



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**

**September 27, 2011**

The Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the State of Nevada Taxicab Authority was held on Tuesday, July 26th, 2011. The meeting was held at the Taxicab Authority, 1785 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 200, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. Drivers' Appeals were scheduled for 9:00 A.M. The meeting began at 9:00 A.M.

Present were: Charles D. Harvey, Administrator, Chairman Ileana Drobkin, Member Josh Miller, Member Joseph Hardy and Member Dennis Nolan. Others present: were Legal Counsel, Deputy Attorney General Scott R. Davis, Deputy Attorney General Michael Wymer and Recording Secretary, Barbara A. Webb.

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Drobkin called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Pledge was led by Member Miller.

**3. Compliance with Open Meeting Law**

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

**4. Public Comment**

Bill Shranko, YCS, congratulated the cabdrivers because taxi service in Las Vegas was voted the best in the United States for the second year in a row according to an article in the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He commented that everyone is doing a great job and also presented Administrator Harvey with framed articles.

Steve Lanett, Whittlesea driver, thanked Member Hardy for voting against extra medallions at the August Meeting. He complimented Kelly Kuzik and Brock Croy for their presentation and hopes that the Board will listen to their comments.

Sam Moffitt, ITPEU, commented that this is the first time he has every heard of so many medallions being allocated. He said that Staff did not recommend an allocation and there were enough cabs on the



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road to accommodate all the tourists. He also doesn't understand why additional medallions were allocated for the weekend. He said the swing shift drivers will make less money which means more long hauling. He estimates that Frias will need 300 more drivers to accommodate the number of medallions they are asking for. He said by allocating the additional medallions, the Board did a disservice to the drivers and did not think about the consequences of their decision.

No further Public Comment.

**\*5. Driver Appeal**

Deputy Attorney General Scott Davis, on behalf of Staff, explained why Mr. Veynowich was appealing the Hearing Officer's decision of an incident at the Forum Shoppes where Mr. Veynowich has approached another driver because he thought the other driver was trying to take a ride from him when he was just answering a question asked by some tourists. An argument ensued that involved spitting and yelling by Mr. Veynowich at the other driver and the TA was called and he was given a citation for violation of NAC 706.543, subsection 1 – verbal arguments/physical violence. DAG stated that after the Hearing Officer listened to the testimony of the witness and Investigator Hinkle, who gave him the citation, her decision was guilty with a \$250 fine.

Goran Veynovich – TA Permit # 28476, gave his side of the story and after listening to him the Board made a motion –

Motion: Uphold Hearing Officer's Decision  
By: Member Hardy  
Second: Member Nolan  
Vote: Passed unanimously

**\*6. Driver Appeal**

The appeal of Ludmil Pandeliev for violation of NAC 706.543, subsection 3 – Rotation of Taxi Stand was again brought forward. He has not appeared for his appeal. DAG Davis commented that Mr. Pandeliev was notified per NRS 796.930; therefore, State requested that the Hearing Officer's decision be upheld.

Motion: Uphold Hearing Officer's Decision of Guilty  
By: Member Nolan  
Second: Member Hardy  
Vote: Passed unanimously – motion passes

**\*7. Approval of the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion: Approve the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes  
By: Member Nolan  
Second: Chairman Drobkin  
Vote: Passed unanimously – motion passes

**8. Public Comment**

Don Chalmers, Operation Manager for YCS, came in front of the Board to say that YCS had given a copy of the article from the Las Vegas Review-Journal to all their drivers and said they all should be patted on the back.



**9. Discussion with Davy Ann Noahr, Administrative Traffic Supervisor, LVCVA, regarding the taxicab service during the past month.**

Davy Ann Noahr commented there were approximately 77,000 attendees for M.A.G.I.C. and that it was up 75% from the earlier M.A.G.I.C. show and that service was excellent. There were traffic issues at Mandalay Bay where M.A.G.I.C. also was, but LVCVA is meeting with them to see what Mandalay Bay needs to do to correct the issues. SEMA is coming November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup> and there will be some road closures. She will let Kelly know so he can post them on our website.

The Chair mentioned that Lucky Cab and Frias intervened and Desiree Dante of Lucky Cab and Neal Tomlinson representing Frias said they had no comments.

**\*10. Request for advisory opinion from A Cab, LLC concerning the applicability of the pre-approval provisions of NRS 706.8819(1)(b) and (c) to a series LLC.**

Jay Nady, owner of A Cab, stated that he wants to restructure to a series LLC and this request is only for an amendment regarding internal business operations. He commented the NRS does not require pre-approval, but he wanted an advisory opinion.

The Board asked exactly what they wanted. DAG Davis explained that the request was for an advisory opinion and that if the Board granted approval and then the Administrator will draft an advisory opinion on the specific issues for the Board to review at the next meeting.

Motion: Approve the Administrator to draft an advisory opinion  
By: Member Hardy  
Second: Chairman Drobkin  
Vote: Passed unanimously – motion passes

**\*11. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the Annual Review of Rates**

Brock Croy passed out the Staff's Analysis and Conclusion Regarding the Annual Review for the Adjustment of Rates for Taxicab Fare in Clark County, Nevada 2011 to the Board. He went on to make his power point presentation. Questions presented by the Board were they would rather have trips vs revenue since the last increase as opposed to annual number, transportation information as opposed to profit margins would have been more helpful, Board is looking for comparison of cabs to cabs in other cities, the health of the industry and the ability to provide service was another issue not addressed that Board wants. Mr. Croy stated that information regarding the service was included.

Chairman Drobkin gave intervenor status to intervenors.

Jaime Pino, Nellis Cab, commented that if the rates were to be increased, the industry would price themselves out and people would go to limos for the same amount of money. Nellis opposes a rate increase

Stephanie Edelman, USW, commented that USW is asking for a rate increase on the meters because she stated that if the cabs were not profitable the companies would not put them on the road. She said the last increase was in 2008 which was 20 cents on the drop and would like another 20 cents on the drop basing her decision on the July trips per shift.



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John Hickman, COO, Frias, said he has no further information regarding his companies and everything is looking better except for the increase in the insurance rates. He said the Frias is not asking for a rate increase.

Desiree Dante, Lucky Cab, agrees with everyone that it is not an appropriate time to ask for a rate increase. She asked for Staff's recommendation prior to the meeting.

Marilyn Moran, Western Cab, stated they are not supporting a rate increase.

Marc Gordon, counsel for YCS, agrees that there is no compelling evidence for a rate increase.

Jay Nady, A Cab, stated that he services locals. They have had a lot of intentional blown shifts because the day shift is not making money. His drivers said none of their passengers have complained about the meter fare. He feels there is no supply and demand for a rate increase.

Ruthie Jones, ITPEU, supports a rate increase and wants the fuel surcharge recharacterized as a rate increase. She said that eventually fuel prices will decrease and the fuel surcharge will be removed, therefore, wants it to be made into a rate increase so everyone will benefit.

Mark James, CEO, Frias, explained that his company did not want a rate increase at this time because the industry is in the midst of a technology change which will affect the expenditures by government and companies. He said there is a technology bill in Nevada and wants the discussion for a rate increase to be visited at another time when the technology will provide more relevant information.

The Board went into discussion with the Chair stating that she feels the 20 cent increase is nominal and the drivers would be benefiting by it. Member Nolan commented that remarks by Mark James should be considered and feels he would like to wait and look at it later on. Member Hardy commented that if people are not complaining about the rates and, according to the LV RJ article, it may be worth a small increase. Member Miller agreed to revisit this in 6 months, to which the Chairman agreed.

Member Miller commented that because Staff does not recommend an increase, the companies do not want an increase, he asked the DAG does a decision have to be made today, is a motion needed and the DAG said as long as it was reviewed a motion may not be required. Member Miller said because no one agrees, skip the motion.

After a review was conducted, there was no motion to support a rate increase.

## 12. Staff Report

Administrator Harvey announced that Ken Mangum, ASO, would be transferring to the Director's Office in Carson City because of position changes within the Department of Business and Industry.

The Chair complimented and thanked Ken on the work he has done for the Board. Kelly Kuzik commented that Ken is the best person, boss and human being he has ever met.

The Administrator stated that all complaints that come to the TA via email are being reviewed and responded to with the #1 complaint being long hauling. He stated that there were 18 million trips through August and only 300 complaints of long hauling. He stated he has started the Community of Interest meetings each month for the industry to meet and discuss issues of concern which includes



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companies and unions. He feels that these meetings will give everyone the opportunity to have an open discussion and address issues of concern. He stated he also has communication with LVCVA, the airport, hotels and outside law enforcement.

Kelly Kuzik talked about the fact that the second NASCAR race did not happen as planned. The weekend of October 16<sup>th</sup> the Indy cars are coming back. He stated there's a truck race coming with approximately 10,000 seats sold; there's the drag races also scheduled for October with expected attendance of 15,000 each day but no allocation is needed for either event. With regard to the numbers, August was up 5-1/4%, all numbers are positive and with the allocation made in August, he will watch the numbers closely. The page in the statistic package that shows the number of medallions per company will be updated for the October statistical report.

Member Nolan asked the industry to provide the board with information regarding the impact of the allocation made in August. Mr. Kuzik stated that the information will be in the stats unless he needs something different then it would have to come from the companies.

**13. Report of Legal Counsel**

DAG Davis stated that Handicap's request for a re-hearing before the District Court was denied. There is an appeal filed by ITPE Union and United Steelworkers Union to the Nevada Transportation Authority regarding the allocation of medallions that was approved by the Board at the August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 Board Meeting.

**13. Adjournment**

Motion: Adjourn  
By: Member Hardy  
Second: Chair Drobkin  
Vote: Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 A.M.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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**Barbara A. Webb, Recording Secretary** **Date**

**Approved by:**

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**Ileana Drobkin, Chairman** **Date**

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**Charles D. Harvey, Administrator** **Date**

