

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

June 20th, 2006 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard

Members present: Chairman Hamilton, Commissioners Banahan, Bennett, McNutt, Reeves, Satz, and Shiferaw

Members absent: Commissioners Harris and Rudawsky

MTC staff: Barker, Hinton, Hammond, Scherer, and Tully.

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy, Special Counselor Ray

The meeting was called to order at 10:16 AM by Chairman Hamilton.

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton requested approval for the minutes of the May 9, 2006 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. Reeves, seconded by Chairman Hamilton. The motion passed unanimously.

Chmn. Hamilton took a moment to welcome the newest Commissioner, Rich Banahan.

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for Thursday, July 27, 2006 at 10:00 AM at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the Auditorium.

OLD BUSINESS

Chmn. Hamilton yielded the chair to Mr. Reeves while he stepped out of the meeting to confer w/ Special Counselor Ray. Director reported on the status of the Medallion Sub-Committee. A meeting was held on June 15th with Dr. Ray Mundy from UMSL, an expert in the transportation field. The following day, a sub-committee meeting was held. Due to possible statutory conflicts, legal issues, and the consensus of the committee, the Medallion Sub-Committee meetings have been suspended until after Labor Day.

Director Tully reported on an action item from the last meeting. After meeting with Edward Shanayev, it was resolved that Chesterfield Car Service will be making adjustments in their operation in order to comply with the 24-hour requirement of the VFH Code.

Mr. Reeves yielded the chair back to Chmn. Hamilton upon his return.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Tully reminded the Commissioners the statistics were sent via email prior to the meeting. He reported on the combined enforcement efforts with the 4th District. At least three combined enforcement details occurred, in addition to a week-end, ball game detail. Numerous city court citations were issued to violators and several vehicles were red-tagged. A discussion ensued about red-tags. Mr. Shiferaw expressed concern that the number of citations and red-tags was disproportionate for the airport. The matter was addressed by the Commission and General Counsel, showing that it was an inaccurate

statement. The appearance of increased scrutiny was determined to be a direct result of all of the airport cabs being located at one place.

Director Tully reported as of the meeting, 430 of the new Missouri Taxicab license plates have been issued and are in place. The commissioners made positive comments on the matching license plate and fleet numbers. Chmn. Hamilton complimented the industry for their cooperation in the issuance of license plates.

Director Tully reported the application period for the premium sedan expansion has expired. Currently, applications for approximately 37 vehicles are being reviewed. Upon approval or denial, a letter will be sent to the applicant.

The Director announced a 'Director's Round Table Discussion.' Starting in July, the round table discussion will be held the last Tuesday of each month. The discussions are open to industry members, Commissioners, and the general public.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Reeves reported the cash and receivable position has maintained a fairly strong level. He pointed out previous comparisons from last year. He presented the income report from January through May. May, in particular shows a \$14,120 loss year to date, which is about \$11,000 better than what was budgeted. He stated we are maintaining a pretty good target of position.

Mr. McNutt motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Mr. Satz. Mr. Shiferaw inquired about staff pay increases, discussion ensued. Director Tully and Mr. Reeves will meet to discuss. It was determined a motion was not required to accept the Treasurer's report. Mr. McNutt withdrew his motion and Mr. Satz withdrew his second.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Hamilton appointed Mr. Banahan and Mr. Satz as chair and vice-chair respectively, of the new Enforcement Sub-Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Zerebrook Gebru, of *Metropolitan Taxicab Corporation*, addressed the Commission. Mr. Gebru stated the merger of Midwest and Metropolitan was complete and both were operating under one umbrella corporation. He asked the Commission for permission to paint all the vehicles one color and operate under one name, rather than two. Discussion ensued. Questions regarding age of the fleet, ownership, and pending litigation were raised. The Chairman asked Mr. Gebru to continue working with the staff to clarify and resolve the issues.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. McNutt motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Satz. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 10:47am.

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