



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
TAXICAB AUTHORITY
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Chairman

VACANT
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Members

JOSHUA C. MILLER
JOSEPH P. HARDY, JR., ESQ.
DENNIS NOLAN
DEAN COLLINS

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

January 6, 2012

The Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the State of Nevada Taxicab Authority was held on Friday, January 6, 2012. The meeting was held at the Taxicab Authority, 1785 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 200, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. The meeting began at 9:30 A.M.

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Drobkin called the meeting to order at 9:30 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.

3. Public Comment

Sam Moffitt spoke about the legality of this meeting per NRS 706.8819 which states "The Taxicab Authority shall conduct hearings and make final decisions in the following matters (d) applications to change the total number of allocated taxicabs in a county to which NRS 706.7781 – NRS 706.885, inclusive, apply and 2) an appeal from the final decision of the TA must be made to the Nevada Transportation Authority." He feels that they should not have been given the right to this meeting because when the Unions appealed the Board's decision in August when they allocated additional permanent medallions to the companies, they had to appeal to the NTA. He said this was a waste of taxpayer's money.



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Cheryl Knapp, General Manager, Whittlesea Blue/Henderson Taxi, commented that they did not intervene because it was heard in November and agrees with what was asked for then and has nothing new to offer. She stated she feels an allocation is needed because between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM when they have shift changes, additional cabs are needed.

Marla Everett commented that additional medallions on Thursday and Monday make it more dangerous because there are too many cabs on the road.

Sandy Shaver, Desert Cab, commented that they did not file a formal intervention this time but supports Frias' request because of the two conventions overlapping. He also feels that due to shift changes and show breaks, additional cabs are needed. He said the last allocation was very important but doesn't feel that the permanent allocation was to replace convention medallions.

Rob Johnson stated that he agrees with Sam Moffitt with regard to the NRS. He commented on how the representatives from the companies talk about losing market share when they own the shuttle buses and limousine companies as well as cab companies.

Stephanie Edelman commented on how the interventions are filed without actually requesting what the company wants as it is stated on the last page of the agenda. She commented that in Frias' intervention, they were not specific in stating what they wanted and feels the Board should deny their request for this rehearing. She also commented that A Cab was the only intervention that stated what they actually are requesting.

Jeff Zamaria of Sands Expo commented that he is in favor of additional cabs because the SHOT Show is at the Sands Expo.

***5. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the request for rehearing filed by the Frias Companies in the matter of the temporary allocation of medallions for the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show (SHOT Show) and Adult Entertainment Expo run concurrently from Tuesday, January 17, 2012 through Saturday, January 21, 2012 (for possible action).**

Chair Drobkin stated that intervenors from the November meeting when this was first discussed are acceptable today.

Intervenors for this rehearing are United Steelworkers Union, A Cab, LLC, Western Cab Company and ITPE Union.

Frias Companies were represented by Mark James and John Hickman. They commented that NRS 706.972 authorizes rehearings. They are here to present additional information and thanked the Board for granting them the right to be reheard. They feel that this convention helps to boost the economy during January which usually is a slow month. They brought representatives from different venues who organize conventions to testify. Mark James commented that a trigger point was used for allocations and feels it should be used again. John Hickman commented that he addresses all complaints that come into his company regarding no service and each one is investigated.

Frias called Mark Preston as a representative for the convention industry. Mr. Preston commented that Las Vegas has a history of taking care of attendees of conventions and feels that this is the most important aspect especially when it will determine if the particular convention will come back to Las Vegas. He commented that CES has an expected attendance of 160,000 making it one of the biggest conventions that comes to Las Vegas. For this reason, he feels additional cabs to take care of



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attendees of any and all conventions is of the utmost importance for them to come back every year to Las Vegas.

Frias called David Sucula from the Hard Rock Hotel. He commented that they have a large group booked for CES and the Adult Show which is at the Hard Rock making January a great month.

Member Collins asked how traffic was in the past and were there any issues. He also asked what the trend for the next 4-6 years is.

Mr. Sucula commented that a lot of conventioners use other modes of transportation because there were not enough cabs. He said that there are a lot of people in line for cabs when the shows end.

Member Collins asked if January was a busy month for the industry and Mr. Sucula commented that last year these were the strongest months. He said that ABM is light Monday and Tuesday night but the rest of the week is strong with 7,000 – 8,000 a day and then another 7,000 for the award show.

The Chair asked if they were from out of town and Mr. Sucula commented that 70% of them are. Member Miller asked if there were making any adjustments for the cab line because of the comments about not enough room to stage. Mr. Sucula said that they are reconfiguring the front of the hotel to accommodate cabs by blocking off the entrance to the parking lot for cabs to stage and it should accommodate 30-40 cabs at one time which is double the normal staging area. Mark James asked if other groups are organizing transportation and Mr. Sucula said that other conventions can do that and that they are expecting 5,000 – 6,000 from other hotels to come to the Hard Rock for this event.

Chair Drobkin asked Mark James about trying to manage their availability of cabs at certain venues because the drivers complain that there is not enough room at a lot of venues for them to stage and he said yes with a new GPS System in the cabs, the network of drivers that talk to each other and the call center has been expanded. He also commented that some of his personnel go to the hotels and convention center to check traffic and be sure cabs are there.

Mr. Hickman commented that the drivers know what they are doing and know where to go. They use 2-way radios not cell phones and it has been very successful and he commented that all the companies do the same.

Frias called Steve Patterson from LVCVA as a witness. Mr. Patterson commented that the conventions have all been well serviced and that road supervisors in the cab areas are the “silver bullet” to controlling the cabs. He stated that there still times when cabs are scarce which is due to show times. He commented that neither of these conventions is at LVCVA, but that customer service is extremely important. He said that they are meeting with Metro and everyone involved with transportation to be sure cabs can get into the convention center. There is always 15 cops working traffic and with 350 buses on the road as well as cabs, it creates a problem to get into the convention center as well as other venues.

Mark James asked him how the people react when standing in lines for a long time and he commented that when cabs are not available people are not happy but, as they did in the past, Elvis impersonators entertain the people while they are waiting.

The Chair asked him how December service was and he said it was good. They have to supplement with shuttles especially at peak times when the wait is 30 minutes or more. He feels he doesn't want it



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to get back to the days of not enough cabs. Mark James asked him if shuttle buses were given any business and he said yes. Member Hardy asked why this evidence was not brought up in November.

Mark James said it was because evidence was not given regarding the whole community. He commented that Frias will have 3rd parties come to testify when they asking for an allocation and not all facts were heard and not all evidence was given in November. Member Hardy stated that he appreciates the additional evidence and suggested that when they intervene to be more specific and should have included the people they brought today along with what they wanted. Mark James said he would consider it and that everyone should have to do it as well. The Chair commented that if that is what the Board wants, then everyone will have to do it.

John Hickman reviewed their November intervention and asked Board to review it. Member Hardy asked him if they are running full capacity and he commented that they had blown shifts in December for the non-productive hours but since New Year's Eve they've been running full capacity. Mark James commented that there were blown shifts after the permanent allocation because their fleet was not prepared for permanent medallions but now they are. Member Collins asked if it was just Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and Mark James answered yes. Member Miller questioned the request and John Hickman said the motion was for Wednesday and Thursday allocation only and was voted down.

Stephanie Edelman, United Steelworkers, commented that she drives a driver-friendly cab and it helps getting information where cabs are needed. She spoke about the Hard Rock's cab line which only holds 4-5 cabs at a time and that they cannot get on the stand when there are tour buses. She said that at Thomas & Mack the rodeo was serviced well because they help getting cabs in. She feels the allocation of black medallions and 24/7 medallions that were given by the Board was supposed to take care of the conventions. She said that the Unions don't have the authority to get witnesses as the companies do and as a driver she sees where and what the problems are. She said the New Year's Eve was not a good weekend. She said the Sands entrance is the worst one in town and 4,000 people cannot be serviced with 8 cabs available.

Jay Nady, A Cab, commented that the Hard Rock was very busy this month. He agrees with Frias.

Marilyn Moran, Western Cab, asked for 6 medallions for Thursday and asked if the Monday medallions they have from the permanent allocation could be used instead of allocating more. She feels that the representatives should look into loading more cabs which is the reason drivers won't go there.

Ruthie Jones, ITPE Union, commented that the trigger point was never 40,000 but 75,000 and if attendance was expected to be less than that, there was no allocation given. She commented that there are more cabs on the road now than when the trigger point was 75,000. She asked the Board to consider the drivers. She said the November 2010 statistics were better than now and Frias was down in every category. She feels that the drivers can take care of the conventions with the permanent allocation that was given.

Mark James commented that there were 17 medallions given for CES that were overlapping with 140,000 attendees and the Unions asked for no medallions. John Hickman commented the one should not discount the early needs at the Sands Expo. Mr. James said that the Board in the past always allocated medallions if the convention had 40,000 attendees and Frias is trying to show that they want to protect the industry and the attendees. He feels that if less than requested would be given, there would be bad service.



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The Chair asked if any other intervenors from the November Meeting wanted to speak and no one did.

Member Miller commented he would like to hear from the Sands regarding staging areas. He said he is not a fan of rehearings and that it was discussed at the November meeting. He does appreciate the 3rd party evidence for the future and would encourage the unions to do the same.

Member Collins commented that when he travels and is on a tight schedule, he does not like to wait for a cab and that it is not a good experience. He said that he gets a lot of positive comments regarding the industry and the drivers and said that, compared to other cities; we are at the top and wants to keep it that way. He feels a temporary allocation is needed.

Member Hardy agrees with Member Miller regarding a rehearing. He does appreciate the evidence brought forward and would like it in the future. He agrees with the issues at the Sands and Hard Rock and would like those addressed. He agreed with the comments regarding the permanent allocation alleviating the need for convention medallions, but does agree that CES needed additional medallions. He commented that everyone seems to be losing sight of the need for service to the riding public not the concerns of the market share of the companies nor the salaries of the drivers. The concern is the riding public and that is why a permanent allocation was given.

The Chair agrees especially regarding the 3rd party. She commented that the information given was appreciated and said she does have a soft spot for the drivers as they are the ambassadors of Las Vegas.

She asked for a motion.

Motion: Wednesday, January 18th - 5 medallions - 7 AM – 7 PM
and 5 medallions -12 PM – 2 AM (any 12 hours)
Thursday, January 19th – 5 medallions - 7 AM – 7 PM
By: Member Miller
Second: Member Collins
Vote: 3:1 passed – opposed by Member Hardy

6. Public Comment

Rob Johnson commented about the market share that was brought up again. He said he has been in the industry for 14 years and knows that the cab owners also own shuttle buses and limousines so how do they lose market share, it is not affected.

Ruthie Jones, ITPE Union, stated that logistics have a lot to do with service. If the drivers cannot get in a cab line, they cannot service the public and they will leave the property.

Marilyn Moran, Western Cab, asked again if the 5 or 6 medallions that were allocated in August can be used or do they need to pick up new medallions.

7. Adjournment.

Motion: Adjourn
By: Member Hardy
Second: Chair Drobkin
Vote: Passed unanimously
Meeting adjourned at 11:04 A.M.



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Respectfully submitted by:

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

Approved by:

Ileana Drobkin, Chairman **Date**

Charles D. Harvey, Administrator **Date**

