

**BOARD OF TAXICAB  
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GENERAL MANAGER

**ITEM #3**

**BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS  
BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 15, 2025  
10:00 AM**

**CONVENED**

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 10:17 AM in Los Angeles, CA.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**Item No. 1 – Welcome**

Vice President Chase 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. She informed the audience that if anyone is a registered lobbyist, City ordinance requires that it should be indicated on the speaker's form. She also reminded everyone to speak into the microphone and to silence cell phones.

**Item No. 2 – Roll Call**

Present: Commissioners Nicole Chase, Mary Rosas, Billie Green, and Antonio Zepeda; Jarvis Murray, Commercial Rideshare and Mobility Administrator; Deputy City Attorneys (DCA) Michael Nagle and Kevin Dufner

Absent: Commissioner Andre Colaiace

**Item No. 3 – Minutes**

Commissioner Green moved, seconded by Commissioner Zepeda to approve the Minutes of April 17, 2025. Unanimously APPROVED.

**Item No. 4 – Communications**

None

**Item No. 5 – Commission Business**

None

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENT**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comments were given.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEM****Item No. 6 – Taxicab Service at the Port of Los Angeles**

Public comments were given.

Mr. Murray gave a brief presentation about the Port issue for context. He discussed two systems: 1) LADOT was in the franchise system, up until 2021 2022 when it moved to a permit system; explained the franchise system and how each taxicab company have portions of the City that they are primarily responsible for; United Checker was the company responsible for the Port area which was required under the old franchise rules; and 2) shortly after COVID, LADOT changed from franchise system to permitting system; and now rather than each company having responsibility for certain portions of the City, every company is now allowed to operate in any part of the City as long as they have a permit with LADOT. He reported on the issue occurring at the Port as: 1) was due to the companies at the Port treating the area as if it is still under the franchise system, which it is not; 2) LADOT allow every company to operate fully within any part of the City and pickup in any part of the City; 3) when there was an attempt to enforce this issue at the Port, there was an issue with the Port police and the people in that area, along with the local elected; and 4) what is currently happening is that many of the other companies that are not United Checker are still being pushed to either not serve the area or pushed to a part of the zone where they are not seen as taxis versus what LADOT should be allowing, which is to allow them to work in the taxi zone and taxi area. He added that LADOT would like to enforce that zone and would need the support of the Commission in the enforcement of that zone.

Joe Richard, Sr. Transportation Investigator, described the layout of the Port (taxicab staging area is right in front of the exit of the cruise ships and north of that is the rideshare area for Uber and Lyft). Based on his knowledge, some of the companies would go into the rideshare area.

Mr. Jarvis added that the Port had said that there is a contract with the company related to service in the area and requested a copy of the contract but LADOT never received a copy of the contract, which we feel allows us to continue to go ahead and enforce on behalf of the rest of the industry.

Questions and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Chase asked how the City is going to enforce the new rule.
- Mr. Murray stated what LADOT/Sr. Investigator Richard would do, which is essentially to allow the other taxicab companies to stage in the taxi zone in the taxi area and as of now, the Port police will move them out of that area.
- Commissioner Green commented how she felt that the City need enforcement out there.
- Mr. Richard reported his personal experience having spoken to the Port police when he went out there about a year ago that all taxicabs that are permitted with the City of LA can operate in that area, and since he spoke with the Port police, he has no knowledge of the Port police pushing the taxis out anymore. He added that if there is any taxicabs being pushed out, it would be by the starter of that company and explained what a starter is – a person that stands by and

conducts the passengers to the taxis but not sure if the person is paid by the company. He also advised the starter and the company's management of the new rules.

- Commissioner Zepeda asked if there were independent contracts with anyone else other than the Port that we are aware of when under the franchise system.
- Mr. Murray discussed the following: 1) under the franchise system, how each company had a contract with the City and explained what is in that contract; 2) the only thing that is similar to the Port would be the Airport, where the Airport has a non-exclusive license agreement with the taxicabs that allows them to be there; and 3) technically the Port could do something similar but LADOT has not received any documentation that states they have anything like that.
- Commissioner Zepeda asked if the Port received any type of notification from DOT when it changed from franchise to permit system.
- Mr. Murray stated that he does not recall.
- Commissioner Zepeda asked how the Commission can help enforce the new permit system given that there could be a loop hole within the Port.
- Mr. Murray stated that LADOT is prepared to enforce, make contact with all people involved, the challenge if there are a lot of push back, and will look for support from the Commission (in a form of a letter) whether if it is with elected officials or with the Port due to the sensitivity of the topic.
- Commissioner Chase asked if the Department just transitioned from the franchise to permit system or did it require City Council approval.
- Mr. Murray confirmed that it has to have City Council approval.
- Commissioner Chase asked why there was no effort made in terms of communication with different entities if the City Council supported the transition from franchise to permit.
- Mr. Murray stated that he could not answer the question, it may have been an oversight in DOT's part, but he knew that the Airport was involved in a lot of DOT's work and the Port was not.
- Commissioner Chase asked if a letter could be written to all the parties impacted, reminding or informing them of this change and the law that allows all taxicab companies to have access, and to bring all heads of the various departments together for a conversation so that everyone is on the same page.
- Mr. Murray confirmed that it is possible to bring departments together and prepare a letter of support from the Commission.
- Commissioner Zepeda asked what the process is to formalize requesting for a written memo to detail the system changes, the expectation, timeframe to follow, and a troubleshoot number or email for any issues to be addressed; and should there be a need for the Commission to support in person whether it be meeting with department heads, elected officials, or meeting with the Port or in writing to ensure the new permit system is in play at the Port.
- Mr. Murray acknowledged that all the suggestions are good ideas, and how he liked the idea of the Commission being available to submit a letter, how that is done would be up to the Commission but staff could also be instructed to draft a letter.
- DCA Nagle provided a third option if the proposed ideas were not successful that is to enact a rule that sets penalties for any company that would engage in the type of behavior as the starter, one company trying to keep another company out.
- Commissioner Chase asked to clarify how a starter is identified.
- Mr. Murray explained how the particular starter at the Port is not an industry-wide starter and it was not clear how they ended up at the Port. He discussed the starters at the Airport, its role, who they are managed by (taxi companies called authorized taxicab supervision [ATS]), and the associated fees paid to the Airport (technically to ATS) to cover.
- Mr. Richard confirmed that he knows that the starter at the Port is employed by United Checker Cab.

- Commissioner Chase asked if there was a reason why the City has not stepped in to say that we need to have the same protocol as the Airport with the starter who is represented by all taxicab companies.
- Mr. Murray shared how we made the effort; received so much push back; a lot of high political connections; and that we are prepared to enforce but do need the Commission's support related to this issue
- Commissioner Chase commented that if this was initially passed by Council, maybe the push back was from those who did not support it, and asked if there is a record of the vote.
- Mr. Murray explained how there are seven new Councilmembers since that vote which probably could be part of the issue.
- Commissioner Chase proposed including in the communication letter to Council or elected official of that specific area to bring them up to speed as to what was voted on and why.
- Mr. Murray stated that the best option to start would be to begin enforcement with the Port and work with the Port police before going to the elected and if it reaches that stage, we would want backup from the Commission to address it.
- Commissioner Zepeda asked to clarify if prior to speaking with Port police, was there a system for other taxi companies that were pulled out to let DOT know they were pushed away, how many cab companies were impacted, citations issued by PD to any of the cab companies .
- Mr. Richard reported that he does not have the number but he was sent a video and messages of the push out; he acted on it and spoke with the Port police and management; and no citations were issued.
- Commissioner Zepeda asked if the consideration to add penalty fees would need to go back to Council.
- Mr. Murray confirmed as he understood it that rule changes could be done in the Commission but in terms of penalty fees and dollar amounts, that would go to Council.
- Commissioner Chase addressed her question to the two gentlemen who spoke during the public comment in reference to this issue and asked if something happened recently or has it improved.
- Mr. Mersha stated that this is happening every time and shared what occurs when an LADOT investigator is present and leaves the area, instructions to his drivers to take photos, and how he will then send it to Joe and Jarvis.
- Commissioner Zepeda commented on how it would help the Commission to make a stronger argument with the Port and politicians if there was a log to track the times this issue happened.
- Commissioner Green commented on having documentation and how the Commission cannot take hearsay, will need proof.
- Commissioner Chase would like to agendaize this item for the meeting to get more details of the current City of LA contract, history of this issue, communication outreach made to the Port, and the starter who only represents one taxicab company also needs to be addressed.
- DCA Nagle shared that in terms of rules, it does not necessarily have to be a monetary penalty, it could be a penalty suspension and provided an example for a 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> violation.
- Commissioner Chase asked to incorporate what the suggestions might be for suspensions that we could take into consideration.
- Commissioner Zepeda commented on the given timeframe to quantify how many times reported, and to look back and creating some substances to be able to look into this deeper.
- Mr. Mersha added that the rule change is currently being discussed with Jarvis and his team and suggested to include this issue in the Rule Book before it goes to the Commission for approval.
- Commissioner Chase announced there is another individual, Leonard Satorousky, from Independent Taxi Company who would like to make a comment.
- Mr. Satorousky provided his comments.
- Commissioner Green asked if there is Port police in the area.

- Mr. Richard confirmed there is Port police and parking lot attendants who moves the traffic along.
- Commissioner Chase asked to include an overview report on enforcement and resources available.
- Mr. Richard reported that his staff goes out there at least once a week and a task force for the illegal transportation, but his concern is when there is no LADOT presence in the area.
- Mr. Richard asked to clarify if the Commission would like an enforcement plan.
- Commissioner Chase confirmed an enforcement plan.
- Mr. Richard shared that the cruise ship schedule is online and staff is assigned to go out to the Port when there is resource available.

Commissioner Chase moved, seconded by Commissioner Green to go into Closed Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item No. 7 – Appeal of Robert Eugene II Boyd Concerning the Department’s Decision to Cancel the Taxicab Driver Application, Pursuant to Taxicab Rule Book Section 600, Rules 607 and 615

Pearl Pantoja, Transportation Investigator, reported that Mr. Boyd notified the Department yesterday requesting an extension via Yellow Cab, he is out of State and unable to make the hearing.

Questions, answers, and comments were provided.

- Commissioner Zepeda asked if the Commission has provided an extension to this person in the past.
- Mr. Richard confirmed that we have provided an extension to other drivers but not to this driver.
- Commissioner Chase asked when this individual was notified of his appearance for his appeal.
- Mr. Pantoja reported the timeline of the appeal request, notification to the appellant of hearing, and the extension request from the appellant.
- DCA Dufner stated how this individual requested the right to a hearing and expressed that he is not available right now, and advised the Commission to respect the individual’s request for a Continuance and make sure he gets a hearing.
- The Commissioners agreed to grant the extension to the individual for next month.

Commissioner Chase moved to exit the Closed Session and return to General Session. Unanimously APPROVE.

### ADJOURNMENT – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.7

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.



