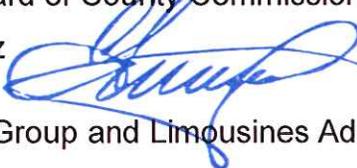


Memorandum



Date: November 29, 2012

To: Honorable Vice Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Taxicab Advisory Group and Limousines Advisory Group meeting minutes

On July 3, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. R-599-12. This Resolution directed the Mayor to provide the votes taken and the meeting minutes of the Taxicab Advisory Group and the Limousine Advisory Group on a quarterly basis and, where the votes taken or minutes of these Advisory Groups relate to pending legislation, to submit such information as soon as practicable in order to allow full consideration by the County Commission or Committee of relevant jurisdiction.

In compliance to the above, please find attached a copy of the Taxicab Advisory Group's quarterly meeting minutes for July 24, 2012, as well as the quarterly meeting minutes of July 31, 2012 for the Limousine Advisory Group.

Attachment

c: Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor/Director
Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER)
Mario E. Goderich, Assistant Director for Business Affairs, RER
Joe Mora, For Hire Transportation Director, RER

**Taxicab Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2012
140 West Flagler Street, Suite 908
Miami, Florida 33130**

Members Present:

Dr. William Samek, Chairperson
Dawood Akhtar
Monica Beltran
Jerry Moskowitz
Les Eisenberg
Diego Feliciano
Fred Wong
Robert Singer

Industry Representation:

Consumer
Chauffeur
MIA Representative
Passenger Service Company Principal
Passenger Service Company Principal
License Holder
Port of Miami Representative
Consumer

Members Absent:

Rolando Aedo
Heidi Johnson-Wright

Visitor Industry Representative
Office of ADA Coordination Representative

Staff Present:

Mario Goderich
Joe Mora
Raul Gonzalez
Steve Bobes
Ivan Cotayo
Nancy Perez
Bridgette Newsome

Assistant Director, RER Business Affairs
Division Director, For-Hire Transp.
Special Project Officer, For-Hire Trans
Administrative Officer, For-Hire Trans
Taxi Cab Coordinator, For-Hire Trans
Senior Executive Secretary, RER
Secretary, For-Hire Transportation

Mr. Mora proceeded with member roll call and advised the Chair they reached a quorum. Mr. Mora advised notification from members, Rolando Aedo and Heidi Johnson-Wright was received, advising they would not be in attendance today.

Dr. Samek commenced setting the meeting agenda and welcomed Committee members.

Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Samek requested review and approval of the April 17th and May 8, 2012 meeting minutes. Mr. Moskowitz offered a motion to approve the April 17, 2012 TAG minutes, seconded by Mr. Feliciano, with unanimous approval. Mr. Moskowitz offered a motion to approve the May 8th, 2012 Special TAG meeting, seconded by Mr. Dawood, with unanimous approval.

Chauffeur of the 2nd Quarter

Ms. Beltran nominated driver 2-1 to be recipient for the Chauffeur of the 2nd Quarter award. Mr. Feliciano seconded the nomination with, unanimous member approval.

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Taxicab Stand Update

Noted below is the taxicab stand quarterly report of staff accomplishments ranging from April 17, 2012 to present in regards to taxi stand establishments or re-establishments, size increase or stand re-locations:

- A two (2) car taxi stand was established at the 2800 Block McFarlane Circle, adjacent to the Coconut Grove Sailing Club. Additionally, this space has a clear view of the Mutiny Hotel entrance located at 2951 South Bayshore Drive.
- The one (1) car stand at the Ritz Carlton 3300 SW 27th Avenue Coconut Grove was increased to a two (2) car stand.
- A two (2) car stand was permanently established on Washington Ave & 1st Street across from Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant.
- A one (1) car stand was re-established on 7436 Ocean Terrace adjacent to the Ocean Surf Hotel and Days Inn.
- A two (2) car stand was re-established due to completion of construction on Collins Ave & 2nd Street.
- Re-established the four (4) car stand on Collins Ave & South Pointe Drive temporarily closed due to construction.
- Re-established the JW Marriott (Brickell) taxicab stand also temporarily closed due to construction.

In partnership with the City of Miami Beach Parking Department, Enforcement Staff had temporary taxicab stands established at Miami Beach' Convention Center in an effort to provide additional transportation service to Patrons attending the following events:

- Best Buy Achieves (April 27th to the 30th)
- Society of Nuclear Medicine (June 8th -13th)
- Swim Show Event (July 21st-24th)

For a list of all taxicab stand locations, please visit Miami-Dade County's Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources website at:

<http://www.miamidade.gov/business/library/forms/taxi-stand-locations.pdf>

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Underserved & South Miami Dade Area updates:

Mr. Mora provided a summary of the discussion which occurred at the July 9, 2012 Regional Transportation Committee meeting in regards to Commissioner Barbara Jordan's proposed ordinance. Mr. Mora noted the proposed ordinance received Committee approval and will be forwarded to the full Board for final approval at their September 4, 2012 BCC meeting. Mr. Mora advised members & interested parties will receive meeting notification would be received upon release of the Board's official agenda.

Mr. Eisenberg discussed his company's experience and ability to provide up to fifty percent of service during their tenure in the South Dade area to residents as well as, the business community. Mr. Eisenberg expressed concern for the region and suggested, TAG formulate a creative solution for providing service to the area.

Audience attendee's overwhelmingly stated the underserved taxi drivers had prior knowledge of rules and regulations for providing service to the South Dade area and were not sympathetic because currently business is slow everywhere. Attendee's duly noted how unfair it was for underserved taxis to have the ability to work in other parts of the County and thus ultimately driving business away from other drivers.

Mr. Mora reiterated the proposed ordinance if adopted, would allow those for-hire license holders issued an Underserved Area licenses prior to September 2012 the ability to convert their license. Upon fulfillment of ordinance requirements, chauffeurs will have the right to operate outside their designated Underserved or South Miami Taxicab Service Area as well as, to operate Countywide with the exception of Miami International Airport.

Vehicle Age Extension – Commissioner Monestime:

Mr. Mora reviewed the July 9th Regional Transportation Committee meeting discussion regarding Commissioner Monestime's proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 31 of the Code. The proposed amendment extends vehicle age requirements for those vehicles scheduled for retirement to December 31, 2012. Mr. Mora advised the proposed ordinance, approved at Committee, will be forwarded to the full Board for final consideration on September 4, 2012.

Mom & Pop Grants

Mr. Bobes provided an overview of the Miami-Dade County's Mom & Pop Grant Program created to provide financial and technical assistance to qualified approved for-profit small businesses approved to receive program funding. The program allows small owned and operated businesses the opportunity to interact with local governments under favorable conditions, ultimately bridging the gap between the two entities.

The Mom and Pop Small Business Grant Programs were created to provide financial and technical assistance to qualified small businesses and are administered in collaboration with commission offices. Applications can be obtained by contacting Neighbor Associations at 305 756-0605 or your respective district commission office to assist in providing additional program information.

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Mr. Goderich informed Members taxi drivers were eligible for the mom and pop grants and encouraged all to contact their district commission offices to obtain an application.

Taxi Growth Formula

The growth formula is basically to utilize a formula for future taxi medallions consisting of the electronic data files of the passenger service companies (PSC), percentage growth in taxi trips dispatched by the Airport and Seaport, percentage growth in county hotel occupancy levels and general population of Miami-Dade County. Annual Medallion Taxi Permits to issue 25% trips provided plus 25% Airport and Seaport and 25% Hotel occupancy and 25% in population, where the symbol greater refers to growth in.

Mr. Mora discussed adoption of Ordinance #12-51 in regards to establishing a formula for determining the number of for-hire taxicab licenses authorized after January 2014, and the Board's request to the Mayor to provide the County Commission with quarterly reports regarding the development of this growth formula, pursuant to the County Code. Discussion pursued on how to fulfill the various aspects and comply to the Boards' request regarding establishment of a growth formula method no later than December 31, 2013. Mr. Mora informed Members consideration of growth formula factors and need to be considered moving forward to include possible removal of obsolete Code language.

Members discussed various aspects for establishing a mechanism for growth formula as well as other dysfunctional areas in the Code. Much Committee discourse pointed to the following areas of concern: review other forms of transportation when developing the growth formula; research other jurisdictions, grids, to develop mechanism for how new medallions would be distributed; research the Department of Motor Vehicle; Census Bureau statistics; proposed growth factors verses adjustments; and, decide how the growth formula will affect loans.

Committee members also considered establishing an auction that would have a built-in mechanism to re-invest auction dollars to create a dispatching service that ultimately would facilitate service enhancements of wheelchair accessible cabs operating throughout Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Mora requested members ponder further ideas for establishing a growth formula as further discussion will be forthcoming at the October 2012 TAG meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Samek moved adjournment, unanimously approved by all.

**Limousine Advisory Group
Minutes for the July 31st, 2012
140 West Flagler Street, Suite 908**

Members Present:

Judith Barron, Chair
Neil Goodman
Freddy Castro
Mark Mitros
Antonio Meilan
Michael Solomon

Carey International, Industry Rep.
Aventura Limo, Industry Rep.
Signature Limo, Industry Rep.
MIA Landside Operations
Meilan Limo, Industry Rep.
USA Transp., Industry Rep.

Members Absent:

Freddy Wong, Jr.
William Talbert

Seaport Representative
GMCVB Representative

Staff Present:

Mario Goderich
Joe Mora
Leonard Elias
Steve Bobes
Raul Gonzalez
Nancy Perez
Bridgette Newsome

Assistant Director, Business Affairs
Division Director, For-Hire Transp.
Consumer Advocate, Business Affairs
Admin Officer, For-Hire Transportation
Special Project II, For-Hire Transportation
Senior Ex. Secretary, Business Affairs
Secretary, For-Hire Transportation

Mr. Mora conducted member roll call, advised the Chairwoman a quorum was reached and Messrs. Wong and Talbert both requested an excused absence.

Chairwoman Barron commenced meeting welcoming members and requested they adhere to the meeting agenda and contain their side bar conversations to a minimum both, at the table and, in the audience.

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Barron requested committee approval of the April 24, 2012 Limousine Advisory Group minutes. Mr. Solomon proffered a motion to approve the April 24, 2012 minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Castro, with unanimous Committee approval.

State Sunshine Law

Mr. Mora introduced Consumer Advocate Leonard Elias. Mr. Elias provided an overview of the Florida Sunshine Law as it relates to advisory boards to new members. Mr. Elias explained how committee meetings must be noticed to the public as well as, recorded and transcribed. Mr. Elias emphasized, those sitting on advisory groups are not allowed to discuss topics outside meeting perimeters and discussion that do take place, are in violation of the Florida Sunshine Law.

**Limousine Advisory Group
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Mr. Elias further advised, this law applies to any and all forms of communication to include: telephone, emails, faxes, or any other form of communication. Mr. Elias reiterated, it was imperative members adhere to the Fl. Sunshine Laws.

Re-Selection of LAG Committee Chair and Vice-Chair positions

Mr. Mora advised, to ensure fairness to all Advisory members absent from the April 2012 meeting, staff would conduct a re-election for LAG's Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

Nominations for Chairperson were received from Mr. Solomon and Mr. Meilan who nominated Ms. Judith Barron and Mr. Freddy Castro, respectively. Votes were casted, Ms. Judith Barron of Carey Limousine was chosen as LAG's Chairperson once again. Ms. Barron's term limit is 3 years.

Nominations for Vice-Chair were received from Mr. Solomon and Mr. Meilan who nominated Mr. Neil Goodman and Mr. Freddy Castro. Member's casted votes and Mr. Neil Goodman was selected as LAG's Vice-Chair.

Members unanimously voted to accept the two new appointments.

Commissioner Martinez Vehicle Entry Age Proposed Ordinance-Update

Mr. Mora recapped the July 9, 2012 Regional Transportation Committee meeting discussion regarding Commissioner Martinez's proposed ordinance. Mr. Mora noted, the proposed ordinance, if adopted, would increase vehicle entry age standards for limousines an additional year, with no change to the retirement age. For luxury sedans, entry age would be five years and super-stretch, seven years with the retirement age remaining the same, thus allowing operators the ability to purchase an older model vehicle. This ordinance contains a sunset provision and tentatively is scheduled to be heard by the full Board on September 4, 2012, upon official agenda notification, staff will notify industry.

Several advisory members and those in the audience were very discontent with the continued discussion of taxi issues. Members expressed dissatisfaction with the continued discussion an expressed belief, only LAG issues should be the sole topic at this for-hire meeting.

Ms. Barron retorted, advisory meetings consists of limousine permit holders and are not taxi driven. These advisory group meetings are noticed on the County calendar and open to the general public. Mr. Mora stated, as the Advisory Group's Chair, Ms. Barron has full control of the meeting and participants. Mr. Goderich reiterated the Chair can recognize whom they deem necessary whether it be, comments from the audience or members of this advisory group. Mr. Goodman commented there were numerous growing issues

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in both industries that are contentious in nature and would be better dealt with separately.

Mr. Solomon, proffered a motion to support, at second reading, Commissioner Martinez proposed ordinance as written; that was seconded by Mr. Castro with, unanimous approval.

Mr. Solomon amended RTC recommendation to go back to the original proposal and to eliminate the sunset clause; again seconded by Mr. Castro. Vote was casted: 5-members approved and, 1-member opposed.

Red Cap

Mr. Mora provided a re-cap on the type of services Red Cap provides. Red Cap, a company providing driver-on-demand services for individuals, families, corporations, venues, and event hosts to registered members. Red Cap will assign you a driver to operate your personal vehicle of which Red Cap employees do not currently need to obtain a County chauffeur registration. Mr. Mora stated under the limousine ordinance, there's no provision for soliciting these type services.

After much discussion, board members expressed their frustration with Red Cap services providing service in Miami-Dade County. Members voiced their belief and discontent stating, these type services, advertising and sponsoring chauffeurs should be licensed with the Miami Dade County For-Hire Department. Mr. Goodman informed he has lost several clients due to this type services which is not licensed in Miami-Dade County.

Limo.com Complaints

Mr. Mora advised the division has not received complaints for limo advertising. Mr. Cotayo expressed his appreciation to those advising the division of illegal advertisements from limo.com. Mr. Cotayo provided a strategic overview of enforcement officer's approach to illegal activity from unlicensed limousine operators advertising in: Limo.com; Groupon and Living Social. These companies were cited and company names were removed from the listings. Mr. Cotayo also stated, to date, approximately 85+ citations have been issued to illegal and / or unlicensed companies for illegal adverting regarding minimum rates and operating Out-of-County (origin) in Miami Dade County.

Mr. Goodman inquired whether the City of Miami Beach cited any illegal limousine operators. Mr. Cotayo responded, he was unaware the City of Miami Beach Police Department had issued citations under the interlocal agreement. Mr. Cotayo confirmed the Division completed the train-the-trainer program for sworn City of Miami Beach Police Department Officers.

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Mr. Mora emphasized the division will continue to team up with officers from the City of Miami Beach Police Department to investigate illegal activities and set-up check points & sting operations on Miami Beach.

Adjournment

Ms. Barron offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Goodman, with unanimous member approval.

No further discussion took place therefore, the meeting adjourned.