

**BOARD OF TAXICAB
COMMISSIONERS**

ANDRE COLAIACE
PRESIDENT

ERIC SPIEGELMAN
VICE PRESIDENT

STEVEN WELLIVER
MARY GALVAN ROSAS

AILANA AGUIRRE
ACTING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 S. MAIN STREET, 10th FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Laura Rubio-Cornejo
GENERAL MANAGER

ITEM #3

**BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES
Thursday, July 18, 2024
10:00 AM**

CONVENED

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 10:02 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: President Andre Colaiace, Vice President Eric Spiegelman, Commissioners Steven Welliver and Mary Galvan Rosas; Taxicab Administrator Jarvis Murray; Deputy City Attorneys (DCA) Michael Nagle and Kevin Dufner.

Absent: Tomas Carranza, Assistant General Manager.

Item No. 3 – Minutes

Commissioner Galvan Rosas moved, seconded Vice President Spiegelman to approve the Minutes of April 18, 2024. Unanimously APPROVED.

Item No. 4 – Communications

Vice President Spiegelman announced that today is his last board meeting. Vice President Spiegelman served the Taxicab Board for ten years.

Item No. 5 – Commission Business

- a. Election of President
Commissioner Welliver nominated Commissioner Colaiace, seconded by Commissioner Galvan Rosas.
Commissioner Colaiace accepted the nomination.
Commissioner Colaiace was unanimously re-elected as President for another year.
- b. Election of Vice President
Commissioner Galvan Rosas nominated Commissioner Welliver, seconded by Commissioner Colaiace.
Commissioner Welliver accepted the nomination.
Commissioner Welliver was unanimously elected as Vice president for one year.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENT

No comments provided. Commissioner Galvan Rosas asked if the Board of Commissioners are allowed to attend Neighborhood Council Meetings to see if they are interested in attending the Taxi Board meetings. Vice President Spiegelman said you are welcome to attend Neighborhood Council Meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were taken.

Comments, questions, and answers were provided.

Item No. 6 – Information Item

Mr. Jarvis Murray informed the Board that Los Angeles World Airport Representative, Renee Gonzalez Fong was present to speak regarding airport taxi access.

Mrs. Gonzalez Fong introduced herself as the Ground Transportation Manager from the Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), here on the behalf of David Reich, Deputy Executive Director, Mobility Planning and Strategy.

Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said LAWA gave the Board of Taxicab Commissioners a letter in May, regarding a brief overview of LAWA's Taxicab Dispatch and Rotation System. The Dispatch System is principle in giving a sufficient amount of taxicabs to meet the demand at LAX without providing too many cabs which can cause congestion; LAWA has a holding lot to help reduce long wait times for the taxi drivers.

Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said LAWA is working on the Dispatch System so that it is equitable for Taxicab Drivers providing roughly the same access. LAWA has not made a decision and ATS cannot make a decision without LAWA's approval. LAWA would like to hear the concerns of the public and the Commission.

Commissioner Galvan Rosas asked Mrs. Gonzalez Fong, in regards to customer demand, where is LAWA getting that data? Are you comparing it to other airports? Are we working in a vacuum that is just LA specific? How is that customer demand arrived to?

Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said when LAWA looks at customer demand they are looking at what happens at LAWA's curbs and airport. LAWA has the LA Exit Curb for taxicabs, as well as, two other locations at LAX.

LAWA is looking at the total of taxis dispatched from those locations; comparing and doing an analysis of all the activity in the LA Exit Lot; a market share between LAWA's T&Cs and the taxis.

Commissioner Galvan Rosas asked if the data gathering is conducted by LAWA staff. Mrs. Gonzalez Fong confirmed the data gathering is conducted by LAWA staff.

Commissioner Galvan Rosas said we talked a little about recent trends, how does that work for LAX? Los Angeles is changing all the time and are getting different demands; what can you point to that gives LAWA the leeway to modify a date or lower what is available? Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said LAWA has partnered with the city in order to develop appropriate and reasonable access to the airport; LAWA is assessing passenger traffic and the different modes of transportation passengers are using to get to and from the airport, whether it's large vehicles such as the Flyaway bus or T&C's; post 9/11 LAWA saw an increase in personal vehicles for pick-ups and drop-offs; that is now shifting into a new normal where we're getting more taxis, T&C's, and other black cars coming into the airport.

Commissioner Galvan Rosas asked if LAWA is trying to keep the taxicab industry viable. Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said yes, LAWA wants our customers to have a choice when they get to the curb as to how they want to get home or to the airport; LAWA is trying to make sure those choices do not create unneeded congestion at the airport; LAWA encourages high occupancy vehicles such as Flyaway, LA Exit lots have the T&C's and Taxis co-located; LAWA uses the data from the LA Exit lots to help manage traffic within the airport to assist in mitigating the overall through put and experience of getting to and from the airport.

Commissioner Galvan Rosas addresses concerns about the passenger experience at LAX, particularly the lack of clarity for travelers regarding taxi pick-up locations. Mrs. Gonzalez Fong acknowledges the need for improvement and mentioned the upcoming implementation of a people mover, which is expected to enhance the overall travel process.

Commissioner Welliver said he is interested in the number of vehicles that are being assessed at the airport. When the airport believes that there are too many vehicles and taxis at the airport are creating congestion, what data suggests that the dispatch system would cause fewer vehicles to be available? Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said LAWA has the holding lot and taxi stand, having ATS manage that dispatch into the airport minimizes the number of floating taxis in the Central terminal area. The taxis are dispatched based on what the starter is saying the need is. LAWA does a pink call out when there are not enough taxis and have others come that are available to do that. LAWA relies on ATS as a third party which is made up with most of the taxi companies to create an equitable system. It is an older system and LAWA has asked ATS to look into improvements.

Commissioner Welliver asked how often is LAWA having pink call out days. Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said she did not have that data with her, but she can provide that data later.

President Colaiace asked if ATS has authority to make changes. Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said any changes will need to be approved by LAWA. President Colaiace asked if LAWA is continuing to work with the taxi industry and different constituencies to determine the best path forward. Mrs. Gonzalez Fong said yes, that is correct.

Commissioner Galvan Rosas asked if there was timeline for that process. Mrs. Gonzalez Fong replied they are hoping to have a decision by fall. There is not a hard deadline. LAWA wants to provide ample opportunity for comments, and make value judgments based off the feedback received.

President Colaiace thanked Mrs. Gonzalez Fong for her time today and announced the commission will take public comment now.

Comments, questions, and answers were provided.

Commissioner Spiegelman emphasized the close relationship between the Taxi and Limousine Commission and LAX operations; highlighted past instances of collaboration and the importance of the commission's voice in shaping airport policies.

Commissioner Spiegelman discussed the commission's advocacy for taxi stands at LAX during the construction of the LA Exit project. Commissioner Spiegelman explained the commission's role in ensuring continued access for taxis.

Commissioner Welliver proposed that the commission take a formal position on the issue of taxi operations at LAX. Commissioner Welliver emphasized the importance of addressing the complex issues surrounding the industry and its impact on the airport.

President Colaiace moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Welliver. Unanimously APPROVED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item No. 7 – Appeal of Olandis Thomas-Riley, Concerning the Department’s April 30, 2024, Decision to deny his Taxicab Driver Application, Pursuant to Taxicab Rulebook Section 600, Rules 607 & 615.

Joe Richard II, Senior Transportation Investigator, informed the commission that the appellant Olandis Thomas-Riley was not present. Mr. Joe Richard said Mr. Thomas-Riley was present for the previous board meetings, but the meetings were cancelled due to lack of quorum.

President Andre Colaiace suggested the board carry this item over to the August 15, 2024 board meeting.

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

Deputy City Attorney Kevin Dufner reported for the record the appeal for Item No. 7 will be carried over to the August 15, 2024 board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.7

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM

Approved: 8/15/2024
Board of Taxicab Commissioners
Ailana Aguirre
Commission Executive Assistant