

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

July 27th, 2006 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard

Members present: Commissioners Banahan, Bennett, Reeves, Rudawsky, Satz, and Shiferaw*
(*arrived at 10:20)

Members absent: Chairman Hamilton, Commissioners Harris and McNutt

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

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy, Special Counselor Ray

In Chairman Hamilton's absence, Vice-Chair Reeves chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by Mr. Reeves.

MINUTES

The Minutes for the June 20, 2006 were prepared and in each member's packet. The Commissioners did not present the minutes for approval. The minutes will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Tully introduced the need to develop regulations for advertising on vehicles. The Commissioners debated the idea and determined an Executive Committee will be formed to develop proposed code changes.

Director Tully requested approval of a Rule Promulgated requiring all CCN holders to provide email addresses for communicating in a timely manner. Mr. Satz made a motion to approve the rule promulgated, seconded by Mr. Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Tully reported on the statistical data in the Commissioner's packets. He reported on the combined enforcement efforts with the 4th District. He informed the Commissioners on-call inspections are complete and with the exception of St. Louis County Cab/Yellow, license plates were issued. He predicted 100 percent compliance by mid-August. Inspections of the courtesy class will begin in August.

Director Tully reported there were 12 applications from the Premium Sedan moratorium suspension, both new growth and fleet expansions.

The Director reported on July's 'Director's Round Table Discussion.' The first DRTD had four attendees. The Director reported the DRTD was very positive and he will continue to hold them monthly.

Director Tully reported he is continuing to monitor the AAA Gasoline price index and the average has yet to exceed three dollars per gallon.

Mr. Rudawsky raised a concern regarding plate renewal issues at fee offices other than the one in City Hall. Discussion ensued. It was resolved that there are communication issues within DOR.

The Director concluded his report with an overview of the response for the heat emergency following the July 19th storms. The MTC was operating 24/7 during the emergency coordinating transportation to cooling centers. The Director, Mr. Reeves and Mr. Rudawsky commended the staff and the companies for their efforts.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Reeves reported the June numbers indicate a loss of \$11,387. The budget for the month was \$26,000 positive, resulting in a \$38,000 negative swing due to some additional expenses and a slight underage in revenue. Overall, the Commission maintains a strong cash position. He observed no other issues other than adjusting some timing issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeanette Culpepper, a driver from *Allen Cab Company*, addressed the Commission. She expressed concerns about passengers not paying their fares, a.k.a. run-offs. She feels the Commission should play a larger role in preventing run-offs. She also feels the police do not do enough for run-offs when they are called. A discussion between Ms. Culpepper and the Commission ensued. It was clarified that she wants signage posted, with Commission's endorsement, informing the customer that cab drivers may ask for deposits prior to departure. Mr. Banahan recommended that the industry collaborate to define more specifically what exactly they want from the Commission, rather than having the Commission initiate changes. *Pianska Kinsey*, Operations Manager of *Allen Cab*, addressed Ms. Culpepper and the Commission. He explained his company previously printed and laminated signs for their company explaining the company policy regarding run-offs. The sign had previously been approved by the Director. Mr. Kinsey stated he would make sure Ms. Culpepper received one for her cab.

Steve Keyer, representing *Advanced Medical Services Wellness Center*, addressed the Commission. Mr. Keyer thanked the Commission staff and the cab companies for their assistance with evacuating one of their facilities during the heat/power emergency. He specifically thanked Kim, Lori, and Doug.

Tyrone Gary, a driver from *Allen Cab Company*, addressed the Commission. He complained to the Commission regarding an incident when picking up a family member. The Director immediately clarified the Airport has their own rules and the starters are employees of the Airport. Sgt. Sampson explained the rules regarding commercial vehicles and curb rights. The issue was ultimately a result of the driver using his cab as a personal vehicle.

Valery Grabsky, representing *Airways Cab Company*, addressed the Commission. He inquired about the requirement of the Taxicab plates regarding St. Charles. The Director explained the plates are required by state statute for the MTC jurisdiction. Mr. Grabsky then inquired about the other companies and the advertising in the airport. It was explained the advertising was paid for by those companies and his company is welcome to buy ad space there. Mr. Grabsky complained the signage to the Taxi area is not big enough. It was explained to him that the Commission is not responsible for the Airport's signage. Mr. Grabsky then asked about the gas surcharge. It was explained to him the fee cannot be increased until the AAA gas index (or average) exceeded three dollars for the St. Louis area. Mr. Rudawsky felt the policy should be re-addressed and further defined. Mr. Grabsky complained about the premium sedans and possible soliciting. He was directed to speak w/ Sgt. Sampson after the meeting.

Mark Goodman, representing *B. Parks and W. Jackson*, addressed the Commission. He was under the impression the proposed rule violation would be discussed at this meeting. He was told it was not. Mr. Satz inquired how Mr. Goodman thought he would want us to enforce these rules. He explained that after numerous negotiations that they were close to a solution. After a period of silence, it came to his

attention the Commission was going to pass something different than what had been previously discussed. He was upset by the fact no one notified him the negotiations were off. Further discussion between the members and Mr. Goodman ensued.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed)

With no further business, Mr. Reeves concluded the public session of the meeting at 11:05a. The Commissioners proceeded to a closed session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40a, the Commission reconvened from the Executive Session. With no further business, Mr. Banahan motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Satz. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:40a.

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