

**BOARD OF TAXICAB
COMMISSIONERS**

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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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ITEM #3

**BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING**

MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2024

10:00 AM

CONVENED

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM in Los Angeles, CA.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Item No. 1 – Welcome

President Colaiace 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, Steven Welliver, and Eric Spiegelman; Jarvis Murray (Taxicab Administrator); Michael Nagle and Kevin Dufner, Deputy City Attorneys (DCA).

Absent: Tomas Carranza, Assistant General Manager, Commissioners Andrea D. Martinez and Mary Rosas Galvan.

Item No. 3 – Minutes

Commissioner Spiegelman moved, seconded President Andre Colaiace to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2023. Unanimously APPROVED.

Item No. 4 – Communications

Tabled.

Item No. 5 – Commission Business

No commission business reported.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENT

No comments provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were taken.

Comments, questions, and answers were provided.

President Colaiace went back to Item No. 4, Communications. Colaiace asked Mr. Jarvis Murray if he had any comments. Mr. Murray said he recognizes the meeting agendas have been light on content. Mr. Murray and LADOT staff are working on several new things. A lot of it will be related to data.

Mr. Murray said they are looking to increase the rate structure. Mr. Murray reported he is looking into the issue of short trips at the airport to the extent he took the trip himself and it was a terrible experience. Mr. Murray commented that this are just his thoughts and research as of now, it does not mean anything at this stage, but he did take the trip; it was approximately a 10 minute trip and cost was as the gentleman said earlier; Mr. Murray went to a hotel in the area. Mr. Murray said it was hard justifying increasing that amount, but he does recognize the time the driver waited.

Mr. Murray reported he talked to Airports about a short arrangement. He's discussed it briefly with San Francisco as well. Mr. Murray said there are some airports in the country that have a system whereby if a taxi takes a particular trip that is shorter or within a certain boundary area, when they come back to the airport they go to the front of the line. Mr. Murray said there is a lot of fraud in it. Mr. Murray said San Francisco has managed a way to do this with a virtual queue so that you can get back and forth without necessarily driving to the airport, it knows that you have done this trip and will automatically put you back in line in a particular area.

Mr. Murray said this is something he still needs to look into, because when he took that trip it was about \$25, including tip and the trip was about 10 minutes. Mr. Murray said he could not justify charging someone \$40 for that trip. Mr. Murray recognizes the real issue is the driver has to go back now and wait 90 minutes to get their next ride. Mr. Murray said he is researching the issue, he does not have a solution yet.

Vice president Spiegelman has a few items for Mr. Murray. Spiegelman said the first public comment speaker reported port police are not letting taxis into the ports. Spiegelman asked if the port knows that any taxicab company can pick-up at the port and there isn't a single taxicab company that has jurisdiction over the port. Spiegelman asked Mr. Murray if he knew who the General Manager of the port is. Mr. Murray said he did not know their name, but he can find out. Mr. Murray said the port did reach out about that, as well as the council member for that area, McOster.

Mr. Murray said they are still working through it, but it is his understanding that there is an agreement whereby a particular taxicab company services that area. Mr. Murray reported that he has not received a copy of that agreement yet. Mr. Murray said he will need to follow-up, but they have heard from the port and CD15.

Vice president Spiegelman asked Mr. Murray if DOT or the Mayor's office is paying attention to the Senate bill that would put robotaxis in city jurisdictions. Mr. Murray replied he is paying attention to the senate bill and they recently drafted a memo to the mayor's office regarding that. Mr. Murray said that senate bill mimics taxi rules and government codes; it's a change to code 53075 and it adds a point one;

it's almost identical to code 53075.5 which allows local jurisdictions to regulate taxicabs. Mr. Murray said DOT has been pushing for regulations, they have been in conversations with Waymo, and Motional which is in Santa Monica, and we were in conversations with Cruise until they had their debacle up north. Mr. Murray said Waymo has been given permission to begin servicing customers in Los Angeles, but not at a price just yet. Mr. Murray said Waymo will likely petition within the next month to begin full commercial operations in Southern California for fare. Mr. Murray said the senate bill's first vote might be in May and assuming all went smoothly the final votes would be in September, and it would be up to Newsom to veto at that stage.

President Colaiace asked what the number of that bill is. Vice president Spiegelman replied SB915. Spiegelman asked if the city has a political opinion on this. Mr. Murray replied, he thinks the opinion is to have local regulation. Commissioner Welliver said he believes there is a council motion in progress about local regulation. Mr. Murray said there were two council motions; one was to the City Attorney's Office in regards to what are the options for DOT in terms of legislating or regulating; the other motion was to support San Francisco's motion to rehear their hearing, Waymo does full commercial operations in San Francisco and San Francisco wants a rehearing of that, especially after the Cruise issue.

Vice President Spiegelman said he imagines that there is an argument to be made about the changes we made to regulations, data, and Mobility Data Specification (MDS). Mr. Murray said yes, MDS is in the senate bill, there is a sharing component in the SB915. Mr. Murray said they have been pushing the requirement for MDS prior to deployment. Mr. Murray said Yellowcab and UCC are fully in production on MDS; we are working with Curb which is United, Independent, Itoa, and Beverly Hills Cab, they are in the sandbox stage and we expect they will be in full production soon. Mr. Murray expects his data team will come in and give the commission a demonstration on what that data looks like.

President Colaiace asked if we could get copies of those council motions. Mr. Murray said he would send the council motions and copy of the senate bill SB915.

President Colaiace said at the last board meeting we discussed the Board of Taxicab Commissioners can increase the rates by 10 percent, but the council needs to increase rates a further 10 percent and that requires a study. Mr. Jarvis said yes, we need to do the work on finding the CPI and gas tax, then present it to the commission. President Colaiace asked if that would be done by staff or a consultant. Mr. Murray said it is traditionally done by staff. President Colaiace if there is a timeline for working on that. Mr. Murray said he recognizes it is something that has become a major issue and we are trying to do something sooner rather than later. President Colaiace asked if that study would include the issues about the airport. Mr. Murray said yes, it would include all of that and the flat rates. Mr. Murray said the rates should increase, but it's a matter of how much. President Colaiace said he encourages Mr. Murray to expedite the study within reason so the board can review it. Mr. Murray said they will expedite it and they also owe a detail of their permitting and would get that to the commission soon.

President Colaiace moved, seconded by Vice President Spiegelman to go into Executive Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item No. 6 - Appeal of Razmik Kerobyan, Concerning the Department's October 18, 2023 Decision to Deny His Taxicab Driver Application, Pursuant to LAMC Section 71.08 (A), and Temporary Suspension of the Driver Taxicab Permit pursuant to Taxicab Rule Book section 800, Taxicab Rule 810(A).

Mr. Razmik Kerobyan was absent, his Attorney, Neil Evans spoke on his behalf. Mr. Evan's said he has not received a copy of the board report. Vice president Spiegelman asked Mr. Evans if his client was

aware of his appeal today. Mr. Evans said he is aware and his on his way. President Colaiace asked how long it would take him to get there. Mr. Evans said maybe 15 minutes. President Colaiace said he thinks it is better to hold over the appeal to February.

Vice president Spiegelman moved for a continuance for February's Board meeting, seconded by Commissioner Welliver. Unanimously approved.

Vice president Spiegelman moved to get out of Executive Session, seconded by President Colaiace. Unanimously approved.

Vice President Spiegelman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Welliver. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.7

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM

Approved: 03/21/2024
Board of Taxicab Commissioners
Ailana Aguirre
Commission Executive Assistant