



STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
**TAXICAB AUTHORITY**  
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DENNIS NOLAN  
DEAN COLLINS

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

**August 13, 2012**

The Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the State of Nevada Taxicab Authority was held on Monday, August 13, 2012. The meeting was held at Nevada Taxicab Authority, 1785 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 200, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. The meeting began at 9:40 A.M.

Present were: Chairman Ileana Drobkin, Member Josh Miller, Member Joe Hardy, Member Dennis Nolan and Member Dean Collins. Others present: Kelly Kuzik, Management Analyst II for Administrator Harvey; Legal Counsel, Deputy Attorney General Scott R. Davis; Ruben Aquino, Chief Investigator and Recording Secretary, Barbara A. Webb. Absent: Charles D. Harvey, Administrator.

Member Josh Miller announced that former Board Member Robert Forbuss has passed away recently and, out of respect for Mr. Forbuss, asked for a moment of silence.

**1. Call to Order.**

Chairman Ileana Drobkin called the meeting to Order at 9:40 A.M.

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

Pledge was led by Member Miller.

**3. Compliance with Open Meeting Law.**

Mr. Kuzik stated that we were in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

**4. Public Comment.**

Steve Lanett stated that NAB was just recently in Las Vegas with over 100,000 people attending and there was no temporary allocation given. He commented that the drivers gave excellent service to the riding public. He feels that with approaching M.A.G.I.C. with only 81,000 projected, the drivers will be able to accommodate all attendees.

Alfredo Sardinai spoke regarding the excellent service for NAB and that no medallions are needed at this time. He commented that he was happy to see the Administrator and the Chairman at LVCVA during NAB.

Kevin Wilson commented on LVCVA and the airport stated how good service has been with an allocation and doesn't feel an allocation is needed at this time. He said that the Chairperson was at LVCVA during NAB and praised the drivers on what good service was being given. He feels that M.A.G.I.C. is a smaller convention and no allocation is needed.

Sam Moffitt spoke of why this meeting was held, Frias' request for temporary medallions for M.A.G.I.C., which he feels is ridiculous because, he stated, June had 1,011 blown shifts, not including short shifts or shifts that drivers take the cab for 2 rides and return it for another cab. He also spoke about the "Agenda" and what is stated on the first page regarding the locations the agenda is posted. He commented that there are 6 locations, one being the TA website and it has not been on the website for everyone to see. He stated that ITPE Union called the TA Wednesday afternoon after they received Frias' intervention asking why the agenda was not posted on the TA Website and they were told that the website was down and several attempts had been made to have it posted and they were still working on it. By the time he went back to the website after his conversation with the TA, it was there, he said "low and behold it was there, talk about luck". He said the drivers want to be informed as to what will be discussed at the board meetings.

Chair Drobkin commented to him that the computers, in fact, had been down for a while and are being restored as quickly as they can.

Jay Nady, owner of A Cab, spoke regarding one of his cabs dropping off at a hotel and a gentleman arguing with his driver because he could not give the person and his wife a ride and while explaining why the wife got in the cab. Of course, the driver was cited. This is a black eye for the industry because tourists do not understand or know the laws as to why they cannot be picked up at the hotel especially when he just dropped off someone. He also spoke of blown shifts and how his company works. He said on the slow days and nights, he schedules accordingly. They have a hard time keeping drivers after they are trained when they see other drivers are making more money working for other companies.

End of Public Comment.

**\*5. Approval of the May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Approve May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 Minutes  
By: Member Nolan  
Second: Member Collins  
Vote: Passed unanimously

**6. Discussion with Steve Patterson, Traffic Manager for LVCVA, regarding the taxicab service.**

Mr. Patterson said that taxicab service the past few months has been good. It has been quiet with regard to any big conventions. There have been some smaller conventions and service was good with minimal lines. He commented that ASD started yesterday and service was good; M.A.G.I.C. is coming the 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> which will be a strong show and smaller conventions are scheduled for mid to end of September.

**7. Discussion with Jeff Zamaria from the Sands Expo regarding taxicab service.**

Did not attend.

**8. Discussion with Harry Waters, Assistant Director of Aviation for Landside Operations at McCarran Airport.**

Mr. Waters stated that up until now, service has been good. He commented that even with numbers down 3% last month, year-to-date the numbers are up by 3%. He talked about T3 opening June 27<sup>th</sup> with international carriers at that terminal. Terminal 2 has been closed and 5 domestic carriers moved to T3, as did Hawaiian Airlines. He said the tram still goes to the D gates. He spoke of the taxi service



being good even with the challenge of learning how to get to, around and from T3, but said the drivers are adapting.

**\* 9. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the request from Frias Transportation Management for an allocation of temporary medallions for the 2012 M.A.G.I.C. Trade Show to be held at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority from Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 with an expected attendance of 81,000 people.**

Neal Tomlinson, attorney for Frias, spoke on behalf of John Hickman, COO, Frias, as he was not able to make the meeting. Mr. Tomlinson stated that the request was based on historical activity. He stated that M.A.G.I.C. was here in February and there was an allocation of temporary medallions at that time and their request mirrors that request. He stated that M.A.G.I.C. is a premier convention and an important show to Las Vegas. The following is their request –

*Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – 6 medallions – 7 AM – 7 PM and 6 medallions – 12 PM – 2 AM (any 12 hour period); Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6 medallions – 7 AM – 7 PM and 6 medallions – 12 PM – 2 AM (any 12 hour period); and Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6 medallions – 7 AM – 7 PM.*

Mr. Tomlinson stated that after listening to Mr. Patterson’s comments regarding the number of expected attendees being 60,000 plus, if the Board wanted to consider decreasing the number of medallions, that would be fine.

Intervenors are Nellis Cab Company, Ace Cab, Inc. Union Cab Co., A NLV Cab Co., Vegas-Western Cab, Inc. and Virgin Valley Cab Company, A Cab, LLC, Yellow/Checker/Star Cab Companies, United Steelworkers Union and ITPE Union.

Chair Drobkin allowed interventions.

Kelly Kuzik spoke first regarding the convention stating that based on discussion heard and the staff analysis, no medallions are needed.

Member Miller asked Mr. Kuzik to speak to the NAB convention. Mr. Kuzik stated that with the medallions that are already out there and with NAB hosting 100,000 people, drivers had no problems giving good service, Mr. Harvey is comfortable with no additional medallions being allocated. Mr. Kuzik also stated that after listening to Steve Patterson who stated they are expecting 60,000 plus for M.A.G.I.C., staff feels no medallions are needed.

Nellis Cab Company – no one attended.

A Cab, Jay Nady, declined to participate.

Bill Shranko, YCS, stated that sometimes logistics have to be looked at and comparing February with August, February is always busier than during summer months when numbers are always lower. He said you also have to consider the size of the convention and what days of the week the convention in here and this one is in the middle of the week, drivers are on vacation – all this has to be taken into consideration before allocating any medallions. This is the time drivers can make more money.



Kelly Obong, United Steelworkers Union, stated that they do not support any additional medallions. During NAB there was excellent service. The August 2011 allocation for permanent medallions works just fine with these conventions. She commented that Frias is short drivers and with July numbers down, let the drivers make some money. She also commented that M.A.G.I.C. is here in the middle of the week and the week that the kids go back to school.

Richard Segerblom, ITPE Union, supports USW and agrees with the August 2011 allocation medallions and listening to Steve Patterson speak about expecting 60,000 plus, medallions are not needed at this time.

Chair Drobkin asked Neal Tomlinson if he had anything further and he said no. She commented to the Board that there was an allocation given in February. Member Miller commented that with the preponderance of testimony, he agrees with staff. Chair agreed as well. Member Collins said that the consensus rules – the vast majority seems to agree – no medallions and Member Nolan agreed as well.

Motion: Not to add any additional medallions for upcoming M.A.G.I.C.  
By: Member Collins  
Second: Member Nolan  
Vote: Passed unanimously

## **\*10. Staff Report**

### **a. Administrator's Report – Kelly Kuzik and Chief Ruben Aquino spoke on the Administrator's behalf. Mr. Kuzik reported as follows:**

- Setting up a date for the Annual Review in September
- At this time the Agency is being audited by LCB
- Tuesday, August 14 is the Board of Examiners meeting – waiting for them to approve the application of a new Hearing Officer – Gary Pulliam
- There is a new Dispatch Supervisor – Carol Handegard
- Chief Aquino is recruiting for 9 additional Compliance/Enforcement Investigators
- IFC denied the TA to move – wants it presented to LCB in February, 2013
- Catastrophic computer failure – 3 weeks ago server crashed – too many people on T1 line
- Everything stopped in the front office, but running 100% now
- Being upgraded to fiber optic cables which runs faster
- Virtual servers in place DOIT will maintain and back up

### **Chief Aquino reported as follows:**

- The Annual Review will definitely be held at Cashman Center – we are looking to reserve the the Theatre
- He explained to everyone that he advises everyone to come early as everyone will be wanded at the security checkpoint that his investigators will have set up
- From now on forward, there will be checkpoints for all Board Meetings held no matter where they are
- He reiterated that 9 investigators will be hired within the next several months
- Several investigators have retired over the past several months
- There has been and will continue to be law enforcement activity at the airport where checkpoints are set up to curtail long hauling
- Looking at past sanctions regarding fines



- He explained that they are no longer cutting the long haul fines in half – 1<sup>st</sup> offense – no reduced fine; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - \$100; 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – maximum fine plus suspension of their permit
- He explained that he and the Administrator are very adamant about curtailing long hauling and the Administrator has a very strong stand on this regarding future violators
- Enforcement staff working undercover regarding long hauling
- Checkpoints at the airport – one of the days, Channel 8 and Fox5 were present for TV coverage
- Gypsy cabs who are taking a lot of business away from cab drivers are being monitored and there have been 6 impounds of their vehicles in the past 6 weeks mostly during graveyard. They are from private vehicles to limousines charging a lot less than a cab ride.
- Working with NTA with the gypsy cab issues
- Continuing checkpoints at the airport and other operations regarding long hauling.

**b. Stats for May and June, 2012**

Kelly Kuzik commented that the numbers are where they are expected to be at this time.

**c. Future agenda items**

No items were discussed.

**11. Report of Legal Counsel.**

DAG Scott Davis commented that Handicab has been continued before the State Supreme Court. There will not be a resolution before the end of the year. The Déjà Vu matter is in District Court; there has been no decision. There is a status check Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

**12. Public Comment.**

Steve Lanett commented about Jay Nady's situation regarding his certificate not allowing him to work the eastside. He said he's been in the industry for 14 years and he knows that when lines are long at the hotels and a cab drops off but won't pick up or people see you drop off some place else and you cannot pick up, they do not understand what the laws or how strict they are in Clark County. He said that even if you don't agree with the law, it has to be followed.

End of Public Comment.

**16. Adjournment.**

Motion: Adjourn  
 By: Member Hardy  
 Second: Member Nolan  
 Vote: Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 A.M.



