

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

Minutes of

June 22, 2004

The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Transportation Licensing Commission (the "Commission") met in regular session on this date at the Metropolitan Nashville General Sessions Judicial Complex in Metro Center. The Commissioners present were Chair Cynthia Odle, Vice-Chair Sammye Woods, and Commissioners Carey Rogers and Holly Sharp (4). Also attending were Phil Baltz and Jason Bergeron from Metro Legal, Commission staff members Larry Ennis and Lisa Steelman, and Brian McQuiston, Director-Executive Secretary to the Commission.

Chair Cynthia Odle called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the April 27, 2004 meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Cynthia Odle informed attendees that the meeting would be the annual public hearing on Emergency Wrecker Service Zones, and that the Commission would also be hearing a request for a merger of two taxi companies. She thanked Commissioner Carey Rogers for his service on the Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING ON EMERGENCY WRECKER SERVICE ZONES

Chair Cynthia Odle outlined the procedure to be followed for the public hearing on the current emergency wrecker service zones. She welcomed representatives from the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, the Emergency Communications Center, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation HELP Program; and asked them to provide input to the Commission's hearing.

Gateway Bridge: In response to a question from Mr. Randy Bailey of Bailey's Wrecker Service, Lieutenant Lisa Sullivan and Officer Jon Sain from the Emergency Communications Center explained how the new Gateway Bridge would be incorporated into the zone system. Consistent with the method used for other bridges, the middle of the river is to be used as the zone boundary. Officer Sain stated that a change would be made to the ECC computer system to establish landmark reference points on both sides of the bridge to differentiate between zones.

Impound Lot: Captain Ken Pence from the Metropolitan Police Department reported that one lieutenant and three sergeants would be assigned within the next month to direct operations at the Impound Lot.

Police Officer Training: Director Brian McQuiston reported that he had met with Captain Pence, and also with Captain Goodwin and Lieutenant Hagar at the Police Academy, to begin to address a wide range of training issues related to interaction between officers on the scene and wrecker services.

TDOT HELP Program: Mr. Frank Horne and Mr. Gary Ogletree of the Tennessee Department of Transportation reported that they were satisfied with the interstate incident response service provided by the current emergency zone system.

Chair Cynthia Odle invited each wrecker company to come forward.

Bailey's Wrecker Service: Mr. Randy Bailey reported on equipment, and reported no problems with his zone assignment. He noted that he would support any future consideration the Commission might give to redraw zone boundaries.

Brown's Wrecker Service: Mr. Gary Brown reported on equipment. He noted that there had been several recent changes in the three police districts his company serves in its zone. He also noted that the zone included no section of interstate highway. Should zone boundaries be changed in the future, he requested consideration to add some interstate section to this zone.

Carter's Service Center and Wrecker Service: Mr. Jimmy Carter reported on equipment, and stated that he had no problems with his zone.

Chapman's Wrecker Service: Mr. John Graham reported on equipment. He reported there had been an increasing problem with "signal nines" over the past year. Captain Pence and Director McQuiston reported that this was one of the officer training issues that had been identified to the Police Academy.

A. B. Collier Wrecker Service: Mr. Scott Heinrich reported on equipment. **Chair Cynthia Odle** noted that A. B. Collier had assumed responsibility for the former Guess Wrecker Service zone, and asked why Guess wreckers were still observed operating in Davidson County. Mr. Heinrich reported that his company was not operating any equipment with Guess company identification. Mr. John Graham stated that Guess was likely operating as a subcontractor under a Tennessee Department of Transportation highway construction contract. **Chair Cynthia Odle** asked the staff to verify whether Guess was operating legally. She noted that A. B. Collier still had one complaint that had not been resolved. Wrecker Inspector Larry Ennis explained that the issue was open only because the insurance adjuster had not yet responded.

Cotton's Automotive and Wrecker Service: Mr. Anton Hanson reported on equipment. He stated that he was concerned about police officers not remaining on the scene after calling for wrecker services to pick up abandoned vehicles. Director McQuiston noted that this was among the training issues being discussed with the police department.

Custom Towing of Nashville: Ms. Brenda Vanderpool reported on equipment, and stated that she had no problems with her zone.

Donelson Wrecker Service: Ms. Christine Shelton reported on equipment, and stated that she was satisfied with her zone.

Gary's Wrecker Service: Mr. Gary Ray reported on equipment, and stated he was satisfied with his zone.

Hillwood Wrecker Service and Body Shop: Ms. Mertis Shope reported on equipment. She expressed appreciation for the service received at the Impound Lot, and stated she had no problems with her zone.

Martin's Wrecker Service: Mr. Mike Martin reported on equipment, and stated that things were going well in his zone.

Nashville Towing and Recovery: Mr. Darrell Greer reported on equipment. He stated that he had no zone problems, but was also concerned about "signal nines" and requirements to tow vehicles that had already been tagged by Codes. Director McQuiston noted that this was among the issues being discussed with the police department.

Smith Wrecker Service: Mr. Victor Smith reported on equipment, and noted no unresolved problems with his zone.

Tommy's Wrecker Service: **Chair Cynthia Odle** asked owner Mr. Tommy Goddard for information concerning the discovery of a dead body on his storage lot, and the subsequent confession by one of his wrecker drivers to homicide. Mr. Goddard explained that the body had been discovered in a vehicle parked in an open lot across from his business, and not in his storage lot. He noted that the driver had no criminal background prior to the incident. Mr. Goddard reported on equipment, and stated he had no problems with his zone.

Tow Pro Custom Towing and Hauling: Mr. Mike McGovern, representing Mr. Doug Williams, reported on equipment. He stated that Mr. Williams had no problems with the current zone.

West Nashville Wrecker Service: Mr. McGovern introduced Mr. Randy Bombard, new company general manager. Mr. Bombard provided a list of equipment. He stated that he was familiar with the zone, and had no problems with the current boundaries.

Vice-Chair Sammye Woods asked about the status of proposed changes to the wrecker ordinance which had been approved at the April Commission meeting. Metro Legal advisor Jason Bergeron reported that the amendment had been drafted, and would be ready for filing soon.

Vice-Chair Sammye Woods asked if Impound Lot acceptance policies were among the issues being discussed with the police department, and cited lot capacity as a long-standing problem. Captain Pence responded that the Impound Lot would soon receive a new on-site wrecker, and that new personnel assigned to the lot would be trained operators. He also noted that a recent change to auction procedures was enabling the Impound Lot to free up capacity more quickly than in past years.

Vice-Chair Sammye Woods asked how TDOT HELP response teams treated owner requests for tow services. She noted that unlicensed and uninsured wreckers continue to be a concern, and expressed appreciation to TDOT HELP for their assistance in improving awareness of this issue. Mr. McGovern emphasized that the wrecker ordinance requires that only emergency wrecker services may be used to clear traffic hazards.

There being no further questions or discussion, **Commissioner Holly Sharp** moved to retain the current zone assignments; and to add the new Gateway Bridge, using the center of the Cumberland River as the zone boundary. **Vice-Chair Sammye Woods** seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Vice-Chair Sammye Woods moved to close the public hearing on emergency wrecker zones. **Commissioner Holly Sharp** seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

TAXICAB ISSUE

Consolidation of American Taxi and Music City Taxi: Owners Johnny White and Wylene Jones appeared before the Commission to request approval for the merger of American Taxi and Music City Taxi into one company: American Music City Taxi. Mr. White explained that both companies used the same location, telephone, dispatch, zone systems, and personnel. He added that combining the two companies would simplify bookkeeping and business tax filing, and would avoid confusion in responding to customers. He noted that there would be no impact on airport lineups or drivers permits. **Vice-Chair Sammye Woods** asked if the change would affect American Taxi support to MTA; Mr. White assured her that the two vehicles required for MTA support would remain dedicated to that purpose. He stated that the company would employ a new color scheme, consisting of a blue top and white body, and incorporate a red/white/blue American Music City Taxi logo, a copy of which he presented to the Commission. **Chair Cynthia Odle** asked if there were comments or objections from other taxi company owners present. Mr. Bill Young, owner of Allied, Nashville, and Kennedy Cab companies asked to look at the logo, and indicated that he had no objections. Director McQuiston noted that there were differences in ownership between American Taxi and Music City Taxi, and that the consolidation of the two companies should be implemented as an acquisition. Mr. White and Ms. Jones assured the Commission that the companies would be combined under one of the existing corporations. **Vice-Chair Sammye Woods** asked how soon the fleet could be painted with the revised color scheme. Mr. White stated that the first vehicles to be painted would be Music City Taxi cabs, and that he would provide a schedule to the Transportation Licensing Commission office. **Commissioner Holly Sharp** moved to approve the consolidation of American Taxi and Music City Taxi into American Music City Taxi, under one of the existing parent corporations, and to accept the proposed logo and color scheme. **Vice-Chair Sammye Woods** seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by the Commission. **Chair Cynthia Odle** directed that a report on the implementation of the consolidation be included on the agenda for the July Commission meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Brian E. McQuiston
Director-Executive Secretary

Cynthia M. Odle
Chair