CONVENED

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 10:10 AM in Room 1070, City Hall at 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM NO. 1 – WELCOME

President Spiegelman called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present, noting that those wishing to testify before the Board must fill out a speaker’s form. He informed the audience that if anyone is a registered lobbyist, City ordinance requires that it should be indicated on the speaker’s form. He also reminded everyone that this session is being broadcast on Council Phone, to speak into the microphone and to silence cell phones.

ITEM NO. 2 – ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Boris Gorbis, Jacqueline Kennedy and Eric Spiegelman; Jay Kim, Assistant General Manager, Jarvis Murray, Taxicab Administrator; Michael Nagle, Deputy City Attorney IV

Absent: Commissioners Andrea Martinez and Mampre Pomakian, General Manager Seleta Reynolds

ITEM NO. 3 – MINUTES

President Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, to approve the minutes of November 21, 2019. Unanimously APPROVED.

ITEM NO. 4 – COMMUNICATIONS

President Spiegelman introduced the new Commissioner, Jacqueline Kennedy.

Commissioner Gorbis recognized the Department’s 40th Anniversary.

Taxicab Administrator Jarvis Murray commented on that as part of our program we will begin managing the dockless scooter program. As part of the program, that matter went before council yesterday. We recently suspended one of our providers for not providing data under the MDS platform. There was an administrative hearing over a 2-day period, which was treated something like a ‘mini’ trial with witness examinations and cross examinations and LADOT prevailed. Many of the issues related to privacy and the 4th Amendment, LADOT the City Attorneys did a very good job with developing the reasons why the
program is important to us. This is being mentioned here because the MDS platform will be required to be on taxicabs in the future. We were able get the hearing officer to understand that we have privacy protection principles for the data that comes through as well as an indication that the future of management of transportation is in the data and he wanted the group to be aware that this is something we feel very strongly about and we will be moving forward with it in the future.

President Spiegelman also informed that a taxi driver, Oganes Papazyan was murdered this past weekend in Los Angeles outside of the Burger King restaurant at Grand Ave and Cesar Chavez. He stated that he understands that a suspect has been identified and arrested by LAPD and is being held without bail. He then led the Commission and all present in a moment of silence to honor Mr. Papazyan and to contemplate how dangerous the taxicab industry can be.

Jarvis Murray also addressed the Board, offering sincere condolences to Mr. Papazyan’s family and friends on behalf of the Department, and that as a Department we hope to approach something like this with a level of empathy because it is very difficult what many of these drivers do and go through and this is a daily worry for them. The unfortunate thing is that Mr. Papazyan was only doing his job when he picked up this person.

ITEM NO. 5 – COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Gorbis suggested that the Board support the plans to provide some limited curbside pick-up permits to taxicab companies. Last year LAX hit a record of 88m passengers. It is important to know that 15% of those passengers are coming to the city for less than a 2 or 3 day visit. Many of them are perspective employees coming for an interview and who are in great need of flexible and quick transportation. In spite of our perception that every delivery company was banned from curbside pick-ups, exceptions were made for Uber Black and Uber plus. It is important for us to consider whether or not it gives us a lot to stand on in support of the taxi industry’s need to continue curbside pick-ups at the terminals. It’s a matter of equity and not only of convenience for the industry. It’s a matter of tremendous importance to people who come to this city. There have been numerous issues with passengers with ADA conditions or that has significant luggage, and that we should bring our voice to be heard on that subject supporting the effort to alleviate what is commonly referred to as the mess at LAX. He’s asking it to be agendized for the next meeting. President Spiegelman suggested that he draft a proposal first for the Board to review, then we will agendize it for a subsequent meeting.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENT

There was no neighborhood council comment taken.

PUBLIC FORUM

Public comments were taken.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM NO. 6 – FINAL RESOLUTION OF BOARD ORDER NO. 081 – APPROVAL OF SIX-MONTH LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (LAX) FLAT RATE TAXICAB FARE PROGRAM

Jarvis Murray, Taxicab Administrator addressed the Board, presenting the report.

Question and answer session occurred.

Public comments were taken.
President Spiegelman moved to table this item until the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gorbis. Unanimously APPROVED.

**ADJOURNMENT – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.7**

With no further business before the Board of Taxicab Commissioners, President Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Martinez to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously APPROVED.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Approved: 6/18/2020

Board of Taxicab Commissioners

[Signature]

Commission Executive Assistant