


**BOARD REPORT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Date: July 17, 2025

To: Board of Taxicab Commissioners

From: Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager 

Subject: **RECOMMENDATION TO PERMANENTLY REVOKE TAXICAB DRIVER MORRIS ELIJAH AARON'S DRIVER PERMIT FOR VIOLATING TAXICAB RULE BOOK SECTION 800, RULE 825**

That the Board:

1. **FIND** that on May 20, 2025, the Department investigated Morris Elijah Aaron (Aaron) due to a discourtesy complaint submitted by a passenger. The investigation found that Aaron violated Taxi Rule 825 (Discourtesy) on May 13, 2025.
2. **FIND** that the Department's investigation determined that Aaron violated Taxi Rule 825 (Discourtesy). Aaron was issued Hearing Notice 069489 on May 23, 2025. On May 29, 2025, a hearing was held and Aaron was found guilty of violating Taxi Rule 825.
3. **INFORM** Aaron that he is permanently revoked from possessing a Los Angeles City taxicab driver permit due to the violation he has committed.

INITIATED BY

On May 29, 2025, the Department recommended the revocation of permit #631552 held by Aaron, who was found guilty of violating Taxi Rule 825. During his hearing, Aaron was given the opportunity to submit a "Request for Hearing Before the Board of Taxicab Commissioners" appeal form pursuant to Taxicab Rule Book Section 900, Rules 905. Aaron refused to sign the Appeal document and the Hearing Outcome document in fear of self-incrimination. Additionally, Aaron was advised in person and by email (Attachment 1) that he had 10 days to sign the Appeal form document.

DISCUSSION

The Department issued Aaron his initial taxicab driver permit on January 31, 2019, to work for Yellow Cab. Aaron's current taxicab driver permit is valid for United Independent Taxi Cooperative Inc. (UITC) cab company and will expire on March 19, 2027. On May 13, 2025, a complaint was submitted alleging that Aaron was physically and verbally abusive towards the complainant and his family.

Shortly after arriving at the LAX-IT lot, the complainant and his family entered UITC cab #135, driven by Aaron. The complainant claims that shortly after Aaron was given the drop off location, he was asked why they were taking a taxi instead of an Uber. The complainant responded "We're already here so we will just take a taxi." It was at that time that Aaron used the Uber application to ascertain the price for a trip to the same drop off location. As the ride resumed, the complainant claimed that an argument had taken place (the specifics of that argument were not given). The complainant attempted to take a photograph of Aaron's LADOT driver permit that was affixed to the dashboard. It was at that point that

Aaron reached over and aggressively slapped the complainant's phone out of his hand in order to prevent the photograph from being taken. Aaron began shouting at the complainant and asked why he was trying to take the photograph.

Once they arrived at the residence, the disagreement continued. The complainant attempted to enter the vehicle to pay the fare, but was told by Aaron that the "trip was on him." As the complainant began walking away, Aaron changed his mind and requested that he pay the fare. The complainant responded "you said the fare was on you." As he continued to walk away, Aaron shouts, "You better not fucking complain asshole, you got a free ride." Before departing, Aaron repeated once more "you better not complain asshole, you got a free ride."

On May 23, 2025 Aaron arrived at LADOT headquarters for a follow-up interview. Staff interviewed Aaron and he was asked to write a detailed memo (Attachment 2) as to what took place that afternoon. Aaron added that he was going through some personal issues and had realized that maybe he shouldn't have acted in that manner. He also added that he considered taking "anger management" classes. After gathering the information and reviewing the video that was provided, staff concluded that Aaron was in violation of Taxi Rule 825-Discourtesy. Aaron agreed to sign the Hearing Notice and was scheduled for a hearing on May 29, 2025. An Investigative report was submitted summarizing the findings of this encounter. (Attachment 3)

On May 29, 2025, Aaron attended his hearing conducted by Investigative staff, who documented the meeting in a memorandum (Attachment 4). Aaron's recollection of the events that occurred coincided with that of the complainant. Aaron admitted that he was "triggered" by the attempt to take photographs and his immediate reaction was to "push the passenger's arms away." Aaron was informed there was video footage, but continued to deny being argumentative and using vulgar language. Aaron admitted he could have handled the situation differently and looked into attending anger management classes. Aaron refused to sign the Hearing Outcome Form. Staff advised Aaron that his permit would be recommended for permanent revocation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered and the totality of the findings, the Department recommends that Aaron's LADOT driver permit be revoked permanently and be denied from holding any future City of Los Angeles driver or attendant permit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On June 12, 2025, Aaron, represented by his attorney Robert Borowski, appeared at the LADOT office. He formally appealed the Department's permit revocation by submitting an Authorized Representative Letter of Authorization Form (Attachment 5) and a Request for Hearing Before the Board of Taxicab Commissions form (Attachment 6).

During the meeting, Attorney Borowski was informed that the Board meeting was scheduled for June 18, 2025, at 10 a.m. The Attorney acknowledged the hearing date and left with his client. On the same day, Attorney Borowski emailed a request for an extension, stating that he required additional time to review all evidence and reports related to his client. The Department approved the extension, rescheduling the hearing for the subsequent Board meeting in July.

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

Taxicabi Rule 825. A driver shall provide prompt, efficient service and be courteous at all times to the general public, other city-permitted taxicab drivers, and to City Investigators/Officers. Minor discourtesies may be forgiven. Unwanted conversation, verbal abuse, and/or profanity shall be punished accordingly. **Discriminatory based discourtesies shall result in permit revocation.** The citing Investigator/Officer shall provide a supplemental written report of the incident, including the names, addresses and/or telephone numbers of all witnesses. Drivers whose permits are revoked for discrimination shall submit evidence of enrollment and passing of a recognized class in Anti-Discrimination training when applying for a new driver permit. If verbal abuse and/or profanity escalates into physical abuse, threatened or otherwise, or to throwing objects, such discourtesies shall be punished accordingly.

Taxicab Rule 905. Appeal of Department Assessed Penalties - Driver and Taxicab Services Company

Violations: A driver or Taxicab Services Company may appeal the decision of the Department by filing with the Department an Appeal Request Form within ten working days of the Department hearing. Such Appeal Form shall present the basis for protesting the decision of the Department.

SEC. 71.07. THE BOARD'S POWER TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND DRIVER, ATTENDANT, OR VEHICLE PERMITS (Title and Section Amended by Ord. No. 165,491, Eff. 3/19/90.)

The Board shall have the power after public hearing to deny, revoke, suspend or cancel any driver, attendant, or vehicle permit for which this article makes provision. The exercise of such power, except in an emergency situation involving public health and safety, shall be subject to the affected permittee having been given adequate notice of the hearing, the proposed action, the reasons thereof, a copy of the charges upon which the action is based, and the permittee shall have the right to respond, either orally or in writing.

SEC. 71.08. GROUNDS FOR DENIAL, REVOCATION, SUSPENSION OR CANCELLATION OF PERMIT (Amended by Ord. No. 150,456, Eff. 12/30/77.)

The following shall constitute grounds for denial, revocation, suspension or cancellation of any driver, attendant, or vehicle permit for which this article makes provision: **(First para. Amended by Ord. No. 165,491, Eff. 3/19/90.)**

(a) Arrest for the commission of any crime while driving a vehicle defined in Section [71.00](#) or any crime involving moral turpitude;

(b) Violation of any rule or regulation of the Board, any section of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, Los Angeles Administrative Code and other ordinances of the City, any rule or regulation of the Department of Airports, and any section of a State Statute or Administrative Code, relating to the operation of a vehicle defined in Sec. [71.00](#) and for which a permit is required under this article.

Attachments

1. Email Notification
2. Appellant's written statement
3. Original Investigation report
4. Hearing Outcome Memorandum
5. Authorized Representative Letter of Authorization Form

6. Request for Hearing Before the Board of Taxicab Commissions Form

Evidence

1. Ring Video (3)
2. Taxicab Interior Video (1)

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