

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission

February 23, 2007 @ 10:00 am
100 North Tucker Boulevard

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

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

MTC staff: Deering, Boutte, Hammond, Scherer, and Tully. (Hinton arrived during meeting.)

Legal Department: Counselor McCarthy

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM.

MINUTES

Chairman Hamilton requested approval for the minutes of the January 18, 2007 Metropolitan Taxicab Commission meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Reeves. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners scheduled the next Commission meeting for Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 10:00 AM at 100 North Tucker Boulevard in the Auditorium. A meeting of the Executive Committee was scheduled on March 1, 2007 at 8am to re-evaluate the status of the Allen Cab Co / St. Louis Auto Livery situation.

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NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Hamilton made an emergency agenda addition to discuss the status and address concerns regarding Allen Cab Company and St. Louis Auto Livery. The Chairman reported the actions taken by the Commission. Upon hearing rumors of the company terminating service, an investigation was launched by the Director. Agents were dispatched to determine if the company was still running normally. As of the meeting, the operations were continuing as normal and the management was still in place. The companies' insurance policies were determined to be in effect until March 5th. Chairman Hamilton reiterated the fact that the Commission's first responsibility is to provide for the safety and convenience of the general public. He warned that if the insurance is dropped or if the CCN's were suspended/revoked, the companies would be immediately closed down by the Commission.

The Commission will prepare press releases to the media in the event of any actions. A list of currently licensed CCN holders with their dispatch number will be posted on the website and distributed to the media.

Mr. McCarthy reported later in the meeting that an Agent was dispatched during the meeting to St. Louis Auto Livery/Allen Cab Company to verify the operation. He advised the Commission that the company was continuing to operate normally and the Operations Manager is the acting officer in-charge during the investigation. Mr. Michael S. O'Brien, Attorney for St. Louis Auto Livery/Allen Cab Company, notified him the evening before the meeting that they would no longer be servicing the contract they have with St. Louis Public Schools. Chairman Hamilton reminded everyone that the St. Louis Auto Livery/Allen Cab drivers must continue to accept credit cards or face immediate disciplinary action by the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS / DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Tully reported on the sports venues taxi stands. All the stands have been approved by the appropriate City departments. The signs are currently being made and will be install in the near future.

Discussion ensued regarding the special event cab stands. The Director displayed one of the Narrowcades for the Commissioners. Additional discussion was held with regard to improvements on the Mardi Gras stands and the spot inspection cards.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Reeves reported on the Commission's finances. After referring to the balance sheet and profit & loss statement for January, he reported the operations had a slight loss of \$19,051. The numbers were tracking well with the budget despite how early in the year it is. Mr. Reeves reiterated the Commission is still maintaining a strong cash position.

Mr. Reeves announced that the 2006 audit has been completed by Nichols, Ziemann, Ahmed & Co. Everything appeared satisfactory. The chief auditor conveyed some minor comments. A copy of the report will be presented to the Commissioners in the near future. Some discussion ensued regarding clarifications for the Commissioners from the Treasurer's Report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Maness, Sam Sparks, both from St. Louis Auto Livery, and Mazen Al-Khazalli of Allen Cab Co. addressed the Commission. They all had similar questions, so the Chairman requested that they combine their comments. They asked if the age requirement would be waived since they were powerless in the situation. Chairman Hamilton responded by explaining that the Commission cannot make any pronouncements, since the companies are continuing to operate and no action has been taken by the Commission. Mr. Sparks continued with a second comment admitting he "has been known to not take credit cards." The Chairman advised him not to make any voluntary admissions that could result in revocation of his license.

Zerebrook Gebru, of Midwest/Metropolitan Cab Company, addressed the Commission with questions regarding expansion of his fleets. The Director explained neither company had been full at renewal and were therefore ineligible for expansion. Chairman Hamilton then responded that the Commissioners would like to address the matter at the next meeting. Additionally, he requested that the staff look into the details and report on the status of the companies.

James McWorthy, of St. Louis Auto Livery, addressed the Commission regarding the vehicle age issue. Chairman Hamilton reiterated the inability of the Commission to act, due to the fact the company was still operating.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners concluded the public session and Chairman Hamilton motioned to move to Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rudawsky and passed unanimously. The Commissioners began the Executive Session at 10:55am.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon returning from Executive Session, Chairman Hamilton opened the Public Session strictly for adjournment. The motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Rudawsky. The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

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