

**Metropolitan Taxi Cab Commission**

**Minutes**

**March 14, 2003**

\_\_\_\_\_The meeting was called to order on March 14, 2003 at 2:25 p.m. and was held at 1300 Convention Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. Those present were: Chairman Tom McCarthy , Lou Hamilton, Dave McNutt, Solomon Tadesse, Basil Rudawsky, Vincent Bennett, James Harris, Karen Wittkoetter, Jerry Daniels, Airport representative-Gerard Slay, and three visitors.

There was no set agenda to cover. The Commission began with discussion regarding Commission facilities. The office is now painted and cleaned up. For future use of the conference room, reservations can be made with the Employee Benefits Manager, Mary Lou Mullen. The City has loaned the Commission desks and filing cabinets. There is still a need for chairs. The Commission noted a special thanks to Jaime Knocks for acquiring the desks and filing cabinets. Ms. Wittkoetter announced that the county has hired Jerry Daniels and his services are available to the Commission through June 6, 2003. Mr. McCarthy noted that Mr. Daniels can assist in getting the office up and running and set up the filing system. Mr. McCarthy also noted that he has received an application for the inspector position. Ms. Wittkoetter has arranged a temporary county location for Mr. Daniels, until the Convention Plaza office is available. Stephanie Gale-Gardner will assist with minutes, notices, and agendas. Mr. McCarthy noted that the longest the Commission can stay at the 1300 Convention Plaza location is 1 year and that insurance coverage is now in place. Mr. McCarthy noted that Mr. Slay's suggestion that the Commission office be located at the airport is an option to consider. Mr. Slay stated that a conference room, director, and inspectors could all be set up at the airport. Mr. McCarthy suggested that Commissioners keep an eye out for a decent conference room and a decent place for files and staff.

Ms. Wittkoetter provided graphs demonstrating the ages and numbers of licensed cabs in the county and city.

Mr. Harris noted that the City inspections will begin soon. Mr. McNutt and Ms. Wittkoetter noted that the County inspections, which include a mechanical inspection, started January 1, 2003. Mr. McNutt pointed out that the City inspections require a \$25 fee, all cabs are reviewed in a couple of days, and the inspection is mainly based on appearance. Mr. McNutt suggested that the Commission should inquire into these funds. Mr. Hamilton suggested that the Commission could ask the City to hire the Commission to do inspections and then hire the City to do the inspections. Mr. McCarthy stated that he would not have an argument against this. Ms. Wittkoetter noted that according to statute the money is owed to the Commission when it goes into effect in June.

Mr. Harris questioned whether the Commission will be doing inspections and issuing permits in May 2003 or in January 2004. Mr. McNutt suggested that permits valid as of January can replace with new cars under the same permit. Mr. Rudawsky suggested that the date could be May 2003 or January 2004 and the permit would be replaced after a new inspection. Mr. Rudawsky stated that the Commission would need to distribute a document to the taxi cab companies explaining this. Mr. McCarthy asked the Commission to discuss the useful age of the life of a taxi cab and that the Commission can arrive at a decision as to when the rules regarding age will go into effect. Mr. Harris stated that he has concerns about giving the taxi owners notice as to when the rules regarding age. Mr. Rudawsky feels that 4 years is too short of an age limit for premium sedan owners to make money. Mr. Bennett asked if there are economics to base the