Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: August 21, 2012

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Taxicab Advisory Group and Limousines Advisory Group meeting minutes

---

At the July 3, 2012 Board of County Commission meeting, Resolution No. R-599-12 directed the Mayor to submit to the County Commission and, any relevant committee thereto, on a quarterly basis, the votes taken and the meeting minutes of the Taxicab Advisory Group and the Limousine Advisory Group and, where the votes taken or minutes of these Advisory groups relate to information, as soon as practical, in order to allow full consideration by the County Commission or committee of relevant jurisdiction.

In compliance with the above, please find attached a copy of the Taxicab Advisory Group's quarterly meeting minutes for April 17, 2012 along with minutes from a special meeting held on May 8, 2012, as well as the quarterly meeting minutes of April 24, 2012 for the Limousine Advisory Group.

c: Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor/Director, Regulatory & Economic Resources
Mario E. Goderich, Assistant Director, Business Affairs, Regulatory & Economic Resources
Joe Mora, For Hire Transportation Director, Regulatory & Economic Resources

Attachments

Taxicab Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes for the April 17, 2012
140 West Flagler Street, #908

Members Present:

Dr. William Samek	Consumer/Chairperson
Dawood Akhtar	Driver Representative
Monica Beltran	MIA Representative
Jerry Moskowitz	PSC Principal
Les Eisenberg	PSC Principal
Diego Feliciano	License Holder
Fred Wong	Seaport Representative
Robert Singer	Consumer
Vacant Seat	Office of ADA Coordination Representative
Anson Jean-Pierre	Driver Representative

Members Absent:

Rolando Aedo	Visitor Industry Representative

Staff Present:

Joe Mora	Division Director, For-Hire Transp.
Steve Bobes	Administrative Officer, For-Hire Transp.
Ivan Cotayo	Taxi Cab Coordinator, For-Hire Transp.
Bridgette Newsome	Secretary, For-Hire Transportation
Nancy Perez	Senior Ex. Secretary, Business Affairs

Dr. Samek welcomed members, set the agenda and commenced today's meeting.

Approval of the Minutes:

Dr. Samek requested members review and approve the February 1, 2012 minutes. Mr. Moskowitz offered a motion to approve the February 1, 2012 TAG minutes, seconded by Mr. Feliciano, with unanimous member approval.

Chauffeur of the 1st Quarter:

Ms. Beltran nominated driver 1-5 to be the recipient for the Chauffeur of the 1st Quarter award, with unanimously member approval.

Taxicab Stand Update

The following is an update on our taxicab stand accomplishments since the April 2012 TAG meeting:

As a result of our earlier proposals; the following taxicab stands have been established.

- A two (2) car stand was established at the Comfort Suites Miami-Kendall located at 3901 SW 117th Avenue.

- A twelve (12) car stand was established at the Miami Marlins Ballpark. These spaces are located on the east side of NW 16th Avenue between NW 5th & 6 Street. In addition, a feeder-line was created on NW 5th Street between NW 16th & 17th Avenue.

Coordinated the establishment of the following temporary taxicab stands in an effort to provide additional transportation service to the public attending these events:

- A six (6) car stand was established at the Miami Beach Convention Center Hall B, for the 2012 ITEXPO event from January 31st to February 3rd.

- A six (6) car stand was established at the Miami Beach Convention Center Hall B, for the 2012 Miami Beach Boat Show from February 16th to the 20th.

- A 15+ car stand was established at the Miami Beach Convention Center Hall D, for the 2012 Cruise Shipping event from March 12-15.

- A 10+ car stand was established at Crandon Park for the 2012 Sony Ericsson Open Event from March 19th to April 1st.

- A 15+ car stand was established at the Miami Beach Convention Center Hall D, for the WrestleMania (Fan Fest) event from March 29th to April 1st, 2012

- Coordinated the activation of the temporary taxicab stand at the Sun Life Stadium Gate 4 for the WestleMania event on April 1st, 2012.

For a list of all taxicab stand locations please visit Miami-Dade County Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement Department website at: http://www.miamidade.gov/csd/library/taxi_stand_loc.pdf

Legislative Updates:

Mr. Mora read into the record excerpt of Florida House Bill 675 and Senate Bill 1452. HB 675 stated in part: 166.0433 – *passenger vehicles for hire; credit card surcharges. A municipality may not prohibit the owner of operator of a taxicab, limousine, jitney, or other passenger vehicle for hire from imposing a surcharge on a passenger who elects to pay the passenger fare using a credit card in lieu of payment by cash, check or similar means..."*

and, Senate Bill 1452 paraphrased as followed: *"125-01035- prohibiting counties and municipalities from imposing certain restrictions on the accepted methods of payment of passenger fares for certain passenger vehicles for hire.."*

Mr. Mora discussed how these bills mirrored each other although both died on the legislative floor. Mr. Mora suggested TAG members review similar type of legislation that would provide future recommendations to the Board in regards to credit card usage.

Mr. Mora also reviewed the proposed bill implementing passage of the American w/Disability Act (ADA) which mandates the creation of a taxicab study (2013) report that would review the best course of action to insure wheelchair accessible cabs throughout the ADA community that are affordable and ridership accessible.

Underserved & South Miami Dade Areas:

Dawood Akhtar advised he presented a citizen presentation on April 4, 2012 to the full Board of County Commissioners regarding the Underserved Area (U/A) and South Miami Dade Area. Mr. Mora informed the TAG members; that he met with several Commissioners to further discuss Mr. Akhtar U/A proposal. Upon the request of Commissioner Martinez Office, the County Attorney's Office in conjunction with the For-Hire Transportation Division was tasked with drafting a proposed Underserved Area Ordinance, currently under Commission review.

The proposed ordinance, if adopted, provides underserved drivers the ability to operate outside their designated zones and work County-wide on "odd and even days" with the exception of Miami International Airport. One stipulation was implemented, drivers would be required to have and utilize radio communication.

Mr. Mora discussed the suggested conversion fee and operating criteria for these vehicles. Ms. Beltran insisted drivers fully understood and was aware of the perimeters prior to purchasing and operating such vehicles. Members also agreed technology installation such as GPS or Geo fencing should be factored into the agreement. Mr. Mora suggested, members consider decreasing the conversion fee from those operating wheelchair accessible cabs ($10,000.00 to $5,000.00).

Mr. Moskowitz offered a motion for drivers desiring of converting these UA cabs into County-wide cabs and driving under the odd/even day stipulation with the exception of MIA, a minimum conversion fee of $5,000 be charged. Mr. Moskowitz motion further stated, the conversion fee should have a loan payoff period to the County of at least 18 months, similar to other payment

arrangements previously offered by the department. The above motion was seconded by Diego Feliciano. TAG members voted 7-1; motion passed.

ADA Coordinator, Ms. Heidi Johnson-Wright and representatives of the disable community expressed their concerns in regards to the inability to obtain ridership and assistance for wheelchair accessible taxis when necessary. Community representatives stated this has been an ongoing issue for quite some time and must be addressed.

Several TAG members were unaware of the wheelchair accessible vehicles not being available. Mr. Mora suggested, the only way for a company to be aware of the inconsistencies in wheelchair vehicle service would be to place a GPS unit in each vehicle. GPS placement inside each vehicle would offer tracking access on vehicles not responding to dispatched calls to assist a disable passenger seeking transportation.

After further discussion members offered a motion to form a sub-committee that would solely work on resolving the transportation issues of the disabled community. Motion passed unanimously. TAG members volunteered to serve on the sub-committee along with a member from the audience. Mr. Mora suggested, the County's ADA Coordinator Ms. Johnson-Wright also serve.

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.

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.

Ms. Beltran noted airport business was plentiful for both taxis and shuttles and that she 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.

Adjournment

No further agenda items were slated for discussion therefore Dr. Samek moved, with unanimous member approval to adjourn this meeting.

Taxicab Advisory Group
Special Meeting Minutes for May 8, 2012
140 West Flagler Street, #908
Miami, Florida 33130

TAG Members Present:

Dr. William Samek	Consumer/Chairperson
Dawood Akhtar	Driver Representative
Monica Beltran	MIA Representative
Jerry Moskowitz	PSC Principal
Les Eisenberg	PSC Principal
Diego Feliciano	License Holder
Fred Wong, Jr.	Seaport Representative
Robert Singer	Consumer
Anson Jean-Pierre	Driver Representative

TAG Members Absent

Rolando Aedo	Visitor Industry Representative

Staff Present:

Joe Mora	Division Director, For-Hire Transp.
Steven Bobes	Administrative Officer, For-Hire Transp.
Bridgette Newsome	Secretary, For-Hire Transportation
Nancy Perez	Senior Ex. Secretary, Business Affairs

Dr. Samek welcomed members and special guest Sean McCrackine, Legislative Aide to Commissioner Monestime.

Mr. Mora informed members the April 2012 meeting minutes were not available at this time. Mr. Mora reiterated, this special TAG meeting was scheduled and noticed solely for the discussion of two agenda items sponsored by Commissioner Martinez and Commissioner Monestime and therefore no additional items were to be discussed and no meeting agenda was provided.

Commissioner Martinez's Vehicle Age Extension

Mr. Mora discussed Commissioner Martinez's proposed limousine vehicle entry age extension item and advised, if adopted would become a permanent extension to the existing ordinance.

Mr. Mora stated the proposed ordinance amends Chapter 31 of the Code relating to for-hire limousines regulations and amends vehicle age requirements. Luxury sedans and stretch limousine vehicles would be extended for two years - from (5) years to (7) years. Super stretch limousine vehicle ages would be extended from (7) years to (9) years. Under the current provisions of the limousine ordinance these vehicles will expire on December 31, 2012.

Mr. Eisenberg expressed concern that in altering vehicle age limits this amendment if adopted, could set vehicles standards that might not be considered luxurious for the limousine industry as well as, to visitors and residents of Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Moskowitz suggested he was against extending the vehicle age on for-hire vehicles stating, it would be beneficial if the proposal offered vehicles an entry system of (3) years rather than, extending the additional service years at the back-end.

Proposed ordinance amendment requirements relating to Chauffeur Agreements

The proposed ordinance seeks to amend various chauffeur agreement requirements with for-hire license holders and passenger service companies. Mr. Mora stated, if implemented for-hire license holders will have to begin itemization on their chauffeur receipts and provide the following information: amount of compensation attributable to lease costs,

insurance, dispatching, deposits and/or any other charges incurred. In addition, it would be unlawful for a for-hire license holder to require that a chauffeur purchase a taxicab lease and/or financing for the purchase of a taxicab as a condition for entering into a chauffeur's agreement.

Mr. Mora further discussed the proposed ordinance's provisions stating that all drivers' would still be required to obtain authorization from passenger service companies in order to operate a for-hire vehicle, although drivers want to rule out endorsements from passenger service companies. Drivers complain, passenger service companies' charge drivers an endorsement fee which drivers do not agree upon. Also, contract agreements must be obtained between drivers, passenger service companies and licensed holders alike. Drivers without contract agreements would not be authorized to operate a for-hire vehicle.

Mr. Moskowitz offered the motion that instead of endorsements agreements for drivers, passenger service companies should charge drivers for the actual cost of the motor vehicle registration (MVR) fee and that fee should not be charged if a driver produces a MVR within thirty (30) days; motion seconded by Mr. Feliciano, with unanimous member approval.

Mr. Moskowitz offered an additional motion: that passenger service company's receipt(s) should remain the same. This motion was seconded by Mr. Feliciano, with unanimous member approval.

Adjournment

Mr. Moskowitz proffered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Samek, with unanimous member approval.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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.

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

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

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.

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.