

Metropolitan Taxicab Commission  
**June 23, 2020 @ 10:00 am**  
**Commission Headquarters, 2628 Delmar, Via Zoom**

Members present: Chairman: McNutt, Commissioners: Asfaw, Rudawsky, Vianello  
Satz, and Hamacher

Members Absent Commissioner Osho

Legal Department: Chuck Billings

**AGENDA & MINUTES**

- The Meeting was called to order by Chairman McNutt at 10:04 AM and the roll was called by Director Klein: Chairman McNutt-present, Commissioner Satz-present, Commissioner Asfaw-began.
- Chairman McNutt called for a motion to approve the June 23, 2020 meeting agenda. The motion was called by Commissioner Vianello and second by Commissioner Satz. Vote was taken, and the agenda approved; Chairman McNutt-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, and Commissioner Hamacher-yes, Commissioner Vianello-yes
- Following the approval of the agenda, Chairmen McNutt called for a motion to adopt the May 28, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Satz made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes, the motion was seconded Commissioner Vianello. Vote was taken, and the minutes were adopted; Chairman McNutt-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, Commissioner Hamacher-yes, Commissioner Vianello-yes
- The next meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM

- **NEW BUSINESS**

Following adoption of the agenda and meeting minutes, the following items were discussed. Director Klein introduced the CCN application for Discount Cab STL Corporation.

Mr. Billings briefed the board on how the MTC and vehicles for hire is regulated by the state statute chapter 67. Then he briefed them on the Code section 203 for the CCN that is used throughout the country for any CCN Application for any transportation not just taxi cabs. He read the section where the board is to vote on the need and necessity for a new on call taxicab company at this time.

Ms. McKinstry gave a brief review how the taxi company was formed and a little about the background of Discount Cab STL Corporation. She said that they wanted offer rides to the public at a discounted rate. She said that the drivers were experienced drivers and registered with the MTC. She talked about the statistics of Uber Drivers and moving companies nationally, as she was talking, she kept losing internet connection.

Commissioner Rudawsky asked if any of the owners were present, Ms. McKinstry said that Mr. Kareem and Mr. Mogos was available. Commissioner Rudawsky asked what the business address was? Ms.

McKinstry said right now they will use the registered agent address because until they are approved, they will not get a building.

Mr. Mogos said that they only want to own their own company and do their business.

Commissioner Rudawsky asked about the discounted price. He asked where the discount was because the price, they have on there was the maximum price? Muamer Ratusic said it will be a meter, but they would also have an app like Uber and Lyft that would give them a discounted price. Commissioner Rudawsky asked if he was going to run the meter with the app because the meter has to run. Ms. McKinstry said they was working on the meter and app issues so that they could comply with the code. Then her internet froze again. Ms. McKinstry said they could work out the fare issues, Mr. Billings told her that they could be worked out with the Director later that this hearing was just for the outline of the CCN.

Mr. Billings asked if any of the existing CCN holders wanted to say anything?

Brook Gruen from Metropolitan taxi said that there have been a lot of companies go out of business we are in a recession and Covid-19 and there is no need for a taxi company at this time. He also said if you add more taxi's it would be a disaster and it would add more misery to the industry. He said there was no work out there.

Mr. Shanayev from Chesterfield Car service said speaking logically he said Ms. McKinstry's studies have nothing to do with the transportation business in St. Louis. He said he feels that there is not enough market for the demand. He also commented on the app and meter that would in the long run create a problem.

Commissioner Vianello asked Ms. McKinstry, if there were enough taxis on the road right now for the demand in St. Louis? Ms. McKinstry replied by saying they believe there is room for more.

Mr. Billings asked if there were any other questions for the board?

Mr. Shanayev stated that there was no discrimination within the taxi industry, there is drivers of all groups. Mr. Shanayev stated that these drivers probably drove for another company and did not like something so now they want to open another company.

Mr. Billings reminded everyone that this meeting is only for the CCN. Not the criteria.

Commissioner Satz said we have 2 issues a cab company wants to be like Uber and Lyft, but this meeting is to vote on a cab company not another Uber and Lyft.

Mr. Mogos said there are 3 issues here first they are qualified to drive, the second is the charge is different and lastly, we have been driving for a long time. We are applying for a taxi commission.

Mr. Billings interrupted saying that this was going into argument.

Mr. Ratusic stated he drove for different taxi companies and all have different rates. When it comes to the APP for this generation, we need to allow people to change their lifestyle. It is time for the taxi to open their eyes.

Mr. Billings asked the Chairman if there was enough evidence to vote?

Chairman McNutt said he was prepared to vote.

Commissioner Rudawsky asked if the staff had any info that we could provide. Director Klein said we do not vote on this and gave him an example of the airport trips from May 2019 vs. May 2020.

Commissioner Vianello asked if the Application is denied can they file again. Mr. Billings said he said yes, they can it would be up to the applicant to reapply.

Commissioner Hamacher moved to vote and Commissioner Satz second.

The vote was taken Commissioner Satz-No, Commissioner Asfaw-No, Commissioner Rudawsky-No, Commissioner Hamacher-No, Commissioner Vianello-No and Chairman McNutt-No.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other public comments and no more on the agenda, Chairman McNutt called for a motion to adjourn the June 23, 2020 meeting at 11:29 AM Commissioner Rudawsky second the motion. Roll call was taken: Chairman McNutt-yes, Commissioner Satz-yes, Commissioner Asfaw-yes, Commissioner Rudawsky-yes, Commissioner Hamacher-yes and Commissioner Vianello-yes. At 11:29 AM the meeting was adjourned.

*Minutes were interpreted from an audio recording of the meeting by Sandy Page*

