

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

Friday, April 14th, 2006 @ 1:00 pm
100 North Tucker Boulevard

Members present: Chairman Hamilton (arrived @ 1:35p), Commissioners Bennett (arrived @ 1:30p), McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, Satz, and Shiferaw

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

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

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 PM by Vice-Chairman Reeves.

MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Reeves requested approval for the minutes of the March 16, 2006 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Satz, seconded by Mr. McNutt. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for Tuesday, May 9th, 2006 at 10:00 AM at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the Auditorium.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chairman summarized a motion to include the following:

- a temporary suspension of the Premium Sedan Moratorium to accept applications for the period of May 1, 2006 through May 30, 2006
- a maximum of 12 (twelve) sedan licenses
- the number and process to be consistent with the previous year's suspension of the Premium Sedan moratorium.

The motion was moved by Mr. Satz, seconded by Mr. Reeves. Mr. Rudawsky and Mr. McNutt abstained from the vote. The motion passed with the two abstentions and one "nay" vote by Mr. Shiferaw.

OLD BUSINESS

Counselor McCarthy presented his findings regarding Chesterfield Car Service's flat rate procedure. He recommended the adoption of the Director's rule promulgated regarding running the meter. Chairman Hamilton stated the Commissioners need additional time and discussion before making a decision regarding Chesterfield Car Service's flat rate plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Satz to adopt the Director's Rule Promulgated as stated: "At all times during the carrying of passengers, vehicles equipped with a taxi meter shall run the taxi

meter regardless of the fare charged.” The motion was seconded by Mr. McNutt. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shiferaw reported on the status of the Medallion sub-committee. He advised the Commission the next meeting will be May 12th, 2006 at 2pm.

The Director reported on the status of the license plates. He discussed the process of issuance as well as our coordination with the Department of Revenue. A long discussion was held. The Commission resolved to choose the order of the companies to receive the assigned blocks of numbers, to be determined by the staff. The names of the companies were placed in a hat and drawn at random. The airport companies would be the first block, with the order of companies to be randomly chosen by the staff. The companies were drawn in the following order:

1. Midwest (includes Metropolitan)
2. Allen Cab (includes Auto Livery)
3. Yellow Cab (includes St. Louis County)
4. St. Louis American
5. Chesterfield Car Service
6. A Best Taxi
7. Laclede Cab
8. Wilson Taxi
9. Archway (d.b.a. Checker) (includes ABC Cab Co.)
10. Harris

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Commissioners reviewed the printed statistics of the Director’s report. Chairman Hamilton felt there was no need for the Director to review it.

Mr. Bennett stated he received complaints regarding airport taxi drivers refusing credit cards. He asked the Director to look into it.

Chairman reported the audit was completed and signed copies were submitted to both the Mayor and County Executive on April 3, 2006.

Mr. Reeves added the audit was clean and completed in a timely fashion. He commended the staff for assisting with the completion under time constraints. A copy of the audit would be included in each Commissioner’s packet for next month’s meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT

In addition to the earlier comments regarding the audit, Mr. Reeves presented the Treasurer’s report. According to a first quarter report of the revenue and expenses, the Commission is about \$22,000 under budget from an income standpoint. Revenue was about nine thousand dollars under expected and expenses were over by about five thousand. The cash position is strong. Receivables, cash and money markets are maintaining their levels.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Edward Shanayev, representing *Royal Car Service d.b.a. Chesterfield Car Service*, addressed the Commission regarding 24 hour service. Discussion between the commissioners and Mr. Shanayev ensued regarding the proper company name and the name on the vehicles. Mr. Shanayev then presented an allegation regarding MTC CCN holder, Express Car Service. Mr. Shanayev alleged Express Car Service is paying off doormen for trips. He further alleged the cars stage near highway 40 or 141. Counsel then addressed the parties stating the code doesn't prohibit the cars from staging at these locations. Secondly, Counsel stated Mr. Shanayev needs to provide proof leading to the allegation of payoffs.

Mr. Shanayev then spoke about the 24 hour requirement. He stated he does not have a dispatcher working from 12:00am to 4:00am. He stated he does not have any cabs working during those hours. He stated he will take pre-arranged trips during those times, but they are typically arranged before midnight. He stated he doesn't mind giving business to the larger cab companies. He then requested to change the 24-hour requirement.

Counsel stated during the course of the investigation of the flat-rate issue, the 24 hour issue arose. Counsel investigated and Mr. Shanayev admits it is absolutely true. Chairman Hamilton interrupted and advised the parties the Commission will take the matter under advisement and will report back next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion by Mr. Reeves, second by Mr. McNutt. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

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