

**BOARD OF TAXICAB
COMMISSIONERS**

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

RITA L. ROBINSON
General Manager

BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2009
10:00 A.M.

CONVENED

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened on Thursday, June 18, 2009, at 10:10 a.m., in Room 1070, 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, Commissioner Kim Pattillo Brownson; Rita L. Robinson, General Manager; Amir Sedadi, Assistant General Manager; Shelley Smith, Assistant City Attorney, and Thomas Drischler, Taxicab Administrator.

Absent: Commissioners Sergio J. Siderman and Andrea A. Alarcon

Item No. 2 – Minutes

Vice President Hernandez moved, seconded by Commissioner Pattillo Brownson to adopt the minutes of May 6, 2009. Unanimously APPROVED.

Item No. 3 – Communications

There were no new communications to report.

Item No. 4 – Commission Business

There was no Commission business to report.

Item 5 – Administrator’s Report

Thomas Drischler, Taxicab Administrator, reported on the following:

- Greene Taxi Committee – waiting direction from the Mayor’s office
- Wheelchair accessible grants – will submit a revised Board Report to the Commission
- Franchise and Taxicab Bureau – due to the City’s budget crisis will have a 10% pay cut and two furlough days a month
- Transit store complaints – failure to accept Cityride script and credit card payments
- The City Council and Mayor approved the continuation of the Bandit Taxicab Enforcement Program
- The Transportation Committee approved the limousine waybill inspection ordinance
- The Senate Bill 201 was approved last month by the State Senate, upholding the Department’s ability to conduct 30-day bandit seizures
- On Monday, June 15, the Hollywood Property Owners’ Alliance, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and Council President Eric Garcetti announced the installation of about 300 “hail-a-taxi” signs in Hollywood
- In the near future, there will be a Board Report on the security camera pilot program
- Waiting to hear from Taxicab Companies if they are interested in using the cell phone payment process for taxicab rides offered by Verrus and other companies

Question and answer session ensued.

President Iwasaki requested that the following items be on the agenda for future Board meetings:

- Status report on locations of taxicab stands and parking meters
- Signage required inside taxicabs in order to use Verrus or any other companies to process payments by cell phone for taxicab rides

Rita Robinson congratulated President Bruce Iwasaki on his reappointment by the Mayor to the Taxicab Commission. She also informed them of the following:

- That she will be unable to attend Taxicab Board meetings, due to conflicting meetings with her MTA Board meetings. But depending on her availability, she will attend the Taxicab Board meetings.
- City facing mandatory furloughs on every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month; which amounts to 10 percent pay cut.
- Vacancies will not be filled
- Traffic Officers work schedule; revenue generated and enforcement responsibilities
- Thanked the Board for all their support and cooperation with staff

PUBLIC FORUM

Public forum was taken.

ACTION ITEM

Item No. 6 – Assessment of monetary penalties to L. A. Checker Cab, concerning the tenth, eleventh and twelfth violation of the terms and conditions of their Franchise Ordinance No. 173655, Section 5.5, Item 3, within the twelve-month period, pursuant to Board Order No. 008

Robert Johnson, Senior Transportation Investigator, presented the report.

Yevgeny Smolyar, L.A. Checker Cab President, and Niel Evans on behalf of L. A. Checker Cab addressed the Board.

Question and answer session ensued.

Public forum was taken.

Vice President Hernandez moved, seconded by Commissioner Pattillo Brownson to continue this item to the next Board meeting. Unanimously APPROVED.

Commissioner Pattillo Brownson moved, seconded by Vice President Hernandez to adjourn to Executive Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT
CODE SECTION 54956.7**

Item No. 7 – Appeal of Mr. Pawan Kumar Ahluwalia, concerning the Department’s January 27, 2009, cancellation of his replacement taxicab driver permit, pursuant to Board Order 471, Rule 655 (a) – no company sponsor

Commissioner Pattillo Brownson moved, seconded by Vice President Hernandez to deny applicant’s appeal. Unanimously APPROVED.

Item No. 8 – Appeal of Ms. Lynn Marshall concerning the Department’s February 18, 2009, denial of her new taxicab driver permit, pursuant to Board Order 471, Rule 607 – no company sponsor

Commissioner Pattillo Brownson moved, seconded by Vice President Hernandez to grant the applicant’s appeal. Unanimously APPROVED.

Item No. 9 – Appeal of Mr. Sikner M. E. Hossain, concerning the Department’s December 1, 2008, cancellation of his new taxicab driver permit, pursuant to Board Order 471, Rule 657 and Rule 607 – no company sponsor

President Iwasaki continued the appeal of Mr. Sikner M. E. Hossain to the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Pattillo Brownson moved, seconded by Vice President Hernandez to adjourn to Regular Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.