



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

June 30, 2015

The Board Meeting and Public Hearing of the State of Nevada Taxicab Authority was held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015. The meeting was held in the Taxicab Authority Boardroom at 2080 E. Flamingo Road, Suite 114, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. The meeting began at 9:42:37 A.M.

Present were: Chairman Ileana Drobkin, Member Dennis Nolan, Member Bruce Aguilera and Member James Campos. Others present: Jennifer DeRose, Acting Administrator, Gary Mathews, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel for the Taxicab Authority; Ruben Aquino, Chief Investigator; Christine Guerri-Nyhus, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel for the Board and Recording Secretary, Barbara A. Webb. Absent: Member Dean Collins.

1. Call to Order.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:42:37 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

3. Compliance with Open Meeting Law.

Acting Administrator Jennifer DeRose stated that we are in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

4. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment

5. Approval of the February 24th, 2015, February 26th, 2015, April 30th, 2015 and May 19th, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion:	Approve the above Board Meeting Minutes
By:	Member Aguilera
Seconded:	Member Nolan
Vote:	Passed unanimously

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

Maria Soto was not in attendance.

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

Freddie Kirtley was not in attendance.

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

Mr. White stated that there were no show activities in the past few months that required cab lines. There will be a need for cabs for UFC coming July 9, 10 and 11 with an estimated total of 20,000 people.

Chair Drobkin asked that he get together with Maria Soto for calendar of events and he said he will do that. Chair asked that he send it to her as well and he agreed.

9. Presentation of the Driver Recognition Award to Gregory Janz, driver for Nellis Cab Company for his outstanding honesty in returning a Samsung Tablet which had \$5,000 in the case in back of the tablet that he had found in his cab to Nellis Cab's Lost and Found Department.

Presentation of Recognition to Corazon Nalog in Human Resources at Nellis Cab Company who helped Dr. Steve Matti through the process of getting his Samsung Tablet and the \$5,000 returned to him.

Chair Drobkin thanked both for their service and that it makes the industry look good that there are good people in the industry.

Jamie Pino, Nellis Cab, spoke about Gregory Janz and how Nellis is proud to have drivers like him. He's been with Nellis Cab for 13 years and his father also drove for Nellis is now a Dispatcher.

Mr. Pino also spoke highly of Corazon Nalog stating that she wears many hats in her 3 years with Nellis including that of Human Resources and their Lost and Found Department. He said he is very proud.

He suggested that other companies should also recognize their outstanding drivers and Chairman Drobkin and the Board agreed.

Rick Velotta of the Review-Journal took pictures and would do his column on Mr. Nanz and Ms. Nalog.

Mr. Pino brought them up and the Board presented them with Certificates of Appreciation.

The Board thanked Mr. Janz and Ms. Nalog for their outstanding job.

10. Discussion and Possible Decision regarding the Board Meeting Calendar for the remainder of 2015.

Chair Drobkin stated that the changes in the past were so she would have a full quorum. DAG Guerri-Nyhus stated that she wants everyone to be able to put the dates on their calendar and set their schedules accordingly without so many changes. DAG Guerri-Nyhus suggested the December Meeting due to legislative issues starting January 1st, 2016.



The following dates were agreed upon and a motion was made:

Motion:	Thursday, July 23 – Monday, July 27
	Tuesday, August 25
	Thursday, September 24
	Thursday, October 22
	Thursday, November 19
	Thursday, December 10
By:	Chair Drobkin
Seconded:	Member Aguilera
Vote:	Passed unanimously

11. Discussion regarding legislative update.

DAG Guerci-Nyhus went over the changes that will be put into effect –

- 1) Open Meeting Law – Minutes, written and audio, must be available within 30 days of the meeting for the public and to be shorter minutes;
- 2) SB 376 – Board is responsible for most of these changes – put in new regulations by January 1st, 2016 as companies can now lease cabs. This has been done up North. She will reach out to the companies' attorneys with regard to this. TA has to approve the lease and the terms and in January a new agenda item listing all the leases and that's a rolling agenda item. A form will be needed.
- 3) The August 25 Meeting – a Workshop will be scheduled prior to the meeting regarding language of the regulations. Again, she will speak with the companies' attorneys and send them information. Has to go to LCB within 30 days for adoption for September 10th regarding leasing.
- 4) The Board has to discuss what they can do about geo medallions – as of January 1st, they cannot impose or enforce restrictions on medallions. She has scheduled the Annual Review of Medallions for the July 23rd Board Meeting to discuss this. The Board can either start fazing them out as to when that will begin or wait until January 1st, 2016.
- 5) With regard to meters – there are other devices now available. The new Administrator can work with Acting Administrator DeRose regarding the new devices by January 1st, 2016. The new devices regarding rules and regulations that are available will be discussed. The industry has to ask the TA what devices they want to use.
- 6) Effective August 28th, there will be a new 3% excise tax on taxi fares. All meters will need to be adjusted and ready by August 28th. The Annual Review of Rates will be discussed at the July 23rd Board Meeting for the Board to discuss how they want this handled. The DAG had spoken with the Department of Taxation and was told that the 3% excise tax is on top of the fare and it is not on the consumer, it is on the company owners. It'll be a monthly return. Whatever the total on the meter is, the company has to pay Taxation 20% and it is due October 31st. This will be discussed at the July Meeting. The Fuel Surcharge will also be taxed. She asked the companies to let her know how they want to do this. What rate is workable for the companies and the Board will discuss what rate is workable for the public.
- 7) As of January 1st, 2016, no appeals will go the Nevada Transportation Authority. They will go directly to the court. From now until December, NTA is ok.



Member Aguilera asked if there would be any feedback from the industry regarding the geo medallions and DAG Guerri-Nyhus said she hoped there would be. The DAG stated that Lucky's application will be discussed as they are requesting 40 additional medallions per company with no restrictions and to raise the restrictions on the currently restricted medallions.

12. Staff Report

Administrator's Report – Chief Aquino provided a comprehensive report to the Board that outlined investigative activity from May 16th through June 15th, 2015. If the Board had any questions, he will answer them.

Member Nolan is there any feedback on EDC regarding service. With regard to EDC, Chief Aquino said that Investigator Rivers is in charge of Special Events, liaison with LVMPD and asked Investigator Rivers to speak on that as he and his crew were out at the Speedway during the event. Inv. Rivers stated that service was not good except for taxicab service that was good, organized by Insomniac's Mike Bates. When the show broke average wait time in cab line was about 1-1/2 hours; once they got into the taxi they waited another hour to get on Las Vegas Boulevard. He and Investigator Teti observed that by that time the rate was at \$50-\$60 before they got on Las Vegas Boulevard and that was because Insomniac, Mr. Bates, took it upon himself to make the shuttle buses high priority rather than the taxis. Inv. Rivers said that they had numerous discussions when Mr. Bates who ensured them that taxis would have higher priority on Saturday. He said Saturday night there was a 30-minute wait time for a cab to get there. Saturday, he said was ok, but Sunday was the same as Friday with a lot of traffic backup. The industry provided excellent service. The problem was transportation due to how Mr. Bates contracted with the shuttle buses. His team plans on meeting with Mr. Bates regarding having different areas of exit for cab and for shuttle buses. Nellis AFB was a tremendous help. There was a lot of traffic through Nellis AFB and the industry did a great job regarding service.

Chair Drobkin said there are similar issues with the casinos and shuttles. She said that the Venetian called her during EDC because they were having problems getting cabs, Aria had problems as well. In the future, they have to remember who else needs service during these large events.

Member Aguilera asked Inv. Rivers if it's possible to meet with the property owners and the promoters. Inv. Rivers stated they are not their promoter. He, Inv. Teti and Chief Aquino have roundtable sessions and start planning in January for EDC as that is their job. They met with them and confer with Nellis AFB and they give their information to Insomniac who agrees and then at game time Mr. Bates changes everything.

Chair Drobkin asked him to engage Member Aguilera and herself next year, maybe it coming from them it would help. Inv. Rivers said they would try. Member Aguilera stated that the investigators control the gates and Mr. Bates should have no say. Inv. Rivers says Mr. Bates takes control because he contacts Nevada Highway Patrol and gives them orders to give the shuttle buses preferential treatment over the cabs. No matter how many taxis are in line to go through Nellis AFB, NHP stops them if there is a shuttle bus coming. He said that Insomniac has changed their minds the last minute for the past 3 years. He commented that Frias' and YCS' supervisors are always on hand.

The Chair stated that next year the Board will be more involved than they have in the past because it's not only cabs that are needed at the Speedway, they are also needed on the Strip and outlying areas. She thanked Inv. Rivers for his hard work and for the report that enlightened the board.



Rock in Rio was discussed as well – Chair Drobkin said that most people preferred using taxis as opposed to shuttles.

Chief Aquino stated that after these events they participate in there is an “after-action” meeting with Metro and with this being the primary concern, it will be discussed with Metro. He stated that Insomniac brought in 450 buses from out-of-state and when they can take 56 passengers in a bus opposed to 5 in a taxi, that is why they use buses to get more people out of there faster. He said that this will be discussed in the upcoming meeting with Metro. He commented that there was excellent service and the TA has to be in the forefront in moving the passengers that want to take a cab and that will be discussed as well.

Member Nolan commented that when LVCVA reports bad taxi service and the wait is 1-1/2 hours, he’s afraid this will affect other conventions coming into town. He suggested the TA teaming up with LVCVA and talk about this.

Chair Drobkin stated that there were 130,000 people at EDC, but there were also other people in town for other events. This, she feels, is the problem because the cabs are going to the Speedway and people on the strip are not able to get a cab.

Member Nolan suggests Chief bring that up to Metro as well.

He thanked Chief Aquino and Investigator Rivers for their hard work.

Chief Aquino’s Monthly Report talks about Rock in Rio USA; “Safe and Livable Communities”; Investigator James Miller apprehending a reckless driver who turned out to be wanted by Los Angeles Police Department for Murder; the RTC reporting that cabs and other vehicles picking up or dropping off passengers in designated bus stops; Compliance Enforcement Division continuing to conduct “sting operations”; patrol reforms that require supervisors to assign investigators to target certain venues during peak and non-peak times looking for violations being made. This is different from standard patrol tactics where investigators drive around looking for violators or wait for a call from dispatch; his investigators took part in the LVMPD’s Season of Peace Walk, a community outreach event; also, statistics for May involving the investigators as well as Vehicle Inspectors – some areas were up and some were down for May; long haul enforcement continues; enforcement recruitment continues. He stated that the TA continues to participate in community events to enhance the TA’s public image. Long haul check points will be published to the media. His Special Events Team met with LVMPD and promoters for EDC as well as with the Speedway and Nellis Air Force Base. They have scheduled meetings with LVMPD regarding the upcoming Life is Beautiful concert scheduled for September.

Stats for May, 2015 – they were available to the public and sent to the Board. There was no staff report as staff was doing audits.

13. Report of Legal Counsel

DAG Guerci-Nyhus said there was nothing to report. She asked that the industry get their interventions for the July 23rd Meeting in as soon as possible.

DAG Gary Mathews had nothing to report.

14. Public Comment

There was no public comment.



15. Adjournment


Motion: To adjourn
By: Member Aguilera
Seconded: Member Nolan
Vote: Passed unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 10:17:10 AM.


Respectfully submitted by:


Barbara A. Webb, Recording Secretary

07-21-15
Date

Approved by:

Ileana Drobkin, Chairman

07-23-15
Date


Jennifer DeRose, Acting Administrator

7/21/15
Date

