

**BOARD OF TAXICAB  
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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

**BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**CONVENED**

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened on Thursday, September 3, 2009, at 9:10 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 Kim Pattillo Brownson, Commissioners Dennis F. Hernandez and Andrea A. Alarcon; Rita L. Robinson, General Manager; Amir Sedadi, Assistant General Manager; Shelley Smith, Assistant City Attorney, and Thomas Drischler, Taxicab Administrator.

**Absent:** Commissioner Sergio J. Siderman

**Item No. 2 – Minutes**

Vice President Kim Pattillo Brownson moved, seconded by Commissioner Dennis F. Hernandez to approve the minutes of July 30, 2009. Unanimously APPROVED.

### **Item No. 3 – Communications**

Patricia Sanchez, Commission Executive Assistant, distributed a copy of the City Council Committee Assignments.

### **Item No. 4 – Commission Business**

Vice President Kim Pattillo Brownson inquired if staff has received any communication from the Mayor's Office as to how to proceed on the Green Taxi Issue.

Mr. Drischler responded that staff has not received any communication from the Mayor's Office on this issue.

Commissioner Kim Pattillo Brownson nominated to reelect President Bruce G. Iwasaki for President, seconded by Vice President Dennis F. Hernandez. Unanimously APPROVED.

Commissioner Andrea A. Alarcon nominated Commissioner Kim Pattillo Brownson for Vice President, seconded by Vice President Dennis F. Hernandez. Unanimously APPROVED.

### **Item 5 – Administrator's Report**

Thomas Drischler, Taxicab Administrator, reported on the following:

- The Bandit Taxi Enforcement Program (BTEP) has worked eight details in August, resulting in 72 arrests and 71 vehicle seizures. To date, they have conducted 81 details, made 685 arrests and seized or impounded 639 vehicles.
- The BTEP broke their record on August 1. They made 19 arrests and 18 vehicle impounds; and on August 12, made 9 arrests and 9 vehicle impounds.
- The problem with bandit towncars at hotels continues. They have a very negative impact on licensed taxi drivers who rely on hotel business.
- Mr. Drischler received a petition signed by more than 50 taxicab drivers naming the following Hotels as permitting the service of illegal towncars to their customers: Downtown Sheraton, Holiday Inn, Marriott, Hilton Chequers, Biltmore, LAX Sheraton Gateway and Crowne Plaza.
- Mr. Drischler distributed to the Board a letter from Sam Jeldi, Operations Manager of L.A. Transportation Group, regarding Wilshire Grand Hotel also permitting illegal towncars.
- The final enactment of the TCP Waybill Ordinance is expected soon, authorizing personnel to cite, arrest and impound illegal towncar operators.
- The Department is no longer accepting installations from Envisioncam cameras because they do not comply with specifications.
- The Department relocated their vehicle inspection site to parking lot number 755, located at 237 South Los Angeles Street.
- On September 2, there was a bandit taxi driver shot in Hollywood.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Public forum was taken.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Item No. 6 – Taxicab Rates – Semi-Annual Review of Taxi Cost Index (first half of 2009) with no recommendation for change in taximeter rates**

Jeannine Brands, Transportation Engineering Associate, presented the Board report.

Question and answer session ensued.

Commissioner Alarcon moved, seconded by Vice President Pattillo Brownson to approve staff's recommendations. Unanimously APPROVED.

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

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

### **Item No. 7 – 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**

Vice President Pattillo Brownson moved, seconded by Commissioner Alarcon to continue applicant's appeal. Unanimously APPROVED.

### **Item No. 8 – Appeal of Ms. Mher Tovmasyan concerning the Department's April 29, 2009, cancellation of his new taxicab driver permit, pursuant to Board Order 471, Rule 608 – no company sponsor**

Commissioner Hernandez moved, seconded by Commissioner Alarcon to deny the applicant's appeal. Unanimously APPROVED.

**Item No. 9 – Appeal of Mr. Sargis Henrik Shakhbazian, concerning the Department’s December 10, 2008, denial of his new taxicab driver permit, pursuant to Board Order 471, Rule 608 – no company sponsor**

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

**Item No. 10 – Appeal of Mr. Aleksandr Popilyanu, concerning the Department’s November 24, 2008, denial of his new taxicab driver permit, pursuant to Board Order 471, Rule 608 – no company sponsor**

Commissioner Hernandez moved, seconded by Commissioner Alarcon to deny the applicant’s appeal. Unanimously APPROVED.

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

President Iwasaki mentioned that this is the last Board meeting attended by Commissioner Andrea A. Alarcon who will be appointed to the Board of Public Works Commission.

Commissioner Alarcon thanked the Department for their leadership and assistance while serving on both the Taxicab and Transportation Commissions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.