

JOE LOMBARDO
Governor

TERRY REYNOLDS
Director



KARL W. ARMSTRONG
Administrator

DAN R. REASER
Chairman

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
TAXICAB AUTHORITY

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Members
J.D. DECKER
RUSTY GRAF
DONALD SODERBERG
JAVIER TRUJILLO

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2023, BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dan R. Reaser called the meeting to order on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 9:53 a.m., at the location of the Nevada State Business Center, 3300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 400, Nevada Room, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102.

Present from the Nevada Taxicab Authority Board

Chairman Dan. R. Reaser

Member J.D. Decker (via audio/visual technology—Teams)

Member Donald Soderberg

Member Javier Trujillo (via audio/visual technology—Teams)

Also Present

Administrator Karl W. Armstrong

Sophia Long, Deputy Attorney General (via audio/visual technology—Teams)

Chairman Reaser stated that there was a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Administrator Karl W. Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Compliance with Open Meeting Law

Acting Secretary, Amy A. Porray stated that the meeting was in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

4. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

5. Action Item: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2023, Board Meeting

Member Trujillo moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Member Decker

No changes, additions, or corrections requested by any Board Member. All Members in favor of approval of January 18, 2023, minutes. Motion passes and minutes approved. Item closed.

6. Industry Discussion

a. Industry Discussion Regarding Permit Renewals.

Desiree Dante, on behalf of Nellis, Lucky, and Western cab, stated there was inconsistency regarding renewing permits, which frustrated drivers. There were no questions for Ms. Dante.

Administrator Armstrong responded that the rule of the TA is if the driver is one day late renewing the permit it then becomes a new permit. Administrator Armstrong expressed that this is the reason he is going to all the taxi companies to help them understand the procedures that are relative to renewing permits. The TA does not have a grace period for renewals, if you miss the deadline you would have to go through the process as if you were a new driver. All the things that are required for a new permit will all be the same: health card, DMV printout, English test, etc. Fees for a new driver is \$90 and a renewal is \$40, this is something the driver needs to understand. Administrator Armstrong stated if there has been a miscommunication that is something that Administrator Armstrong and/or the staff will deal with. Administrator Armstrong wants the Industry to know that's the only rule change that we have done so far.

Desiree Dante asked when there are inconsistencies or when it does not fall under those guidelines whom do we reach out to.

Administrator Armstrong answered they should reach out to Darryl Stokeling.

George Balaban, on behalf of Desert Cab, stated the Administrator did come out and meet with them. Mr. Balaban also stated that this change, from where the Industry stands, we are competing with drivers from big companies, TNC's, and does not know if these standards apply to them. Mr. Balaban did not know if how we go about workshops or something to discuss some of this. He also stated that they are dealing with drivers where English is there second language, or drivers that leave the country to visit family and are gone for lengths of time. When they come back, they miss their expiration date and to have to go through the process again and it is very tough on Industry. Mr. Balaban discussed a driver who waited until the last day to renew his card, so he was not late, but at the TA there were others in front of him in line. The TA ran out of time, and the driver was unable to renew his card that day. He was told to come back the next day, and when he came back to the TA, he had to go through the whole process again. Mr. Balaban stated that the driver is a grown man and probably should have gone a week ahead of time in case this happens. However, this was the first time around that this happens to these drivers. Mr. Balaban said there are endless horror stories with these guys coming back and forth to the TA. He tries to explain to all of his drivers what they have to do, but it seems like when there are changes like this that there should be a way to workshop or have more input from the Industry because they are struggling to keep drivers. Mr. Balaban explained a person can become a TNC driver sitting on their couch or on the telephone. Mr. Balaban is not suggesting that is what the TA should do, but again just wanted the TA to understand that it is tough.

Mario Locascio, General Manager for Deluxe Taxi, asked if a driver misses a day, did he forget his English test/ticket. He clarified by asking when a driver has had the permit for eight years, why are they required to



take the English test again. He said that he knows the TA is trying to simplify this and it is a work in progress, but he just caught this right now and asked why the TA is doing this.

Administrator Armstrong explained there is no grace period, and the TA must treat everyone the same way. The situation is that if a driver does not renew in a timely manner then the driver must start as a new driver. That is what the statute and regulations say. In the example that was given as far as that driver not being served on that day, what the TA usually does is give that driver a pass to come back the next day and extends their permit at that point. The TA deals with those situations on a case-by-case basis. It is not a situation in which the TA has a generalized rule in terms of that situation. The general rule is that drivers must renew when they need to renew it, and if they renew on that last day and the TA cannot get to the driver, the TA will give them a temporary permit until they are allowed to come back and get their materials taken care of. It is not a situation in which the TA tells the driver “too bad to sad”. It is not that kind of situation.

Mr. Locascio stated that he knows they are losing drivers because of past history of crimes as long as twenty or thirty years ago. When someone did something twenty years and he has been driving fifteen years, rehabilitation means that driver has paid their dues, did their time, and have been driving all this period. However, now the TA is yanking their permit away. The driver has proven themselves to have made a mistake in life and corrected themselves. Now the TA is taking their permit away, which is basically saying “hey that driver was not good enough go back to driving”. However, the legal people can answer that better. They are losing drivers at a big rate for no reason. He thinks it is very important to address situations where a driver has done something wrong in life twenty or thirty years ago but has since has been a good model citizen. The whole Industry loses drivers. He is not talking about a certain individual, but drivers as a whole. If the driver did their time, proven themselves to be a good citizen, and has has been an outstanding citizen and driving for fifteen years, why would that TA take their permit. Everyone knows that Uber and Lyft have murderers driving with no problem.

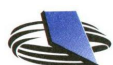
Chairman Reaser said he understood, and it was a good point. He understood both points and there are instances when the law should be changed, but this does not allow the Agency to ignore the law. As a regulatory lawyer, he tries every day to help businesses when they bump up against the statute. The Legislature said this is the way it is going to be, the TA shall do this, and the TA does not really have a choice.

Mr. Locascio referred to Mr. Balaban’s point that he would like this changed when there is a workshop on changing laws.

Amy A. Porray, Acting Secretary, stated one of the issues is that drivers have not been disclosing past incidents.

No further comments/discussion. Item Closed.

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7. Staff Report

a. Administrator's Report:

- i. Administrator's update on taxi stands and enforcement in the Downtown Las Vegas area, as requested by Member Decker at the January 18, 2023, Meeting

Administrator Armstrong gave an update on enforcement of the Downtown area, as requested by Board Member Decker at the January 18, 2023, meeting. Administrator Armstrong met with the City Attorney and Parking Enforcement downtown. There are still problems in the Circa/Plaza area. He stated that the City of Las Vegas Parking Enforcement wrote tickets without using cameras. The TA needs to have a closer relationship with Downtown and have a joint venture in order to resolve the problem. He discussed having enhanced enforcement to rectify the problem.

Member Soderberg asked if this would be unduly prejudicial. Administrator Armstrong responded that it would not be unduly prejudicial. The Circa was involved, but the Plaza was not involved. Member Decker commented that the involved property, the Plaza, was a no show to the meeting about the taxi stands and tickets written by both the TA and Parking Enforcement. Chairman Reaser asked about communication with the licensees regarding the properties with queuing preferences. Administrator Armstrong addressed his question.

- ii. Administrator's update on discussion with the Harry Reid International Airport regarding its practices with taxi drivers.

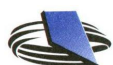
Administrator Armstrong met with Chris Anderson, Airport Transportation Manager, and enforcement at the Harry Reid International Airport. Administrator Armstrong discussed how the TA was trying to work closer with airport staff.

Chris Anderson, Airport Transportation Manager, spoke and discussed problems and solutions. Since the pandemic, there has been an increase in transportation. The airport enforcement's relationship with companies is great. The TA has a good presence at the airport. When there are minor incidents between airport staff and drivers, they are usually handled with the Road Supervisor or the TA. Airport enforcement does not trespass or threaten drivers, unless in an extreme situation. Last year, enforcement trespassed 18 drivers. This year, only one driver has been trespassed. He stated that Administrator Armstrong has been involved in the efforts and commended the Industry in its response to driver issues.

Chairman Reaser asked if there was a counterpart violation to the trespass.

Administrator Armstrong responded that the TA could pull a driver's permit in the event of a trespass. Before doing so, the TA would look at the actions that led to the driver being trespassed.

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- iii. Administrator’s update on the status of technology competitive with the TNC’s, as requested by Chairman Reaser at the January 18, 2023, Board Meeting.

Administrator Armstrong stated that he was still discussing this with the Industry, and they would meet informally to discuss fares and technology before placing this before the Board. He stated that they were discussing a rate increase and the companies were working toward different technologies/infrastructure and systems. Chairman Reaser asked whether these would be general rate changes based on economic conditions. He also asked if a certain technology were adopted would there be a surcharge or special rate relief to fund that technology. Administrator Armstrong stated that these would be addressed and then presented to the Board.

- iv. Administrator’s update on discussion with Director Reynolds regarding appointment of Fifth TA Board Member and future selection of TA Board Vicechair, as requested by Chairman Reaser at the January 18, 2023, Meeting.

Administrator Armstrong has discussed this matter with Director Reynolds, and it has been brought to the attention of the Governor. Also, Administrator Armstrong thanked Cindy Rodriguez for her service on the Board.

Chairman Reaser stated he did not see an immediate need for a Vice Chairman. He does not want to select a Vice Chairman if there will be a Fifth TA Board Member. If there is a strong feeling about having a Vice Chairman now, it can be done and then reconsidered after the Fifth Board Member is added. If a Vice Chairman is needed in the event of Chairman Reaser’s absence, it would just be a matter of passing the gavel on a meeting-by-meeting basis. Chairman Reaser was also concerned about when there are many contested cases where a Vice Chairman might be necessary, but he did not see it in the immediate future.

Member Decker stated that he was comfortable with no immediate changes. He had no issue with passing the gavel on as needed basis while waiting for the Fifth Board Member to be selected.

Member Trujillo deferred to Chairman Reaser’s leadership.

Member Soderberg also agreed with the consensus of Chairman Reaser’s leadership.

Chairman Reaser asked for an update on the status of this discussion on the Agenda for the April Board Meeting if nothing happened before then.

Administrator Armstrong commented that there is a person of interest for the Fifth Board Member.

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Supplemental Discussion on the Renewal Process.

Administrator Armstrong discussed streamlining the renewal process by uploading the application forms to the website so the drivers can have their company's assistance with completing the applications. He noted that the drivers must be honest when completing the applications. He discussed the process when a driver is denied a permit and that he gives the final decision. He stated his door is always open to discuss. He also discussed transitioning from the TA doing fingerprinting and, instead, having the drivers bring their fingerprint cards with them. If this change is made, then the fee for fingerprinting would be removed from the application fee(s). Having a faster renewal procedure lets the drivers spend less time in the TA office and more time on the road.

Administrator Armstrong is also reviewing all TA policies and procedures and has asked his staff to review as well. He has asked that his staff look at why they are doing something and, if there is not a good reason, stop doing it.

v. Report on TA Agency and Industry Statistics for January 2023

Administrator Armstrong presented the court and Industry stats. He stated that the stats show that the industry is healthy.

Member Decker questioned why there were no impounds for January 2023. He asked whether enforcement is not finding them or have they been redirected from the UPT investigations.

Administrator Armstrong responded that he wanted enforcement to do more targeted enforcement with three-person teams. The TA was in the process of training new officers. He stated that the TA will be ready to cover all of the big events coming to town soon.

Acting Secretary Porray clarified the stats, saying that she had four impound hearings in the month of January.

Chairman Reaser asked if the TA was appropriately ramping up with the Strip properties for the F1 Racing event. Administrator Armstrong confirmed that the TA had an idea about how to coordinate planning for that event. He elaborated that there would be locations of pickup/drop-off for F1 Racing event. He wanted to make sure that the taxi drivers could drop the attendees off as close as possible. Plans were not yet set in stone. Chairman Reaser asked if the TA has a seat at the table with the Las Vegas Convention Authority. Administrator Armstrong answered affirmatively.

b. Enforcement/Compliance Report: NONE

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c. Legal Counsel

Acting Secretary Amy Porray discussed hiring the new Legal Secretary Chris Beals, who will be taking over as the Board Secretary. She also discussed drivers using profanity inside the Court and with the Sergeants outside of the courtroom. She stated she has not taken any punitive action at this time but, in the future, there will be an extra Officer within the Court to resolve the situation.

Sophia Long, Deputy Attorney General had no updates.

d. Future Agenda

Member Trujillo asked that the next Agenda include an update on Carson City on any potential legislation.

Chairman Reaser requested that as matters unfolded from today's meeting that they be placed on future agendas.

No additional items requested. Item closed.

8. Public Comment

Members of the public are invited to comment on items on the meeting agenda or on items not contained therein. No action may be taken upon a matter raised during Public Comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Because of the time considerations, speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.

Joyce Eatman commented on the taxi coupon program for seniors. In the last six months, she has not been able to get a taxi under any circumstance. She purchases the taxi coupons, but the taxis will not come to any local residence. She has been unable to go to the doctor, the store, etc.

Administrator Armstrong asked for Ms. Eatman's contact info to resolve the issue. Her telephone number is (702) 861-7920. Administrator Armstrong stated that he would call her to discuss.

No further public comments. Item closed.

9. Adjournment (Action)

Member Soderberg moved for adjournment. Member Decker seconded the motion. All Members in favor of adjournment. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned.

