

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

Friday, March 16th, 2006 @ 1:00 pm
100 North Tucker Boulevard

Members present: Chairman Hamilton, Commissioners Harris, McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, Satz, and Shiferaw

Members absent: Commissioner Bennett *(Note: One seat on the Commission is currently vacant)

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

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by Chairman Hamilton.

MINUTES

Approval was requested for the minutes of the February 24, 2006 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Mr. McNutt. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for Friday, April 14, 2006 at 1:00 PM at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the Auditorium.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

The March 10th Medallion Sub-Committee was rescheduled to meet on April 7th at 2pm.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director reported the monthly statistics. 23 new drivers were licensed since February 25th. 73 driver's licenses were renewed and \$1175.00 was collected in late fees. For February, the airport access fees totaled \$22,526. Last month, 4 Airport taxis, 5 on-call taxis and 5 courtesy shuttles were inspected. Between 2/25 and 3/15, 23 citations were issued by airport starters and 9 by MTC agents. 11 vehicles were red-tagged.

The Director reported we have purchased services from REJIS in the form of GA Net. GA Net provides the Commission limited criminal information and Missouri DOR vehicle and driver records.

The Director stated the annual audit is currently underway and will be completed by its due date in April.

Chairman Hamilton motioned to authorize Mr. Reeves to accept the audit on behalf of the Commission, pending his review and approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. McNutt. With no discussion, a vote was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The in-cab signage should be finished from the printer in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Rudawsky asked a question regarding the cost of Criminal Record Checks potentially going up and if we could influence the legislature's decision. It was the consensus of the group that it would be a useless experience to oppose the Highway Patrol backed legislation.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Reeves presented the financial report. He reported the first two months of the fiscal period reflected net income about \$8000 below budget. He felt that this is not indicative of any issues. He stated the Commission maintains a strong cash position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Asif Saqi, *an individual representing himself*, was first to speak. He posed two questions to the board regarding starting a limousine company. First, how long is the moratorium for private cars going to last? Secondly, can he operate vehicles in St. Louis under a license from a business in Chicago, IL? (He later clarified he intended limousine to mean premium sedans.) Chairman Hamilton immediately answered the second question by advising him he could not operate in our jurisdiction with a Chicago license. Discussion ensued between, the Commission, the Director, and Counsel regarding lifting the moratorium. The Chairman advised Mr. Saqi to make application to the staff and the staff would make a recommendation to the Commission.

Edward Shanayev, *representing Chesterfield Car Service*, was the second speaker. He discussed two points from a letter he received from the Director. Mr. Shanayev argued that his flat rate system is based on a street guide and it is impossible for him to post all of his flat rates. Secondly, he asked why he has to run the meter on all trips. The Director then filled the Commission in on the background and content of the letter. The Director advised Mr. Shanayev he must post all flat rates as required by the code. Secondly, he advised him to run the meter on all trips, even though the driver is not required to charge the metered rate. The driver may charge less than the metered rate, but not more.

A lengthy discussion ensued between Mr. Shanayev and the Commissioners. After much debate, the Chairman referred the subject back to General Counsel to present a directive to Mr. Shanayev. The Chairman advised Mr. Shanayev if he is not satisfied with the pending directive from Counsel, then he may file a formal complaint with the Commission.

Pradeep Nanda, *and individual representing Midwest Courier Services, Inc*, was the final speaker to address the Commission. Mr. Nanda's question was relative to Mr. Saqi's. Mr. Nanda was interested in adding a limousine (premium sedan) services to his existing courier company. He stated he was in a similar situation as the first speaker and would address his request to the staff.

Mr. Shiferaw inquired about possible soliciting and enforcement of limousines/premium sedans in the baggage claim area. Discussion ensued. No votes were held.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the Commission meeting was adjourned at 1:39pm. Motion by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Bennett, and passed unanimously.

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