


BOARD REPORT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: September 18, 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)

MS/jr



Joe Richard II <joe.richard@lacity.org>

Hearing 069489 - Appeal

Pedro Candia <pedro.candia@lacity.org>

Fri, May 30, 2025 at 3:51 PM

To: morrisaaron0516@gmail.com

Cc: Yohannes M <yohannesm@unitedtaxi.com>, Joe Richard II <joe.richard@lacity.org>

Good afternoon Mr. Aaron,

As was explained to you yesterday, this is to remind you that you have until June 12, 2025 to file an appeal on the decision made at your hearing that was conducted on Thursday, May 29, 2025.

The appeal can be filed at our LADOT office located at [100 Main St, Los Angeles, CA 90012](#).

Pedro Candia

Transportation Investigator

For-Hire Investigation & Enforcement



Los Angeles Department of Transportation

(213) 972-8453 Desk

(213) 248-1743 Mobile

May 23, 2025 07:25 Am.
FRIDAY.

I must have pick a 4 PAX passenger from
airport to EL Segundo and friendly joke I
blurted out this a Km jameico CAR. So Bag
pack have to go in Trunk Compartment. I
protect my new CAR/new leather seat
w/ Bag packs and zippers do not tear into
my leather seats. Upon reaching ~~my~~ their
~~distance~~ destination, Pax wife was
photographing me and so I did too.
Did try to pay for Credit card, Sir Ride
is Free, I had a second thought I will
Charge you, oh well its a free Ride.
That was it. so went ~~at~~ my way to

I am sorry this happen, I do have
a clean record with DoJ.
It's all I can say and Remember.
My nephew in Vietnam look like King ~~my~~
Talk to ~~the~~ home every other Days.

Markis Aaron



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 23, 2025

TO: Hearing Officer
Bureau of Meter Collection Security and Investigations

FROM: Michael Suarez (#1022) Transportation Investigator
Bureau of Meter Collection Security and Investigations

SUBJECT: **HEARING 069489 MORRIS E. AARON**

SUMMARY

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, I was assigned complaint #00393680. The complainant, David Chan alleges UITC Driver Morris E. Aaron of being physically and verbally abusive towards him and his family.

INVESTIGATION

On May 13, 2025, David Chan, his wife, and two children requested a taxi from the LAX-IT lot to their residence in El Segundo. They entered unit #135, Driven by **MORRIS E. AARON** (Permit#631552). After giving Aaron the address, he appeared to be annoyed due to the fact it was a short trip. Before departing the LAX-IT lot, Mr. Chan stated that on two separate occasions, Aaron asked why they did not take an UBER instead. Mr. Chan replied, "We're already here, we will just take a taxi."

Shortly after departing the LAX-IT lot, Mr. Chan attempted to take a photograph of Mr. Aarons LADOT driver permit. It was at that time that Aaron began shouting at Mr. Chan, reached over, and slapped Mr. Chan's phone out of his hand. Mr. Chan states that the ride continued with arguing along the way. No video was available because the 100-hour limit had elapsed and automatically written over.

Once the trip concluded, Aaron was removing the luggage from the rear of the vehicle while continuing a heated conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Chan. At that time, Mr. Chan attempted to enter the vehicle to pay the fare on the Passenger Information Monitor (PIM) device. Aaron replied, "You know what, this trip is on me". As Mr. Chan started walking away from the vehicle, Aaron changed his mind and was now requesting that Mr. Chan pay the required fare. Chan replies, "You just said the trip was on you". Chan continues to walk away from the vehicle and Aaron shouts, "You better not fucking complain asshole, you got a free ride". Before entering his vehicle, Aaron shouts once more "Asshole, don't you dare complain, because you're getting a free ride".

Mr. Aaron was instructed to appear on Friday May 23, 2025 at 7:00AM for an in person fact-finding interview. Aaron was interviewed and instructed to write a memo including the sequence of events that took place.

VIOLATION

Having observed the violation, Mr. Aaron was issued a Hearing Notice for violation of Taxi Rule:

825-A driver shall provide prompt, efficient service and be courteous at all time to the general public, other City permitted taxicab drivers, and to City Investigators/officers.

Unwanted conversation, verbal abuse, and/or profanity shall be punished accordingly.

If verbal abuse and/or profanity escalates into physical abuse, threatened or otherwise, or to throwing objects, such courtesies shall be punished accordingly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attached is the memo that Mr. Aaron wrote detailing the events that took place.

CONCLUSION

Hearing notice 069489 was issued to **MORRIS E. AARON** and a hearing is scheduled for May 29, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

VIOLATION HISTORY

05/24/23- 816-Driving vehicle in unsafe operating condition (**Guilty**)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Date: May 29, 2025

To: Joe Richard
Senior Transportation Investigator
For-Hire Policy and Enforcement Division

From: Pedro Candia
Transportation Investigator
For-Hire Policy and Enforcement Division

Subject: **Hearing Notice No. 069489 – Morris Elijah Aaron**

On Thursday, May 29, 2025, a hearing was conducted on taxicab driver, **MORRIS ELIJAH AARON**, for allegations of *Violation Rule Code 825 -- Discrimination, or Discourteous*. The complainant is alleging that the driver was both physically and verbally abusive to him and his family during a ride from LAX to El Segundo.

Morris Elijah Aaron appeared for his hearing at LADOT headquarters on the aforementioned date. He was briefed on the accusations made against him and was asked if he could recall the incident, to which he responded 'yes.' I then asked him if he could tell me what occurred.

He immediately stated that he was not a racist against Asians and that he has family that are Asian. He attempted to show me pictures from his cellphone of family members. When I refused to let him continue showing me pictures, he appeared to get nervous. I then told him to tell me what happened on the ride.

He stated that on the date of the incident, the passengers boarded his vehicle and that he had a brief conversation with the passenger about why he decided to take a taxicab instead of an Uber for the ride. He stated that he went on his cellphone to check the price difference between a taxi and an Uber for the cost of the ride. I asked him if it was a common practice for taxicab drivers to recommend to passengers what type of transportation services they should take on rides, to which he replied 'no.' He then went on to say that he was upset by a comment the passenger made regarding the ride. During the ride, he stated that the passenger started taking pictures of his LADOT Identification that was on the dash of his vehicle. He stated that he was triggered by the passenger taking pictures of his ID and that his immediate reaction was to push the passenger's arms away. He went on to say that after looking back at the incident, he could have handled the situation better. Even after notifying him of video of the incident, I asked him if he was argumentative and used vulgar language during the ride, which he replied 'no.' He said that after he dropped off the family, he felt he was wrong for his actions and told the passenger that the ride was free. He stated that the passenger made a gesture and walked away as he told him the ride was free. He said the passenger's gesture made him upset and decided to charge him for the ride. He stated that he decided to leave without collecting the fare for the ride.

At the conclusion of the interview, Morris Elijah Aaron, stated that he was going through some personal issues and that he already looked into attending 'Anger Management' therapy to help him deal with his anger issues. He also stated that he sometimes takes medication to deal with depression. He admitted that after reflecting on the incident, he realized he was wrong and could have handled the situation better.

Based on the information gathered and the totality of the findings, I concluded that there was sufficient evidence that proved **MORRIS ELIJAH AARON**, was in violation of Rule Code 825. At the conclusion of the hearing, I informed him that he would be recommended to have his LADOT Taxicab Driver Permit (Permit ID No. 631552) revoked. He was informed that he had 10 working days to appeal the decision. He refused to sign the Hearing Outcome form and file an appeal. He stated that he would speak to a lawyer because he did not want to sign or fill-out something that would incriminate him.

Authorized Representative
LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

Administrative Hearing Date: 6/12/25 Hearing Notice No. 069489
 Company Name: United Independent Taxi
 California Driver License No. N6541546 Permit No. 631552
 I, Morris Aaron, hereby appoint Robert E. Borowski
Print full name Print full name

as my representative for the purposes expressed herein:

I grant my representative full authority to act in any reasonable and necessary manner for the purposes of resolving the issues being discussed during this Administrative Hearing.

My representative shall have the power to:

1. Hear all evidence presented in this Hearing, including disciplinary histories, Department of Justice Reports, and Department of Motor Vehicle records
2. Present evidence on my behalf
3. Discuss any and all remedies, including disciplinary actions as necessary
4. Render a decision and/or outcome on my behalf

I understand that by signing this form I am granting Robert Borowski full authority to present evidence, hear testimony and to render a decision/outcome on my behalf.

MORRIS AARON
 Company/Driver/Attendant – print full name

Date: 06/12/2025

[Signature]
 Driver/Attendant/Company Signature

Authorized Representative: Robert E. Borowski

Name of Firm, if applicable: _____

California Driver License No.: N7318263

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Attachment 6

REQUEST FOR HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS

Driver's D.O.T. Permit Number: _____

Hearing Notice No.: 069489

Name (Print): Morris Aaron

Street Address: 5342 W 124th PLACE

Telephone No.: (310) 344-4792

As provided in Section 71.09 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, I hereby request a hearing before the Board of Taxicab Commissioners on the matter of:

- ☐ Driver/Attendant Permit – DENIAL
- ☐ Driver/Attendant Permit – DENIAL – Falsification of Application
- ☐ Driver Permit Application – DENIAL – Cheating on Taxicab Driver Test
- ☐ Driver/Attendant Permit – CANCELLATION
- ☒ Driver/Attendant Permit – REVOCATION
- ☐ Driver/Attendant Permit – SUSPENSION
- ☐ Vehicle Permit DENIAL
- ☐ Vehicle Permit SUSPENSION
- ☐ Other: _____

By: Robert Borowski for Morris Aaron on: June 12, 2025

For the following violation(s)/reasons(s):

825

I protest the Department's action because:

The punishment is too severe and there are extenuating and mitigating circumstances.

I understand that:

1. I will be informed of the date, time and place of the hearing at the address I have given above. ☒
2. My failure to appear for the hearing is a waiver of my rights to a hearing and action may be taken without my being present. ☒
3. I may have an attorney present at the hearing at my own expense. ☒
4. It is my responsibility to submit to the Department any letters of Commendation, Rehabilitation, awards, and/or letters attesting to my Good Character. I further understand that it is not the responsibility of the Department to solicit these documents on my behalf. I also understand That I may present witnesses to testify before the Board in support of my cause. ☒
5. I understand that it is my responsibility to submit to the Department, upon demand, any fees that may be charged by outside agencies for copies of Arrest reports and/or other legal documents relevant to this appeal. I further understand that this appeal can not be processed until such payment has been submitted to this Department for forwarding to the outside agency. ☒







Signed: [Signature]
Drvr/Attnd Appl Form revised 051410

Date: 6/12/25


-over-

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HEARING

PLEASE READ. INITIAL EACH BOX AND SIGN AND DATE AT THE BOTTOM

 Initial	1. Approximately 7-10 days before the date of your hearing, the Commission Executive Assistant will mail a packet to your address of record. The packet will contain a copy of your appeal and a notice advising you of the exact date, time and location where your appeal will be conducted. YOU MUST BE ON TIME. You must be present in order to present your appeal. FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THE TIME AND DATE SCHEDULED WAIVES YOUR RIGHT TO BE HEARD BEFORE THE BOARD. THE BOARD HAS A RIGHT TO TAKE ACTION ON YOUR APPEAL EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT PRESENT. LAMC Section 71.09(d)
 Initial	2. Once you arrive in the hearing room, you will notice an "ON AIR" sign on the wall. Commission meetings are conducted live over radio air waves. While this sign is on, all business before the Commission can be heard by persons listening over the radio. BECAUSE APPEALS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL IN NATURE, NO APPEAL WILL BE HEARD WHILE THE "ON AIR" SIGN IS ON. Please conduct yourself and your conversations with others in a respectful manner.
 Initial	3. Appeals are heard after all other Commission business has been conducted and the Commission goes into "Executive Session." Appeals involving DMV records or criminal history are only heard in "Executive Session." Once the meeting is declared to be in "Executive Session" the "ON AIR" sign is turned off. Excluding the Commission members, the Commission Executive Assistant, the City Attorney, and the Senior Investigator presenting your appeal all others <u>not</u> associated with your appeal will be excused from the room and asked to wait in the hallway, including all other appellants. If you are asked to exit until it is time to hear your appeal, please exit the door BUT do not leave the immediate area. You will be called back in when it is time to hear your appeal.
 Initial	4. You are encouraged to bring with you any persons who can attest to your good character. Letters of recommendation will also be accepted at the time your appeal is actually before the Board. If your supporters wish to be heard, each will be given time to address the Board. With very few exceptions, the time they may speak will be limited to 2:00 minutes. This ensures that all who wish to be heard may speak.
 Initial	5. <u>The Board has the final say regarding your appeal and all decisions are final.</u> The Board is in no way obligated to decide in your favor. If the Board decides against you, do not attempt to argue back or go over the issues again. In extreme cases, where additional extenuating evidence is discovered after a hearing is held the Board <u>may</u> rehear your appeal. However, such cases are very rare, and it is at the complete discretion of the Board whether or not to rehear your appeal. Requests to rehear an appeal must be made in writing and filed with the Commission Executive Assistant. Please understand that the Board has no legal obligation to rehear your case, if it decides that your request has no merit. LAMC Section 71.09.1
 Initial	6. If the Board finds in your favor and grants your appeal, the Department will process and issue you a new permit at no charge. The Executive Commission Assistant will send you a letter confirming that your appeal was granted. Do not attempt to submit your application before receiving this letter. <u>You must be employed by a company permitted to operate in the City of Los Angeles BEFORE submitting your new application.</u> Once you receive the letter, you will be required to file a new application and submit new required documentation.

for 
 Name


 6/12/25
 Date