

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

Minutes of

March 22, 2005

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 and Commissioners Gladys Lozada, James Utley, and Sammye Woods (4). Also attending were Metro Legal advisor Jason Bergeron; Commission staff members Larry Ennis, Walter Lawhorn 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 February 22, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved.

UNITED CAB REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

Mr. Kuldip Singh, manager of United Cab, appeared before the Commission with Mr. Rajbir Singh, officer of the company. United Cab had been granted forty additional taxicab permits at the November 23, 2004 annual taxicab public hearing; Mr. Singh requested that the company be granted an extension until the end of 2005 to put his vehicles and new technology into operation. He provided Commissioners with information from the dispatching system company, and explained that they had recently advised him that the fielding of a new system would take 6-8 months, longer than his original estimate. Director Brian McQuiston stated that he had met with the sales director from Digital Dispatch Systems (DDS) in February, and confirmed this information. Mr. Singh also explained that there were at least three additional companies who would be involved in the project: United Cab and DDS would also be working with a mapping company, a radio company, and potentially an interim meter company on programming and compatibility issues. He reported that he had already purchased 13 vehicles, 20 meters and 40 radios; but that the meters and radios had to be sent back to the manufacturers. **Vice Chair Sammye Woods** asked about the meters; Mr. Singh responded that he would have to purchase an interim meter, until the new DDS meter could be approved. She asked if the new technology could be phased in; Mr. Singh said it could not. **Chair Cynthia Odle** asked Mr. Singh how many taxicabs he had, as of this date. Mr. Singh replied that he had 43 vehicles on hand, but that he had not yet put any new taxicabs in operation. He stated that purchasing the vehicles was not a problem, but that he hoped to avoid putting new taxicabs in operation until he could field the new technology across the entire United Cab fleet. Mr. McQuiston expressed concern about United Cab "holding" airport slots in the interim, should a lengthy extension be granted. **Commissioner Gladys Lozada** noted that DDS had not guaranteed delivery, and expressed concern that fielding new technology typically takes longer than expected. Mr. Singh stated that he would be willing to purchase vehicles and install old meters and radios, in order to meet an earlier deadline. **Vice Chair Sammye Woods** moved to grant United Cab an extension until June 22, 2005 to have all 70 taxicabs on line, and to fully install the digital dispatching technology and have it operational by November 23, 2005; failure to meet the November deadline would result in the forfeiture of 20 permits. **Commissioner Gladys Lozada** seconded. After discussion on the motion, **Vice Chair Sammye Woods** amended her motion and moved to grant United Cab an extension until July 31, 2005 to have all 70 taxicabs on line, and to fully install the digital dispatching technology and have it operational by November 23, 2005; failure to meet the November deadline would result in the forfeiture of 20 permits. **Commissioner Gladys Lozada** seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

TAXI DRIVER REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF COMPANY AFFILIATION

Johnny W. Tucker: Director McQuiston stated that the Commission had granted Mr. Tucker a permit in December 2004, restricted to Allied Cab. When he had requested a change of company affiliation to American Music City Taxi, he had been advised that he would have to appear before the Commission. Mr. Tucker had requested to be placed on the agenda, and a registered letter had been mailed to him; but he failed to appear. Mr. Bill Young, owner of Allied Cab, and Johnny White, co-owner of American Music City Taxi, were both present. **Chair Cynthia Odle** asked them if they knew why Mr. Tucker was not present. Mr. Young stated that Mr. Tucker had changed his mind, and was still working at Allied Cab. Director McQuiston informed Commissioners that, in accordance with the provisions of his restricted permit granted by the Commission in December 2004, Mr. Tucker had been directed to have a random drug test done on February 18, 2005, but that he did not get a sample taken until February 24. **Chair Cynthia Odle** stated that this was not a valid random drug test. She directed that another test be ordered, and told Director McQuiston to place Mr. Tucker on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Unregulated Vehicles: Mr. Young stated that the problem with unregulated transportation companies and “gypsy cabs” was increasing, and should be addressed. He stated that he had been obliged to talk to hotel management representatives about unethical practices involving some hotel employees and unregulated or illegal transportation operators. He noted that hotel managers had dismissed employees for the problem, but that it was a recurring issue. **Vice Chair Sammie Woods** asked Director McQuiston to meet with the director of the Tennessee Hotel and Lodging Association, to see what could be done to improve industry awareness of potential problems with unregulated public transportation.

Taxi Driver Request to be Added to Agenda: Mr. Braden Goldman, a taxi driver, requested to appear before the Commission. On legal advice, the Commission decided not to hear his case. **Chair Cynthia Odle** told Mr. Goldman that he could be placed on the next meeting’s agenda; in the interim, he could file a new application for a permit.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Brian E. McQuiston
Director-Executive Secretary

Cynthia M. Odle
Chair