CONVENE

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 10:04 AM in Los Angeles, CA.

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 and give it to the Commission Executive Assistant. 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 Andre Colaiace, Jacqueline Kennedy, and Eric Spiegelman; Jay Kim, Assistant General Manager; Jarvis Murray, Taxicab Administrator; and Deputy City Attorney Michael Nagle

Absent: Commissioners Andrea Martinez and Boris Gorbis

ITEM NO. 3 – MINUTES

Commissioner Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Colaiace to approve the Minutes of February 16, 2023. Unanimously APPROVED.

ITEM NO. 4 – COMMUNICATIONS

In response to a question asked by Commissioner Colaiace at last month’s Board meeting regarding the number of taxicabs pre-pandemic up to current date, Taxicab Administrator Mr. Murray provided the following data information:

Number of taxicabs
- Currently, operating 1,520 taxicabs as of early that week
- Compared to September 2019, 1,841 taxicabs on the street pre-pandemic
- During pandemic, averaged 700 taxicabs on the street
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- Getting close to year 2019 numbers, vehicles continue to come in, about 1,500
- Maximum in franchise was a little over 2,300

**Number of drivers**
- Year 2020, approximately 1,500 authorized drivers, 211 new permits
- Year 2021 during pandemic, hardly any new permits
- Year 2022, 1,955 number of permits, 738 new permits
- Since January 2023, 144 new permits added

In addition, he reported that there is no backlog of vehicles, currently.

**ITEM NO. 5 – COMMISSION BUSINESS**

a) Penalty Schedule for Taxicab Rules and Regulations

President Spiegelman reported that the penalty item presented by Mr. Murray at the last Board meeting will not be discussed currently and that LADOT is reviewing the comments submitted by the community. He added that the item will probably be in next month’s agenda or whenever LADOT brings it back to the Board, and to let the Board know if anyone would like to have more session discussion involving the penalty.

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENT**

No comments provided.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments provided.

**ACTION ITEM**

**ITEM NO. 6 – Recommend Revocation of Bell Cab Driver Min Soo Kim (Permit #622497) for Violation of Board Order 471 Taxi Rules 764 and 714**

Joe Richard, Sr. Transportation Investigator presented the report. Mr. Richard let the Board know that Mr. Kim was not present and that he was notified as well as his lawyer and Bell Cab.

Comments, questions, and answers were provided.
- Commissioner Spiegelman asked staff to explain how the CityRide Program worked and how the scam was perpetrated by Mr. Kim.
- Mr. Richard described the program and how the CityRide card is used.
- Sal Gutierrez, Supervising Transportation Planner, overseeing the CityRide Program, clarified in detail how the program worked. He added that he did not know how the backend worked that would allow them to swipe the card several times, but will look into it with the contractor that runs it.
- Commissioner Spiegelman would like a report back on how this was able to happen.
- Mr. Murray shared that he has seen this happen in other cities like San Francisco and described how the scam is done.
- Commissioner Kennedy asked to clarify that the rides were made in order to swipe the card.
- Mr. Murray confirmed that the driver would have had to run the meter and then swipe whether the ride was made or not.
- Commissioner Kennedy asked what Mr. Kim’s response was to the swipes.
Mr. Richard reported that during the interview process, Mr. Kim stated that he did not remember anything but after he left the interview with the investigator, Mr. Kim admitted to his manager that he found the card and swiped it. He added that the Bell Cab manager shared a video with the investigator showing one incident where he charged the card without a passenger.

Commissioner Colaiace moved, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to grant LADOT staff recommendation. 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 Commissioners Kennedy to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously APPROVED.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM.