

**Limousine Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes for the April 24, 2012
140 West Flagler Street, 908**

Members Present:

Judith Barron	Carey International, Industry Rep.
Neil Goodman	Aventura Limousine, Industry Rep
Freddy Castro	Signature Limousine, Industry Rep.
Mark Mitros	MIA Landside Operations
Luciano Aoki	Consumer Representative

Members Absent:

Freddy Wong, Jr.	Seaport Representative
William Talbert	GMCVB Representative
Antonio Meilan	Meilan Limo, Industry Rep.
Michael Solomon	USA Transportation, Industry Rep.

Staff Present:

Joe Mora	Division Director, For-Hire Transportation.
Steve Bobes	Administrative Officer, For-Hire Transportation
Raul Gonzalez	Special Project II, For-Hire Transportation
Bridgette Newsome	Secretary, For-Hire Transportation
Nancy Perez	Senior Executive Secretary, Business Affairs

Mr. Mora conducted member roll call and informed LAG members effective May 1, 2012 the department's official name would change to the Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources. Mr. Mora also advised the following members would not be present and had requested an excused absent: Tony Meilan, William Talbert, Michael Solomon and Fred Wong, Jr.

Approval of the Minutes

With absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, Mr. Mora welcomed members and requested their approval of the October 18, 2011 LAG meeting minutes. Mr. Castro offered a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Goodman, with unanimous member approval.

Mr. Mora discussed former Chairman Austin Cohen of Red Limousine. Mr. Cohen sold his company's business interest which under the established LAG rules disqualifies him from his advisory seat and role as LAG Chair. Mr. Mora noted, LAG's Vice-Chair Mr. Paul Cookley respectfully submitted his resignation due to extenuating conflicts surrounding his work schedule.

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With the absence of these two seats Mr. Mora informed members of two new LAG appointments and welcomed these members: Michael Solomon and Luciano Aoki. Respectively, Mr. Luciano Aoki will serve as the consumer representative and Mr. Michael Solomon as one of the five industry representatives.

Announcement

Mr. Goodman requested a moment of silent meditation on the sudden passing of a good friend and LAG's Vice-Chairwomen, Ms. Carla Boroday. "Carla was a strong advocate and admirable business leader for the limousine industry. Throughout her career, Carla held many different board positions both locally and nationally. Carla was a well known industry activist, a positive influence on many others and will be sorely missed by family, friends and colleagues, stated Mr. Goodman.

Selection of both LAG Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Goodman nominated Ms. Barron for Chair and Mr. Castro nominated himself. Members casted their vote and Ms. Judith Barron of Carey Limousine was selected as LAG's new Chair for a term limit of. Ms. Barron nominated Neil Goodman as Vice Chair. Members casted their vote and Mr. Goodman was selected as LAG's Vice-Chair. Members unanimously voted to accept these appointments.

Commissioner Martinez Vehicle Entry Age Proposed Ordinance-Update

Mr. Mora reviewed the sunset provisions of Commissioner Martinez Vehicle Entry Age Ordinance adopted October 4, 2011. Mr. Mora cautioned, although strictly a business decisions, companies looking to replace vehicles should do so prior to December 31, 2012. Effective January 1, 2013 the sunset provision will revert to its original status.

Mr. Castro indicated Commissioner Martinez would be introducing a new legislation regarding vehicle entry age that if adopted, would be permanent. Mr. Castro stated for the record, that the reason for this amended legislation was due to car manufacturers do not change their vehicle model/styles but every ten years. The other reason was due to the current economic situation. Mr. Castro questioned whether staff was opposed to the legislation.

Mr. Mora responded he was unaware of any pending legislation to support Mr. Castro's statement. Mr. Mora stated although Commission rules/procedures have changed recently as Commissioners now sponsor their own legislative items, staff may not always be made aware of items brought forward. Mr. Mora assured all

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they would receive a notice advising members of upcoming agenda items slated for Board consideration and suggested they attend public hearings to voice their concerns or support.

LAG Chair opened this discussion up to audience participation. Ms. Wilde question how commission meetings were run, LAG's responsibilities, and whether LAG would put these comments on the record. Ms. Fried recommended Mr. Talbert's comments from prior meetings minutes be placed on the record and Mr. Goodman agreed. In Mr. Talbert's absence, Mr. Mora clarified Mr. Talbert's long standing position and concern on use of older vehicles in the industry. Mr. Mora paraphrased Talbert's concern, "the GMVCB showcases Miami as a world class destination and keeping older vehicles in this market doesn't substantiate that fact".

Mr. Moskowitz questioned the taxi inclusion. Ms. Wilde believed this was why the advisory group was established. Mr. Mora responded, all concerns will be placed on the record. Ms. Wyatt wanted to further discuss this topic, Ms. Castro suggested it be tabled until the item is released and all LAG members were present.

Mr. Feliciano was appalled that after the tremendous amount of work the limousine industry has garnered over the years to establish an industry status of being "world class". Mr. Feliciano noted, this particular amendment would reverse work involved in the creation of the 2001 Limousine Ordinance reverting this industry backwards.

Ms. Jebwab agreed to allow 3 year old limousine vehicles to come into service but was against 7 year old limousine vehicles. Ms. Jedwab requested the department review limousine vehicle prices (currently must be at least \$42K) and lower those prices temporarily for one year. Mr. Goodman agreed with Ms. Jedwab's request and desire for the department to consider other similar vehicles such as the Chrysler 300, price range in the \$30,000 -40,000 / 6 cylinder model and designated green vehicle.

Ms. Jedwab, concerned about the lack of manufacturing vehicles, believed maybe temporary use of older vehicles would be wise considering the lack of vehicles are being built. Mr. Goodman questioned how Mr. Mora would deliver LAG's message to the Board. Mr. Goodman believed the majority were against this proposal although nothing formal has been voted upon.

Mr. Moskowitz noted he was against older vehicles in operation however had no objection to allowing 3 year old limousines into service but keeping the retirement

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age the same. Mr. Moskowitz suggested members place their concerns in writing and address these matters with the Board.

Mr. Chacon agreed with the proposed amendment and did not understand why the taxi industry was dictating the limousine vehicle age.

Mr. Davis stated, small players do not put the vast amount of miles of their vehicles as larger companies who in turn have the capital to replace vehicle more frequently.

Again, Mr. Mora reiterated that LAG members would be informed when this item is presented to the Board.

After much discussion from both members and audience, Ms. Susan Fried suggested the comments of LAG member William Talbert from previous meetings be placed on the record.

In conclusion, there was a split between industry operators, smaller operators were in favor of proposed vehicle extension legislation while, larger operators were highly opposed.

Growth Formula/Lottery

Mr. Mora discussed the onset of 2008' economic downturn and with it the lack in implementing the industries growth mechanism. Mr. Mora emphasized the time has come for members to begin discussion for implementing a growth mechanism formula. Mr. Mora informed members the Code requires development of a growth mechanism formula and he suggested members create a subcommittee to address this issue and development of a possible survey for distribution to the industry.

American Shuttle

Mr. Mora advised members Mr. Ray Gonzalez, President of American Shuttle had been invited to address members' concerns and answer any inquiries regarding his PMC application.

Industry members had various concerns regarding an American Shuttle agenda item listed on the April 9, 2012 Regional Transportation Committee meeting. After much discussion, the Commission directed County staff to review this matter with both TAG and LAG members and to clarify any misconceptions or misunderstandings prior to returning this matter to the full Board.

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Mr. Mora provided an overview of the agenda item that if approved would give American Shuttle a new passenger motor carrier certificate and allow him to provide 24 hour pre-arrange transportation service to passengers. Concurrently, American Shuttle has two existing PMC licenses and was awarded the Miami International Airport ground transportation contract.

Mr. Gonzalez answered all inquiries addressed to him and advised that if this item did not pass he would convert one of his company's existing PMC license into 24 hour transportation. Mr. Gonzalez was amenable to working out drivers' concerns at the airport and would address their complaints with personnel in his company.

Mr. Mitros noted airport business was plentiful for both taxis and shuttles and that he was fully aware of the various drivers' complaints. Landside aviation staff were mitigating all troubled areas and holding biweekly meetings to air individual driver complaints.

Enforcement of Groupon & Quick Livery Advertisements:

Mr. Mora advised County enforcement staff immediately investigate all Groupons/Quick Livery and other advertisements upon receipt. Mora noted, his staff regulates for customer pricing and the County's Consumer Advocate reviews these advertisements for violation of the advertising laws governing "bait & switch". Mr. Mora reiterated members should immediately forward their inquiries or complaints to his office for action.

A request was made to the LAG Chair regarding placement of the company "Red Cap" for "how to license their professional drivers" as a discussion item on the next LAG agenda. Mr. Mora duly noted the request and restated the above company has already had Committee discussion.

Adjournment

Mr. Goodman offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mitros, with unanimous approval.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.