

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

**April 9, 2007 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard**

Members present: Chairman Hamilton, Commissioners Bennett, Banahan, McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, and Satz.

Members absent: *(Two seats on the Commission remain vacant.)*

MTC staff: Deering, Barker, Hinton, Hammond, Scherer, and Tully.

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Mr. Rudawsky arrived at 10:05 AM.

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton requested approval for the minutes of the February 23, 2007 and the March 6, 2007 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission meetings. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for Monday, May 21, 2007 at 10:00 AM at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the Auditorium. *(After the meeting, the Commission discovered the meeting room would not be available and the meeting date was changed to May 22, 2007 at 10:00 AM.)*

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Satz presented concerns about cab drivers smoking near their cabs in the garage of the airport. He requested the Commission consider banning smoking in the garages. The Director responded to the request and informed the Commissioners of his findings. According to Airport officials, the new contract with the Airport taxi companies bans smoking in the Main and East terminal lines. The new contract begins on May 1, 2007, hereby making the issue moot.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. McCarthy reported on the growth issue. The new verbiage of the growth issue may have some conflict between section 203 and 204 of the code. Mr. McCarthy proposed additional time to work with the operations committee to resolve the conflict.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director began by pointing out the statistics in the Commissioner's packets. The statutorily required letter to the Mayor and County Executive reporting the financial status of the Commission was submitted by the required April 1st deadline.

Due to a lack of response from Allen Cab Co. and St. Louis Auto Livery with regard to their investigation and suspension, a letter was sent officially revoking their CCNs and authority to operate.

Last week, a sting operation was conducted by the Agents and undercover operatives resulting in the seizure of an illegal operator's vehicle. The operator was in direct violation of a court order. In addition, he was arrested for numerous warrants. His vehicle was seized along with his top light and magnetic signs.

He reported the special event coverage including the NCAA basketball, the Frozen Four, and the Cardinal's Opening Day. Additionally, the new taxicab stands at the sporting venues have been working out very well.

The Director concluded his report by updating the Commissioners on the status of the Annual Report. The report is currently at the printers and should be released within the next week.

Some discussion ensued. With regard to the St. Louis Auto Livery and Allen Cab Company discussion, Chairman Hamilton elaborated on the executive decision made after the March meeting. The decision authorized the Director to waive the section of the code requiring a specific age of vehicle to move to a new fleet. The vehicles that were ineligible to move to a new fleet, but were still within the age limit to operate as taxicabs, were given 30 days waiver to transfer to new fleets.

A concern arose from Mr. McNutt regarding insurance claims against Allen or Auto Livery. Mr. McCarthy advised the Commission the companies' insurance was good until they went out of business. He informed the members that Michael S. O'Brien is the attorney representing Mr. Haggard and his companies. Mr. O'Brien will receive all claims and forward them to the appropriate party. Additional discussion ensued with regard to the Allen and Auto Livery license plates.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Reeves reported on the Commission's finances. Due to the early timing of the meeting this month, there are no numbers for March to report. Included in the Commissioners' packets is a copy of the FYE 2006 audit. Mr. Reeves explained the audit was clean and there was only some minor discussion with management regarding housekeeping items. Chairman Hamilton thanked Mr. Reeves for his work on the audit and the budgetary process. Mr. Reeves thanked the staff for their work and participation in the audit process.

Mr. Banahan motioned to accept the audit report prepared by Nichols, Ziemann, Ahmed and Co. Mr. McNutt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Barbara Muhammad, representing herself, addressed the Commission. She inquired about lifting the moratorium on premium sedans. Chairman Hamilton responded to her inquiry. He explained the moratorium has been lifted twice in the past two years. Although it is unlikely it will be lifted this coming year, he instructed Ms. Muhammad to submit an application and any study that would indicate the increase in demand.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Hamilton motioned to adjourn the public session and recess into an Executive Session to discuss legal matters. Mr. Rudawsky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Commission recessed to an Executive Session at 10:25 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon return from Executive Session at 11:05 AM, Vice Chairman Reeves entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Satz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

*The meeting recording was transcribed by A. Hammond.
Minutes were interpreted from the transcript by D. Barker.*