extra medallions off the road. Desiree Dante, Lucky Cab and John Marushok, Frias, also support the 5 requested medallions.

Richard Segerblom, ITPE Union, opposes the temporary allocation stating that when these events are here, that is when the drivers get to make extra money and with additional medallions, they won't. He also stated to wait for numbers to come in to see if the allocation was needed and then next year make an allocation.

Chair Drobkin stated that the economy is moving upwards and more new conventions are coming to Las Vegas and we want to be sure whether they are large or small conventions, they are getting good service. She said that LVCVA does track how many people are expected so allocations can be determined plus looking at historical data.

Member Nolan agreed with Mr. Segerblom with regard to subjective data being reviewed. He also agrees that there is an increase of people coming and the economy recovering that more cabs are needed and we don't want to lose M.A.G.I.C. because of bad service.

Motion:	Supports a temporary allocation of medallions for the 2014 M.A.G.I.C. Convention from Monday, August 18 <sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, August 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2014.
By:	Member Nolan
Seconded:	Member Collins
Vote:	Passed unanimously

Member Nolan invited Richard Segerblom to collect whatever objective data he can to provide the Board and he agreed.

## 12. Staff Report

### A – Administrator's Report -

Administrator Harvey stated that this is the second meeting in the new facility and he has received a lot of good feedback. He said staff is going forward with technology; eventually the board packets will be sent out to the board electronically; the process is in the works of setting up the front office like DMV. We are also in the process of interviewing for Compliance/Enforcement Investigator for Internal Affairs and another Vehicle Inspector. He asked Chief Aquino to give his report.

Chief Aquino stated the in June there were 1277 events responded to and dealt with; 275 citations written; 580 accidents responded to by Vehicle Inspectors. He commented that with the move, it's been a very busy month and congratulated staff for the hard work. Additional training will start for the investigators. So far 3 of the 5 Sergeants have attended a First Line Supervisory Course at Metro. It's about consistency and how they manage their staff and train for a better performance on the road. He wants to put on the record – Congratulations to Supervisors Rico Costantino, LaMons Walker and Ivan Williams for getting through the class. Chief stated it is very important to keep up on their training.

With regard to EDC, Chief commented that staff is not always full and staffing for EDC was tough. He as well as Investigators Rico Costantino, Chris Rivers, Mike Kelly and John Moore were out there. He reported no real incidents with cabs or other issues. He stated that this EDC had the greatest attendance ever this year. He said Rico worked with NTA, Rivers, who is part of the Problem Solving Unit, also worked with NTA with the TA working at the event and the NTA working the Boulevard.





Rivers said there were 2 certificate incidences, basically gypsy cabs or using vans and charging \$10 for a ride and having no insurance. Rivers stated that lately, his unit is seeing more hotel to hotel long hauling problems. They have been doing undercover operations which is #1 at this time. He said there are still issues downtown with drivers refusing rides.

Chair Drobkin and the Board Members complimented Administrator and Chief and his staff for doing a phenomenal job, stating what a difference hard work makes. The Board all agreed that it starts from the top – Administrator Harvey and Chief Aquino. Chair Drobkin said the Board will always give them all the support they need.

Administrator Harvey asked the Board to think about a date for the Annual Review.

B – Stats for May and June, 2013 -

Annette Watson reported on the May and June Statistics stating that they are on our website. She said that total trips for June 2014 compared to June 2014 are up 66,695, a 2.8% increase. For the same period, trips per shift are down 5.15%, averaging 19.51 trips per shift. Trips per medallion from June to June are down 1.44%, averaging 1,137 trips per medallion.

The Chair took Agenda Item 14 out of order.

#### 14. Report of Legal Counsel

DAG Ryan Sunga and DAG Christine Guerici-Nyhus stated that they have nothing to report.

#### \*13. Driver Appeals –

Anthony Gregorio - TA Permit # 107263 – Failed to appear.

Barbara A. Webb, Legal Secretary for the Taxicab Authority, was sworn in by DAG Sunga to testify that Mr. Gregorio was sent a letter and his transcript stating the time and date of his appeal by U.S. Mail and that the letter was not returned to the offices of the Taxicab Authority.

Motion:	Hearing Officer's decision to be upheld by Order of Default and his Appeal Dismissed due to Failure to Appear
By:	Member Aguilera
Seconded:	Member Collins
Vote:	Passed unanimously

Tesfaye Bekele - TA Permit # 111164

Mr. Bekele was sworn in by DAG Guerici-Nyhus and went on to explain what had happened on September 13, 2013 when he was given a ticket. After he completed his testimony, Deputy Attorney General Ryan Sunga explained to the Board what was discussed with the Hearing Officer at Mr. Bekele's hearing. Also at his hearing, a video was put into evidence that was taken at the Wyndham during the incident and shown to the Hearing Officer on May 7, 2014, the day of his hearing, as well as today to the Board. DAG Sunga explained that Mr. Bekele was in violation of NRS 706.8845(12);



NRS 706.543(1); NRS 706.8845(3), all that state a driver's permit shall be revoked if any of these violations occur.

The Board, after listening to Mr. Bekele's testimony, DAG Sunga's presentation and watching the video made the following motion –

Motion:	To uphold the Hearing Officer's decision
By:	Member Collins
Seconded:	Chair Drobkin
Vote:	Passed unanimously

20. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

\*21. Adjournment


Motion:	To adjourn
By:	Member Collins
Seconded:	Chair Drobkin
Vote:	Passed unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:

	<u>08-01-14</u>
Barbara A. Webb, Recording Secretary	Date

Approved by:

	<u>08-26-14</u>
Ileana Drobkin, Chairman	Date

	<u>8-11-14</u>
Charles D. Harvey, Administrator	Date

