

**BOARD OF TAXICAB
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

RITA L. ROBINSON
General Manager

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2009
10:00 A.M.**

CONVENED

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 10:07 a.m., in Room 1050, City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

President Iwasaki 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.

Item No. 1 – Roll Call

Present: President Bruce Iwasaki, Vice President Dennis F. Hernandez, Commissioners Kim Pattillo Brownson; and Sergio Siderman arrived at 10:20 a.m. during Item No. 6; Amir Sedadi, Assistant General Manager, arrived at 10:25 a.m. during Item No. 6; Shelley Smith, Assistant City Attorney, and Thomas Drischler, Taxicab Administrator.

Absent: Commissioner Andrea A. Alarcon

Item No. 2 – Minutes

Vice President Hernandez moved, seconded by Commissioner Kim Pattillo Brownson to adopt the minutes of April 29, 2009. Unanimously APPROVED.

Item No. 3 – Communications

Patricia Sanchez, Commission Executive Assistant, distributed the following:

- Letter from Michael Calin, General Manager – Bell Cab, dated May 5, regarding Item No. 7 – ADA compliant wheelchair accessible vehicle authorities for selected taxicab operators.

Item No. 4 – Commission Business

There was no new Commission business to report.

Item 5 – Administrator’s Report

Thomas Drischler, Taxicab Administrator, reported on the following:

- Staff is working with Legislative Advocate in Sacramento on Senate Bill 201, by Senator Oropeza, to increase the penalties for and effectiveness of the 30-day bandit vehicle seizure law, found in the CVC Section 211004.
- Staff is reviewing on Assembly Bill 709, by Assemblyman Ted Lieu, that will mandate criminal history background checks for all drivers of charter party carriers licensed by the State PUC, that includes limousine and town car drivers.
- Last week, Bell Cab put a Toyota Prius into service. Even with the safety shield, passengers have plenty of legroom.
- Staff received a letter from South Bay Cooperative, dba United Checker, asking approval for six different models of hybrids, each of which is rated as getting 30 mpg or better in City driving.
- Management/Council budget hearings continue and there is no word if the Bureau of Franchise and Taxicab Regulation will retain some or all of its vacant positions.
- The Hollywood Business Improvement District, the Hollywood Historic Trust and Councilmember Eric Garcetti’s office are coordinating a hail-a-taxi promotion for Hollywood. Similar signs posted in downtown will be posted throughout the Hollywood business area.

President Iwasaki requested that staff present a report on both the downtown and Hollywood hail-a-taxi program at a future Board meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Public Forum was taken.

INFORMATION ITEM

Item No. 6 – Approval of recommended consultant for contract award to conduct independent study of the City’s Taxicab Regulatory Program (C.F. 08-0531)

Roxanne Williams, Senior Management Analyst and Jeannine Brands, Transportation Engineering Associate, presented the report. The Department recommends Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates as the consultant for the contract to study the City’s Taxicab Regulatory Program and to assist the Department with the development of the 2010 Taxicab Re-Franchising Plan.

Public forum was taken.

Question and answer session ensued. Staff will provide a copy of the matrix to the Commissioners.

ACTION ITEM

Item No. 7 – Recommendations for award of new ADA compliant wheelchair accessible vehicle authorities for selected taxicab operators.

Roxanne Williams, Senior Management Analyst and Jeannine Brands, Transportation Engineering Associate, presented the report. In April 2008, the Department applied for a New Freedom Grant through the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) to address increased and improved ADA accessible paratransit services to the City’s disabled community. In August 2008, the FTA awarded the Department \$2,000,000.

Public forum was taken.

Question and answer session ensued. The Commissioners requested that staff contact the Department of Disability and request their input on this issue.

After discussion, Vice President Hernandez moved, seconded by Commissioner Siderman to table this item. Unanimously APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.