



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
TAXICAB AUTHORITY
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Members
JOSHUA C. MILLER
DENNIS NOLAN
DEAN COLLINS
BRUCE AGUILERA, ESQ.

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

REVISED

August 26, 2014

The Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the State of Nevada Taxicab Authority was held on Tuesday, August 26, 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 Member Bruce Aguilera. Others present: Charles D. Harvey, Administrator; Ryan Sunga, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel for the Taxicab Authority; Ruben Aquino, Chief Investigator; Christine Guerci-Nyhus, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel for the Board, 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

Stephanie Edelman, A NLV driver, commented on how beautiful the Board Room is and how the Taxicab Authority and the taxicab industry are moving forward. She explained she is here today as a driver not a representative for any Union. She spoke about citations that drivers are getting for not stopping at railroad crossings. She said many of the drivers do not know the laws as they are not taught about crossing the tracks. She suggested that it be a part of the drivers' training class. She also mentioned that drivers are being cited for long hauling if they are using Dean Martin Drive. She said on a Saturday night when the Strip is busy, that's an alternate route that saves the customer money and is not long hauling. She said with the increase of people coming to Las Vegas and the increase in the number of rooms available, Dean Martin Drive is the best route. More roads are needed, she said, but that is not going to happen. She also commented that with the help of the Administrator and the staff, drivers are getting renewals taken care of much faster in the new offices.

Bill Shranko, YCS COO, made comments about the bad press that the TA has been getting lately. He said people come into one meeting and create problems not knowing what is actually going on at the TA. He commented that Administrator Harvey is the most honest Administrator the TA ever had and he lends a respect to the TA that the TA never had. He commented to Mr. Harvey that he would be crushed if Mr. Harvey ever left, being he is the best thing the TA ever had.

Public Comment closed.

* 5. Approval of the July 29th, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Approval of the July 29th, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes
Motion made and seconded and assed unanimously

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

Maria Soto spoke of the events that were at LVCVA, Association of Surplus Dealers and M.A.G.I.C., stating that there was steady service. She said even with the road work that started opening day of M.A.G.I.C., the company supervisors kept the cabs coming in. She thanks Chair Drobkin for reaching out to the companies.

Ms. Soto stated that the Harvest Festival will be in from September 5th through September 7th, and then the ABC Kids Expo 2014 will be in September 7th through September 10th. There are a total of 7 shows in September at the LVCVA.

Member Nolan asked that staff give the Board a formal report on the 5 medallions the Board approved for M.A.G.I.C.

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

Chris Anderson spoke on behalf of Ms. Kirtley who was not able to attend. He stated that they continue to have sufficient cab service. He said during M.A.G.I.C., there were 14,647 rides and they had excellent service. He thanked the company supervisors.

Member Aguilera ask him how the signs the TA posted regarding fares was working and Mr. Anderson said that they are working very well. It saves a lot of time for his staff with the fares being posted.

Member Collins asked about the service for that many rides and he said they were prepared as they and the companies had an idea of how many to expect and they were ready. Wait times, he said, were low.

8. Discussion with Jeff White, Security Manager, Sands Expo, regarding recent taxicab service.

Mr. White introduced himself to everyone as this was his first meeting. He said he's been the position since July. He commented that Frias reached out to him, gave him business cards and was very happy as they really helped when he needed cabs. He said during fashion week, service was very good. He had called Frias for help and there were no complaints regarding cab service.



- * 9. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding Intervener's, Henderson Taxi and Whittlesea Blue Cab Company, Motion to Stay regarding the Application of A Cab for Modification of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Chair Drobkin asked the attorneys to give a status report.

Esther Rodriguez, Attorney for A Cab, stated that the NTA stayed the motion that they appealed. She said she had some proposed dates that she discussed with the intervenors, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi and Frias were the only ones to respond. It was agreed to put it on the calendar; it was agreed upon that any motion would be due by September 16th; oppositions by October 3rd; replies by October 13th. Parties can serve electronically. Motions will be heard by October. She said A Cab Motions would be heard the same date as Deluxe hearing. A Cab Motions in October and set up hearing in November; pre-filed testimony to be filed 14 calendar days prior to the November meeting.

Cheryl Knapp, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi, Neal Tomlinson for Frias and George Balaban for Desert all agreed with Attorney Rodriguez.

At this point, Chair Drobkin stated that two emails were received by the Taxicab Authority complimenting drivers. Chair Drobkin asked Member Collins to read them into the record. Member Collins read them into the record. He commented that there are a lot of drivers doing a great job, fortunately, only a few are not. He commended the investigators, companies, drivers and the Taxicab Authority on their efforts to keep things positive. He agreed that there is too much bad press! He thanked the drivers and the companies. The emails are available at the Taxicab Authority. The Chair commented that she refuses to let negativity hurt everyone and is not going to let the press take them down.

10. Staff Report

a. Administrator's Report – Mr. Harvey talked about the letter he received from Tasha Heath, the founder of Southern Nevada Watchdogs, stating that there were questions attached. Mr. Harvey responded to her stating that there were no questions attached to her letter and to please resubmit the questions to him. As of this date, he has not received a response.

He also gave the Board a copy of the Monthly Report to the Director which gives all the activities of the previous month along with statistics from the investigative side. He reiterated that the TA participated in the 2014 National Night Out which is police-community partnership promoting crime prevention and safety awareness. Staff had given out approximate rate flyers and explained what the TA mission is about.

The investigative staff conducted proactive patrols to detect "long route" violators in the downtown area as well as the Strip and the Airport. They also investigated reported unlicensed taxi operations. He stated that long haul citations are up significantly for the 1st 6 months of 2014.

He gave the statistics for July – 1567 dispatched events – 343 citations consisting of 42 violations; 1402 vehicle damage reports were written; 715 vehicle inspections were conducted; 413 violations resolved through Administrative Court; 127 cases resolved in pre-trial conferences; 112 long haul citations issued to taxicab drivers; and 38 administrative trials conducted.

The approximate fare and passenger rights flyers will be distributed by LVCVA at their conventions.



The agency received several anonymous letters from constituents identifying themselves as drivers alleging violations by companies and the TA. The agency is formulating options to investigate the allegations.

Mr. Harvey also commented that audits of the companies are continuing to be done by Annette Watson, Management Analyst. Vendor demonstrations have been held by several vendors to improve the all systems that will make the TA work more quickly and efficiently. Also, interviews for Compliance/ Enforcement Investigator I, Vehicle Inspector I and Compliance/Enforcement Investigator II/ Internal Affairs are being held. We are awaiting the recruitment for Public Safety Dispatcher II to be processed by HR Services. The TA along with the NTA and Metro, a multi-agency operation, is targeting unlicensed operators. Meetings attended by Administrator Harvey and Deputy Administrator Jennifer DeRose with Aging Services Deputy Administrator Tina Gerber-Winn and Jeffrey Duncan to discuss the Taxi Assistance Program to strengthen the partnership and ensure success of the program. Long haul incidents to and from McCarran continue to decline while long hauling from hotel to hotel increase.

b. Stats for July, 2014 – Administrator Harvey said that the stats for June were on the website and if anyone has any questions, staff will be happy to answer them. There were no questions.

c. Future agenda items – The Annual Review of Medallions and the Annual Review of Rates, Charges and Fares will be heard at the September 23rd Board Meeting.

*11. Driver Appeals –

Phat Phan, TA Permit # 108750.

Motion: To overturn the hearing officer's decision based on the fact that the Hearing Officer's decision was unreasonable
By: Member Nolan
Seconded: Member Aguilera
Vote: Passed unanimously

Abraham Worke, TA Permit # 21428.

Motion: To dismiss the long haul issue; keep the backloading issue
By: Member Collins
Seconded: Member Aguilera
Vote: Passed unanimously

Mario Neeley, TA Permit # 112576.

After discussion, Board made a Motion –

Motion: Motion to uphold the Hearing Officer's decision
By: Member Nolan
Seconded: Member Collins
Vote: Passed unanimously



