

**METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION LICENSING COMMISSION**

Minutes

August 23, 2012

The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Transportation Commission (TLC) met in regular session on this date at the Metropolitan Courthouse. Present were Chair Helen Rogers, Commissioners Brian Winfrey, Rhonda Marko, Sam Patel and Curt Wallen (5). Also present were Metro Legal Advisers Theresa Costonis and Rachelle Gallimore-Scruggs along with TLC staff members Lisa Steelman, Debbie Saddler and Howard Morris.

Chair Helen Rogers called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. She read the Notice of Appeal Statement which outlined the right of appeal for TLC decision.

Minutes

Commissioner Patel with a second from Commissioner Wallen moved approval of the July 26, 2012 TLC minutes with no changes.

Approved 4-0

Public Hearing on Taxicab Certificate of Convenience and Necessity and

Additional Permits

The Chair asked Interim Director Fields to frame the public hearing. The Chair asked each of the existing taxicab companies and taxicab certificate applicants to address the TLC regarding requests. She asked them to address why additional permits were needed, how many permits were being requested and why the company should receive the permits. Commissioner Patel asked that any new companies should describe their experience as well.

The following companies and their representatives made presentations:

American-Music City Taxi, Johnny White; Black Cab, Veronica Pulley and Zeleke Awash; Checker Cab, Brandie Despange and Mulegeta Adebe; Green Cab, Melinda Grant, Tadessa Essa and Solomon Bekele; Kwik Cab, Devang Bhatt; Taxicab USA, Gifford Thornton and Michael Solomon; TennCab, Jerry Lee; United Cab, Kuldip Mann and Rajib Mann; and Volunteer Taxi, Paul Soper. The Chair recognized Metro Council Member Karen Johnson who encouraged the TLC to award permits to one of the applicants, Volunteer Cab.

The following individuals spoke Michael Rowna, Surindra Pal, Mike Kaiser, Manish Gateo, Mr. Patel, Rick Williams, Ashok Chudasama, Habib Alshawi, Osman Nor, Zalik Mohamed, Khalid Mohmud, Mohamud Qasim, Mahamud Yusuf, Sileshi Dejane, Maurice Harris, Nathan Stearn, Mohamed Hassan and David Ewing.

The chair ended the hearing for public comment.

Commissioner Wallen, with a second from Commissioner Patel, moved to grant additional certificates and permits.

Approved 4-0.

Commissioner Wallen moved that 150 permits be granted with 30 being designated as ADA compliant. There was no second.

Commissioner Winfrey moved that 40 additional permits be granted. There was no second.

Commissioner Wallen moved that 100 permits with 20 being ADA compliant be granted. There was no second.

Commissioner Marko moved with a second from Commissioner Patel that 120 permits be granted with 60 to be assigned at this meeting and 60 more to be assigned at the January, 2013 TLC meeting.

Commissioner Wallen moved that Volunteer Cab and TennCab be granted 30 permits each then consider the other 60 in January, 2013. There was no second.

Commissioner Wallen, with a second from Commissioner Marko, moved that Black Cab, TennCab and Volunteer Taxi be granted 20 permits each. Motion failed 2-3.

Commissioner Winfrey moved, with a second by Commissioner Wallen, that Volunteer Taxi be granted 30 permits.

Approved 4-0.

Commissioner Winfrey moved, with a second from Wallen, to grant 15 permits each to Taxicab USA and Checker Cab.

Approved 3-1

Commissioner Wallen moved, with a second from Commissioner Winfrey that the additional 60 permits be allocated based on applications which were considered at this meeting and would be allocated at the January, 2012 TLC meeting.

Approved: 4-0

The TLC took a five minute break and reconvened in Courthouse room 510 for the remainder of the meeting.

Application for Taxicab Driver Permit

Derrick Berry appeared to request a taxi driver permit. Doug Trimble, Yellow Cab, said he would be allowed to drive for one-year on probation along with random drug screenings. Commissioner Wallen with a second from Commissioner Patel, moved to approve the permit with probation, restriction to Yellow cab and random drug screenings for one year.

Approved: 3-0

Daahir Casseer appeared to request a taxi driver permit. Commissioner Marko, with a second from Commissioner Wallen, moved to approve.

Approved: 3-0

Esayas Fantahun appeared to request to apply for a taxi driver and owner permit. His owner's permit had been taken by the Metropolitan Police during CMA Week and he did not have a taxi driver permit, only an owner's permit. Commissioner Marko, with a second from Commissioner Patel, moved to allow reapplication for both an owner and driver permit.

Approved: 3-0

Harold Pointer's taxicab driver application was denied based on failure to appear.

Application for Wrecker Driver Permit

Clarence Knight appeared to request a wrecker driver permit. Commissioner Wallen, with a second from Commissioner Marko, moved to approve and restrict for one-year to Cotton's Towing Service.

Application for wrecker driver permits for **Dale William Elder, Matthew T. McKeon and David Michael Sneed** were denied for failure to appear.

Application For Non-Consent Towing Permit

Interstate Towing, represented by William Parrish, asked permission to operation a non-consent towing service. Commissioner Patel, with a second from Commissioner Wallen, moved to approve subject to the storage lot meeting Metro zoning, codes and TLC requirements.

Approved 3-0

Application for Transfer of Limousine Service

Amy Kemp appeared to request permission to purchase and operate **Sedan on Demand**. Commissioner Marko, with a second from Commissioner Wallen, moved to approve.

Approved 3-0

Other Business

Half Full Media, represented by Christopher French, appeared to request approval to advertise in taxicabs. Following the presentation, Commissioner Marko, with a second from Commissioner Wallen, moved to disapprove.

Disapproved: 3-0

Interim Director Fields reported that he had reviewed the RPM Study to determine if any of the suggestions overlapped suggested changes to the Metropolitan Code of Law which the TLC had been considering. He reported that other than some issues related to vehicle age, the changes were not a part of the study and were "housekeeping" in nature. He asked that the TLC allow staff to continue working on the suggested changes which was approved.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Billy Fields
Interim Director

Helen S. Rogers
Chair