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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 25, 2016

The Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the State of Nevada Taxicab Authority was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016. The meeting was held in the Taxicab Authority Boardroom at 2080 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 114, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. The meeting began at approximately 9:12 A.M.

Present were: Chairman Ileana Drobkin, Member Dean Collins, Member Bruce Aguilera and Member James Campos. Others present: Ronald Grogan, Administrator, Gary Mathews, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel for the Taxicab Authority; Sophia Long, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel for the Board and Recording Secretary, Barbara A. Webb. Absent: Ruben Aquino, Chief Investigator.

1. Meeting was called to order at approximately 9:12 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

3. Compliance with Open Meeting Law.

Administrator Ronald Grogan said we were in Compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

4. Public Comment.

No Public Comment. Closed.

5. Approval of the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion: To approve the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes  
By: Member Aguilera  
Seconded: Member Collins  
Vote: Passed unanimously

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

Maria Soto spoke regarding the following conventions.

World of Concrete – Tuesday, 02/02/2016 through Friday, 02/05/2016, with Champs – total attendance 60,000 attendees. There were 3 taxi stands – North Halls, South Halls West and South Halls East. Service was good throughout with 10-15 minute wait times.

M.A.G.I.C. – Tuesday, 02/16/2016 through Thursday, 02/18/2016 with 85,000 attendees. This overlapped with Off-Price at the Venetian – attendance at 12,000. Cab service was good – 10-15 minute wait times with the max time being 25 minutes on the second day. Frias sent out six 30-passenger shuttles at close of show to assist with the long lines.

There were a lot of chartered limos in service as well as Uber and Lyft which created some staging issues. The Taxicab Authority and Nevada Transportation Authority were there for backup.

There are several overlapping conventions from Sunday, March 6 through Thursday, March 10 with 55,000 attendees anticipated. From Wednesday, March 16 through Sunday, March 20 there also are overlapping shows with an anticipated attendance of 30,000 attendees.

Maria Soto went on to talk about some road projects that will be going on during these conventions and how, with lane shifts and projects completed at that time, will help the flow of traffic during these conventions.

ASD – Sunday, February 28 through Wednesday, March 2 - this is a very heavy “taxi” show. Larger vehicles and vans will be needed the last 2 days of the show. This show uses many large boxes and the larger vehicles are needed for that. Sierra Vista driveway to South Halls will open for this show allowing shuttles and taxi access.

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

Chris Anderson spoke on behalf of Freddie Kirtley stating that they have had good taxi service. 2016 numbers are up 6%, loading cab operations, just under 1200 cabs. The 2 months of 2016 are a little flat, not seeing the normal increase in January.

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

Jeff White on behalf of Sands Expo stated that there were 25,000 attendees for Fashion Week with good cab service throughout show, just during show breaks there is always a delay. There was road work which created issues with cabs entering. Coming up are HIMSS with 40,000 attendees which is a conference not a trade show, which in the past there was not much need for cabs, but he is not sure if this time there will be a need for cabs. The SHOT Show and CES were very successful.

9. Discussion and possible decision regarding the Application from Desert Cab Company for the Authority to Use a Captive Insurer.

No one was in attendance from Desert Cab.

Administrator Grogan stated that he has been in touch with the Division of Insurance and they have not yet approved his application.

10. Discussion and possible decision regarding finalizing and submitting the Taxicab Authority Board Members’ written response to the Audit Report of the Executive Branch Audit Committee and to the Governor.



After the Board discussed the written response written by Board Member Aguilera, with input from all the Board Members, they agreed to some changes that need to be made before signing it and sending it to the Executive Branch Audit Committee. The Board made the following motion to accept the letter with the changes.

Motion: Approve the final draft of our response with the addition of the auditor contacts and copying Governor Sandoval  
By: Chair Drobkin  
Seconded: Member Collins  
Vote: Passed Unanimously. Motion passed.

## 11. Staff Report

Administrator Grogan stated that in Chief Aquino's absence, he would cover his reports. He would like to add to the Chair's comments about Barbara for helping him transition into the TA. He also wanted to recognize the new Legal Assistant, Amy McMahon, as there is also a new in-house Administrative Attorney, Janette Reyes-Speer. He explained that she not only supports the attorney she will also take over the responsibility of the Board as well as hearings. He introduced Amy and asked for applause for her as well.

He is hoping with new people being brought on board there will some changes and hope enhancing the way the TA interfaces with the industry. He spoke on the "Waiver" that was sent out to the industry which was to be sure that the NRSs are met and to ensure the TA is maintaining a high level of transparency. He commented that there will be more of that coming in the future to improve the way the offices are run and to support the industry.

He commented that last week his phone rang non-stop regarding issues at LVCVA with TNCs. He finally went down to the North Hall of the Convention Center for a couple of hours. He and members of his enforcement staff impounded a TNC vehicle. The hearing took place last Monday at NTA court because our attorney is new and impounds are a little tricky. The driver paid a substantial fine which will be a deterrent for other TNC drivers. He commented that our investigators will continue their enforcement of the TNCs.

At the last meeting he had mentioned that the investigators as well as other staff would be working a 5/8 schedule due to the fact that we are short staffed. Hiring investigators is not easy because many agencies throughout the county are also hiring police officers including Metro. The 5/8 schedule will allow them to put more investigators on the street for less hours. Special enforcements have suffered due to lack of investigators who have to cover patrol. This allows the enforcement of long hauling as well as illegal operations of gypsy cabs.

He spoke about an RFT which was already submitted and the agency is expecting feedback to look at Clark County taxicab rates, supply/demand examples, analysis – this would help the Board in terms of how cabs should be on the street which will be shared with everyone.

Regarding the court backlog, last fall when I started here, the backlog was so far out as some drivers couldn't get a court date until August 2016 which has been reduced by 2 months and it will continue as there is still a backlog of about 586 cases in December and 682 were resolved in January. We are resolving more than are being taken in. Now there are 3 hearings a week as opposed to 1, therefore, drivers being cited will get a hearing within a week or two.



Lastly, as a result of the headline of the closure of the Taxicab Authority there has been some push back from some of your drivers with our officers and he feels the companies must have spoken to their drivers because he hasn't heard as much about it from his officers as he did before. There was an incident yesterday in the classroom, an officer had to be summoned to calm down drivers that were being very rude and it will not be tolerated and they will be escorted out. He asked for the industry's help.

The Chair thanked Mr. Grogan for his report. She stated that she wanted to clarify that it was not an announcement of closing the Taxicab Authority, it was a recommendation. In order for that to happen, it has to go to a full body of the legislature for a vote. Being a recommendation as opposed to a closure, it might go a long way before decided.

Member Aguilera asked Mr. Grogan if he has had any input with regard to the study the industry commissioned from Applied Analysis that was being done regarding the audit.

Mr. Grogan stated that with all the hearings that he has attended along with the Chair, the legislature is anxious to get their hands on the industry's response. They were pushing them for an answer as to when it would be ready.

Kelly Kuzik commented on the availability of the January Stats and asked if there were any questions.

Member Collins questioned January 2016 numbers big decrease compared to the January 2015 numbers stating that he was wondering perhaps the industry can explain why there is a 14% difference.

Kelly did not know exactly why but assumes it is the alternative transportation now available.

The Chair asked the industry to come up and comment.

Jamie Pino, Nellis Cab, stated he talks to his driver's everyday as to what is going on throughout the city. First he stated that every time there is an allocation, it takes time for the medallions to be absorbed and with the huge allocation that is one of the reasons. Now there is a lot of competition with the TNCs. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, on the carousels at the airport, there are greeters soliciting passengers to get into one of the TNCs. They lost a tremendous amount of people that used to use their cabs. He stated that his drivers sit in a cab line due to regulations, people are coming out of hotels being diverted to the alternative competition and the TNCs have no regulations. He wanted to let the board know why the numbers are down. He feels eventually it will go back to the way it was. He has drivers who are complaining about making less money and other drivers coming back after leaving for the alternative. He stated that in November and December 2015 never went over 400 drivers, now there are 410 because they are coming back. Now there is a decrease but feels eventually they will survive.

The Chair asked him if he was primarily running 12-hour shifts.

Jamie commented that he is doing 24- and 12-hour shifts. No other type of shifts but 12-hour shifts. They are also competing for drivers. At the end of last year, he never went over 400 drivers, now he is up to 490 because they are coming back. The problem isn't only Uber and Lyft, it's also the gypsy cabs which is anyone on the weekend take their car.

Member Collins asked him why he thinks the properties are diverting guests to the TNCs.

Jamie said it is his opinion only, because he thinks they are so powerful that a lot of people are getting paid to do so. He stated that they have their own spot while the cabs have to be in the taxi line. Doormen are instructed to divert them.



Member Aguilera stated that he thought Uber could not stage, they can only come when a customer requests them.

Jamie said yes. They are instructing passengers to go to certain areas at certain hotels and they have designated areas. That's what is going on and he is sure staff knows about that.

Member Aguilera said he knows that the Aria and Bellagio don't have the signs up any more. They used to but not anymore.

Cheryl Knapp, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi, in response to Member Collins' question, her companies in order to retain drivers reduced their shifts to 10 hours with the option to work their day off or to work 5 hours. She went on to explain how they accommodate their drivers. Some that have left have come back full time. There has been a tremendous loss of trips due to the TNCs, legal and illegal. There are TNCs hailing people throughout the town, at the convention centers when people respond they don't have an app, the driver will say they will take them for cash. The problem then is without the app being activated, if there is an accident and the party is injured it creates safety issues. During the conventions when they contacted the Administrator and the LVCVA about the illegal issues it was for legal protected transportation vs. illegal unprotected transportation. She stated that if issues happen on a hotel property, the hotel will get sued for allowing an unsafe driver to pick them up.

John Marushok, Frias, a lot of people are driving into town, the infrastructure of traffic with TNCs, trips are affected because of the issue of trying to get around town. It's not only the TNCs.

Chair stated she is really proud of the decision to give the allocation that was given because the companies know how to run their business within the statutes. The companies know when the drivers are needed and they have the flexibility. Vehicles are not all on the road, only when they are needed.

Jim Eckstaedt stated that Frias has been in the taxi business for 50 years. He commented that it took 50 years to make them what they are today with 3300 drivers. Per Ann Wilkinson, Chairman at NTA, there are 19,000 TNC registered drivers. They went from 0 – 19,000 in 4 months.

Mr. Eckstaedt commented that you have to take a look at how many of those cars are on the road on the weekends which has to be looked at regarding all drivers and the infrastructure. With the number of vehicles on the road on weekends, they are seeing a reduction in trips. He agrees that no one knows for sure about the 19,000 registered drivers but it does have an impact when they are on the road.

Member Aguilera asked if they notice any increase in the apps in their vehicles or if that helps at all.

Jim Eckstaedt stated apps are continuing to being used but they are not marketing them as they are waiting for their campaign to do that.

Ruthie Jones, ITPEU, drivers are having a rough time. They'd look for to conventions to make money and it is not happening now. Due to other modes of transportation they are being affected. Airport runs the cabs out of the airport while meanwhile the drivers are wasting gas. Someone is putting their cabs out because there are additional cabs on the road that are having a major impact. They are losing drivers because they are leaving the industry, even after going to the TNCs and find there is no money to be made, they are looking at different fields.

12. Report of Legal Counsel – Gary Mathews, DAG, had nothing to report.



February 25, 2016  
Board Meeting Minutes

13. Public Comment

No public comment. Public comment closed.

14. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn  
By: Member Collins  
Seconded: Member Aguilera  
Vote: Passed unanimously. Motion passed.

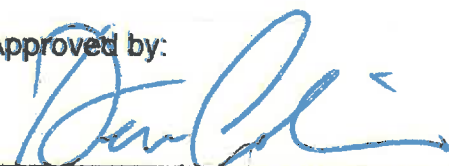
Meeting adjourned at 9:56:46 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

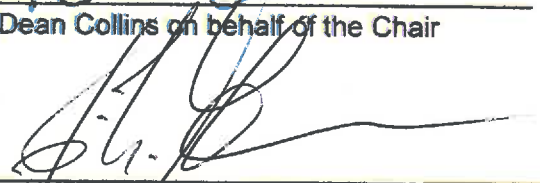
  
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Barbara A. Webb, Recording Secretary

04-15-2016  
Date

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Collins on behalf of the Chair

4/7/16  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald Grogan, Administrator

4/15/2016  
Date

