

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission
Certificate of Convenience and Necessity Hearing
July 15, 2011 @ 10:00 A.M.
Commission Headquarters, 2628 Delmar, Hearings Room

Members present: Commissioners: Hamilton, McNutt, Reeves, Rudawsky, Tucci, Asfaw, and Gidey
Members absent: Commissioners: Bennett and Satz
Legal Department: Thomas McCarthy,

MINUTES

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Hamilton and the roll was called by Beth Dunham. Chairman Hamilton explained this was not a regular meeting but a hearing for Certificate of Convenience and Necessity. Chairman Hamilton refers to Mr. McCarthy to present the items on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Brenda Knight owner of Excellence in Transportation had applied for a new premium sedan license. Director Klein said the staff had no objections to her CCN permit. The Director recommends the application for the new CCN be approved. Chairman Hamilton asks the audience if anyone has any opposition towards the new CCN, hearing none Chairman Hamilton makes the motion to approve the director's recommendation for the new CCN, seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Roll was called Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-present, Reeves-yes, Rudawsky-yes, Tucci-yes, Asfaw-yes, and Gidey-yes.

Mr. McCarthy goes over the voting procedures. He explains that if a Commissioner has a direct interest or a vote on an issue would affect that Commissioner differently than everybody else similarly situated in the industry then that Commissioner cannot vote. If the vote affects everyone the same way, then that Commissioner can vote.

The next application is for a Chapter 13 CCN application, operation of handicap accessible vehicles from Airport Best Taxi service. Chairman Hamilton explains that if those vehicles come out of service, those permits are no longer valid. Mr. McCarthy explains the new piloting program of figuring out the need for these types of handicap accessible vehicles in the St. Louis area. All handicap rides are supposed to be recorded and reported to the director on a weekly basis.

Gerald Gardner representing Airport Best asked the Commission to approve the CCN application. Mr. Gardner to explain the permits Airport Best is requesting would cover one CCN and four vehicles. The funding for the vehicles is being made through a federal grant via Paraquad, who support handicap accessible vehicles. Chairman Hamilton opens up the discussion to the audience for anyone to express opposition or approval for the CCN application.

The next order of business was the public comment session for individuals or businesses opposed or in support of the CCN application.

Kimberly Barge representing Paraquad expressed her desire that the Commission approve Chapter 13 CCN application. Paraquad posted the grant to the public and all CCN holders in the St. Louis region and chose Airport Best for the grant. Chairman Hamilton asked Ms. Barge if the Commission could have a copy of her prepared notes for the meeting to have for the record. Chairman Hamilton also wanted to

make it clear for the record that the St. Louis Metropolitan Taxicab Commission had nothing to do with Paraquads selection process on which company they were giving the grant funds for the handicap accessible vehicles.

Fred Sweets, owner of Saint Louis American Taxicab Co spoke of his approval for the Chapter 13 CCN application, expressing he agrees for more handicap accessible vehicles.

Sheila Greenbaum representing the Airport Taxi Counsel, wanted to clarify the difference between Airport Best and A-Best Taxi Service operating with the new Chapter 13 CCN application. Director Klein explained the DBA.

Mr. Biru asks Mr. McCarthy to clarify what the pilot program means under the Chapter 13 CCN. Mr. McCarthy explains the pilot program is a means of testing to see how much demand is needed in the St. Louis area for handicap accessible vehicles. Chairman Hamilton also explained to Mr. Biru the pilot program.

Director Klein stated we will make a link on our website, highlighting the companies that do have handicap accessible vehicles. Mr. Klein also said he would like the Commission to back him on getting with Paraquad and doing a press release.

Chairman Hamilton makes the motion with the Director's recommendation to approve the Chapter 13 CCN application for Airport Best Taxi Service, LLC doing business as A Best Taxi, seconded by Commissioner Reeves. . Roll was called and the application approved-Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-yes, Reeves-yes, Rudawsky-yes, Tucci-yes, Asfaw-abstain, and Gidey-no.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission a motion to adjourn the hearing was made by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Roll was called Chairman Hamilton-yes, Commissioner McNutt-yes, Reeves-yes, Rudawsky-yes, Tucci-yes, Asfaw-yes, and Gidey-yes.

Minutes were interpreted from an audio recording of the meeting by Beth Dunham.