JOE LOMBARDO Governor TERRY REYNOLDS Director



KARL W. ARMSTRONG Administrator

> DAN R. REASER Chairman

Members
J.D. DECKER
DONALD SODERBERG
JAVIER TRUJILLO

# STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY TAXICAB AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2023, BOARD MEETING

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Dan R. Reaser called the meeting to order on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 9:30 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
Member Donald Soderberg
Member Javier Trujillo (via audio/visual technology—Teams)
Chricy Harris, Deputy Attorney General

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

Member Decker 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.

Chairman Reaser introduced the new Taxicab Authority Board Member, Javier Trujillo, who appeared via audio/visual technology—Teams. Chairman Reaser asked Acting Secretary Porray to mark that there were four Board Members present. Item closed.

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## 5. Action Item: Approve Board Meeting Minutes from December 21, 2022, Board Meeting

Administrator Armstrong stated that there will be written minutes from the Board Meetings starting with the December 2022 Meeting and going forward. This is in addition to the video from the Board Meetings being posted on the TA website.

Chairman Reaser stated that Member Trujillo is disqualified from participating in this action item because he was not present at the last Board Meeting. No changes, additions, or corrections requested by any Board Member. Member Decker moved to approve the December 21, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes. All Members in favor of approval (Member Trujillo did not participate). Motion passes and minutes approved. Item closed.

#### 6. Industry Discussion

No comments/discussion by any Industry Members. Item closed.

## 7. Staff Report

- a. Administrator's Report:
  - i. January 2023 Executive Order placing a pause on all regulatory actions.

Administrator Armstrong discussed Governor Lombardo's Executive Order pausing all regulatory actions. There is already a pending BDR submitted by the Legislative Commission that states that the NTA and the TA shall do a comprehensive review of all their statutes and regulations. The TA will then make recommendations of the same and place them through the workshop process. All statutes and regulations will be reviewed; first informally to discuss with the industry and then formally through the workshop process. The statutes and regulations will all be reviewed to bring up to speed from the 1970's when they were put into place. Over the next two weeks, Administrator Armstrong will be reviewing the TA internally to review its procedures to make them easier for the companies and the drivers. Before he does that, he will have meetings with the industry regarding the same and has set up meetings with the industry over the next two weeks.

Administrator Armstrong stated that the TA budget for the upcoming legislative session will hopefully be finalized after January 23, 2023. The TA budget includes the addition of at least two additional enforcement officers, an additional support person in licensing, and change of the Chief Investigator position to a Deputy District Administrator. He seeks eight additional vehicles to replace eight of the 26 vehicles that are at the end of their life. The TA currently has \$5 million in its reserve fund. There are also 1.2 million more rides being added per month. The industry is showing strong growth and resilience. TA Officers will now be staffed with Narcan in case something happens on the street. They will receive officer training to administer Narcan.

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Member Decker asked about the \$5 million reserve, which is a significant increase from last year. Member Decker asked about the personnel being added to the TA in light of the reserve, and Administrator Armstrong confirmed that he is adding more enforcement officers to the TA. Member Decker asked about updating NRS 706 as regarding the TA and the NTA.

Administrator Armstrong discussed the Sunset Commission and how it is already providing for the ability of the TA and the NTA to look at their regulations and statutes. They have come to the conclusion that before a recommendation can be made about combining the TA with the NTA, both the TA and NTA statutes and regulations must be reviewed. This must be done before the Legislature can determine whether it is possible or not possible for the TA to be combined with the NTA. The BDR allows for a study to be done regarding that within the next biennium. The TA then recommends items to the Sunset Commission and the Legislature to obtain a study. Member Decker asked about whether the Sunset Commission will be combining the TA and the NTA. He also asked about the progress of the update to the regulations that was started one year ago, along with the workgroups. He commented that no progress was made and asked if that was happening now. Administrator Armstrong stated the Sunset Commission's BDR will authorize an interim study on updating the regulations along with the NTA.

Chairman Reaser stated that the current BDR calls for creation of a legislative interim committee. That committee would perform a review of the statutes and regulatory schemes to see if they should be modernized. A specific discussion has been with removing the statutory scheme that gives the impediment to implementation of technology. They will be looking at ratemaking between the two agencies. Chairman Reaser's understanding is that this is the process for review of whether to separate or combine the TA with the NTA and that the legislative commission made no recommendation of doing either of those things. Member Decker asked that the TA add to the legislative interim committee discussions resolution between the penalties for NRS 706 violations allowed for TA and NTA violations. Right now, the penalties differ for the same violation.

Member Decker asked about the enforcement vehicles now being provided through fleet. Administrator Armstrong stated that the TA is currently self-managing enforcement vehicles, but there is a question of maintenance that has been lacking for some years. He needs for an outside agency to deal with the vehicle management. Member Decker asked whether fleet will be replacing management and vehicles or whether it will just be a maintenance contract. Administrator Armstrong said that they will be transitioning the entire fleet to fleet. Because of budgeting concerns, the TA will start with eight new vehicles from fleet and see where it goes from there.

The Members and Administrator again discussed the Governor's Executive Order suspending regulations and the BDR allowing for the TA and NTA to review their own statutory and regulatory schemes. Administrator Armstrong said he is in the process of finding out whether the TA is exempt from portions of the Executive Order under the public safety exception. Chairman Reaser asked that Administrator Armstrong keep them apprised of this. Administrator Armstrong also noted that he will be talking with the industry about this as well.



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### ii. Report on TA Agency and Industry Statistics for December 2022

Administrator Armstrong presented the court stats first. Administrator Armstrong has a meeting with the Las Vegas City Attorney and Downtown Parking Enforcement regarding downtown taxi stands and tickets written by both the TA and Parking Enforcement. He will also be having a discussion with the airport regarding its practice in dealing with drivers. He will report back to the Board at next month's Board Meeting. Administrator Armstrong presented industry statistics next.

Member Decker commented on the enforcement/court stats.

- **b.** Enforcement/Compliance Report: NONE
- **c.** Stats ((see 6(a)(ii) above))
- **d.** Legal Counsel: Neither Amy A. Porray, Esq. of the TA nor DAG Chricy Harris had anything to report.
- e. Future Agenda Items:

Member Decker followed up on items raised in the past meetings that he wanted to hear updates on. One problem was the taxi stands in the downtown area. Administrator Armstrong stated that he is having a meeting next week regarding this issue and hopes for a quick resolution and will report back at the next meeting.

Chairman Reaser followed up on the status of a prior Board Meeting's presentation regarding technology that would be competitive with the TNC's. Chairman Reaser wanted to hear about where that technology was being done now and what was the success. Administrator Armstrong stated that he has a meeting after the Board Meeting today with the person who gave the presentation. That person will update Administrator Armstrong, and he will update the Board during the February 2023 Board Meeting.

Chairman Reaser discussed the appointment of a fifth Board Member to fill Member Rodriguez's vacancy. The Board needs to select a Vicechair but does not want to foreclose that the Vicechair may be the newly-appointed fifth Member. Therefore, they should wait until after the appointment. Chairman Reaser left this to the discretion of Administrator Armstrong and the Director as to how to proceed. Administrator Armstrong will place this on his agenda for his discussion with the Director tomorrow.

Member Trujillo did not have anything to place on the next Agenda at this time. He is currently reviewing everything, including previous meetings, in hopes of providing more input at the next Board Meeting.

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.

No public comments. Item closed.

## 9. Adjournment (Action)

Member Soderberg moved for adjournment. All Members in favor of adjournment. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned.

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