

**BOARD OF TAXICAB  
COMMISSIONERS**

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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**  
CALIFORNIA



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA  
MAYOR

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

100 S. MAIN STREET, 10<sup>th</sup> FLOOR  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

RITA L. ROBINSON  
General Manager

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**CONVENED**

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened on Thursday, July 30, 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, and Commissioner Kim Pattillo Brownson; Amir Sedadi, Assistant General Manager; Shelley Smith, Assistant City Attorney, and Thomas Drischler, Taxicab Administrator.

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

**Item No. 2 – Minutes**

Vice President Hernandez moved, seconded by Commissioner Pattillo Brownson to adopt the minutes of June 18, 2009. Unanimously APPROVED.

**Item No. 3 – Communications**

There were no new communications to report.

**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:

- On July 10 there was a combined bandit enforcement operation at LAX involving LAPD, LADOT and Airport Police. There were sixteen arrests and impounds made. This operation resulted in arrests of some limousine and towncar drivers who had PUC and airport permits but did not have any prearranged business.
- So far there have been 700 bandit arrests and impounds made this year.
- The Emergency Operations Division and LAPD have now worked seven consecutive months in which the operations include participation by LADOT investigators who have been seizing bandit vehicles for 30-day holds.
- The City Attorney’s office has the modified draft of the charter vehicle waybill ordinance and is now under final review.
- Hotel doormen continue to be compensated by transportation providers and consequently, an ordinance should be drafted to prohibit this behavior to continue.
- The Taxicab and Franchise Regulation Bureau continues to deal with a loss of personnel due to attrition of positions that have subsequently been eliminated from the budget. Also, many employees are getting two furloughs a month, which makes it more difficult to meet the Bureau’s objectives.
- In June, Hail-A-Taxi signs were installed throughout Hollywood.

Question and answer session ensued.

Vice President Hernandez mentioned that something needs to be done to send the message across to limousine drivers that they cannot operate without waybills and to request assistance from the PUC.

Amir Sedadi reported that the Mayor approved the contract with Nelson Nygaard on July 20. Mr. Iwasaki and the Board request that staff with respect to both certain language on the Commission’s authority in the Request for Proposal and a recitation of the Commission’s action of the contract that those did not reflect what took place or maybe what is allowed to take place. The Board would like an explanation of that and the chronology of events.

Mr. Sedadi also spoke about the impact of furloughs and short-work schedules will have on the Department’s objectives.

## **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 Board Report.

Yevgeny Smolyar, President – L. A. Checker Cab, addressed the Board.

Speakers' forum was taken.

Vice President Hernandez moved, seconded by Commissioner Pattillo Brownson to approve staff's recommendations, assess the monetary penalties of L. A. Checker Cab to \$15,000 payable to the Department of Transportation by Monday, August 31, 2009, before 3 p.m. and if there are any other violations in the future, the Board will likely impose the maximum penalty. Unanimously APPROVED.

**Item No. 7 - Evaluation and recommendations for grant-funded ADA wheelchair accessible vehicle authorizations**

Tom Drischler, Taxicab Administrator, presented the Board Report.

Speakers' forum was taken.

Commissioner Pattillo Brownson moved, seconded by Vice President Hernandez to approve staff's recommendations with the amendment that all the Franchise Taxicab Companies (not just Bell Cab Company) provide the Board with a written commitment to use all its wheelchair accessible vehicles to improve its service level to the disabled community. 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. 8 – 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**

The Board granted a continuance for Mr. Hossain’s appeal.

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 12:40 p.m.