

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

Thursday, December 15th, 2005 @ 1:00 pm
100 North Tucker Boulevard

Members present: Chairman Hamilton, Commissioners Bennett, McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, and Satz.

Members absent: Commissioners Harris and Shiferaw. *(Note: One seat on the Commission is currently vacant)

MTC staff: Barker, Boutte, Deering, Hinton, Scherer, and Tully.

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 PM by Chairman Hamilton.

MINUTES

Approval was requested for the minutes of the November 18, 2005 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Reeves. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 1:00 PM at 100 North Tucker in the Auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

Counselor McCarthy presented a revision of the Code containing the proposed changes to incorporate the paratransit industry. The proposed changes were presented for review by the commissioners and by the industry. Chairman Hamilton requested the proposed changes are posted on the website. Questions or suggestions should be presented to Counselor McCarthy. The final version with any recommendations shall be presented at the January 19th meeting.

(Counselor McCarthy was then excused from the meeting by Chairman Hamilton at 1:13pm.)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director reported the monthly statistics. 36 new drivers were licensed since November 18th. 97 driver's licenses were renewed and \$345 was collected in late fees. On December 1st, the airport access fees were billed totaling almost \$26,000. Last month, 5 airport taxis, 21 on-call taxis, 13 courtesy shuttles, and 3 premium sedans were inspected. Between 11/17 and 12/14, 34 citations were issued by airport starters and 23 by MTC agents. 15 vehicles were red-tagged and citations were issued for each red-tag.

At the December 1st administrative hearing, 20 cases were arraigned. Four plead not-guilty, six plead guilty, one dismissal, and 10 failures to appear. 16 cases were then heard for trial. Three

plead guilty. Three cases were found guilty. Of the three found guilty, three are appealing the Director's decision. Two cases were continued. Six cases were dismissed and there were two failures to appear. The next court date is January 5th at 2pm.

An appeals hearing date with Judge Cundiff has been set for January 20th.

For 2006, administrative hearings will be held on the first and third Thursday of each month. The appeals hearings will be held on the third Friday of the month at 2pm.

Mr. Reeves inquired about the process dealing with failures to appear. The Director explained the process and some discussion ensued.

The Director reported he and Mr. McNutt attended a presentation of the downtown transportation committee. The transportation study has been completed and the committee is soliciting input regarding the placement of taxicab stands. The project should be completed after the holidays.

The Director addressed a question from Mr. Bennett regarding trends in citations.

Director Tully spoke about our enforcement efforts over Thanksgiving weekend, the secret shopper program, the Rams game enforcement, and the illegal staging of premium sedans in Town and Country.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Reeves presented the financial position of the Commission. He reiterated that current year to date numbers and last year numbers were not comparable. The year to date loss for the Commission is \$44, 277. The November '05 report, reflected a \$15, 472 positive. This brings the year to date loss down. The Balance Sheet indicated the Commission's equity position of \$260,581 and a cash position of \$200,000. Even with a loss to date, the Commission still holds a good cash position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

(No public comments were made.)

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm. Motion by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Satz, and passed unanimously.

*The meeting was recorded and transcribed by A. Hammond.
Minutes were interpreted from the transcript by MTC Staff.*