



Sustainability, Planning & Economic Enhancement Department  
For-Hire Transportation Section  
140 West Flagler Street, Suite 904  
Miami, Florida 33130-1561  
T 305-375-1250 F 305-372-6321  
miamidade.gov

**Agenda  
Taxicab Advisory Group  
April 17, 2012 - 2:00 P.M.  
140 West Flagler Street, Room 908  
Miami, FL 33130**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**
- 3. Selection of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, Chauffeur of the Quarter**
- 4. Taxicab Stand Update**
- 5. Updates:**
  - HB 675 & SB 1452 – Credit Card Surcharge**
  - HB 1201 & SB 1392 Wheelchair Accessible Cars (WAC)**
- 6. Underserved & South Miami Dade Areas**
- 7. American Shuttle**
- 8. 2012 Tentative Quarterly TAG Meeting dates: July 24, October 23, 2012**
- 9. Adjournment**

Taxicab Advisory Group  
Meeting Minutes February 1, 2012  
140 West Flagler Street, Suite 908

**Members Present:**

Dawood Akhtar  
Monica Beltran  
Jerry Moskowitz  
Les Eisenberg  
Diego Feliciano  
Fred Wong

Chauffeur  
MIA Representative  
PSC Principal  
PSC Principal  
License Holder  
Seaport Representative

**Members Absent:**

Dr. William Samek  
Rolando Aedo

Consumer/Chairperson  
Visitor Industry Representative

**Staff Present:**

Joe Mora  
Steve Bobes  
Ivan Cotayo  
Bridgette Newsome

Division Director, PTRD  
Administrative Officer, PTRD  
Taxi Cab Coordinator, PTRD  
Secretary, PTRD

Mr. Mora informed members several divisions of the department would be relocating to the Overtown Transit Center II Building at some point this year.

In Dr. Samek absence, Vice Chair Moskowitz commenced the meeting setting the agenda and welcomed Committee members.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Mr. Moskowitz requested approval of the October 25, 2011 minutes. Mr. Eisenberg offered a motion to approve the October 25, 2011 TAG minutes, seconded by Ms. Beltran, with unanimous Committee approval.

**Chauffeur of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:**

Mr. Moskowitz nominated driver 3-2 as Chauffeur of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, seconded by Ms. Beltran with unanimous approval.

Mr. Moskowitz also nominated 3-4 as Chauffeur of the Year with unanimous Committee approval.

Mr. Mora informed members the Chauffeur of the Quarter ceremonies are conducted at the TCAP class to encourage drivers to strive toward becoming a nominee and/or award recipient. The Chauffeur of the Year ceremony is held in the Commission Chambers at the Board of County Commissioner's Regional Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. Mora stated, upon scheduling confirmation, Committee members will be advised.

### **Taxicab Stand Update:**

The information provided updates the quarterly taxicab stand report. The following taxicab stands have been established and/or reestablished.

- A three (3) car stand was established on SE 14<sup>th</sup> Street across the Street from the Conrad Hotel. This taxi stand will serve as a feeder-line to the one (1) cab stand inside hotel property.
- A two (2) car stand was established at the 4200 block of Collins Avenue adjacent to the Days Inn.
- Coordinated the reestablishment of the one (1) car stand at the Brownsville Metrorail Station.

### **Coordinated the establishment of the following temporary taxicab stands for the 2011 Art Basel / Art Miami:**

- Miami Beach Convention: A seven (7) car stand was established at the west side of the 1900 Convention Center Drive across the Street from Hall D.
- Art Miami Pavilion Midtown: A five (5) car stand was established on the east corner of NE 1<sup>st</sup> Ave & NE 31<sup>st</sup> Street (between NE 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> St)
- Rubell Collection Wynwood: A seven (7) car stand was established adjacent to the building 95 NW 29<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

- Sun Life Stadium Gate 4: October 27<sup>th</sup> UM football game, November 5<sup>th</sup> Miami Dolphins and November 20<sup>th</sup> UM football game.
- Homestead Speedway: NASCAR Championship races, November 18-20, 2011.
- Miami Beach Convention Center: Goldwell Color Zoom 2011, October 16 & 17. Approximately 3,000 people attended this event.

### **The following temporary taxicab stands were established in an effort to accommodate the taxicab industry, as some permanent locations were closed due to construction.**

- A three (3) car stand was established on the north side of South Pointe Drive between Collins and Washington Avenue.
- A one (1) car stand was established on Collins Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- A three (3) car stand was established on Washington Avenue between Commerce and 1<sup>st</sup> Street.

For a comprehensive list of taxicab stands located throughout Miami-Dade County please visit Miami-Dade County's Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement Department website at: [http://www.miamidade.gov/csd/library/taxi\\_stand\\_loc.pdf](http://www.miamidade.gov/csd/library/taxi_stand_loc.pdf)

**Credit Card Surcharge:**

Mr. Mora advised, Florida House of Representative Daphne Campbell spearheaded House Bill 675, and Senate Bill 1452 was introduced by Senator Diaz de la Portilla. If adopted, the proposed legislation would permit owners and/or operators of certain for-hire passenger vehicles to impose a credit card surcharge on passenger fares.

Mr. Mora informed, members of the America Disability Act (ADA) are very active within their jurisdictions and expectation of future House Bill filings in regards to ADA issues will occur. For those unaware, Tallahassee lawmakers have undertaken the task of conducting a wheelchair study anticipated to be completed and released by 2013.

**Updates:**

Commissioner Martinez proposed ordinance amendment regarding vehicle age extension for all for-hire vehicles was adopted on December 12, 2011. This proposed legislation extends the vehicle age for all for-hire vehicles to allow vehicles an additional year extension. This extension ends as of December 31, 2012 for all for-hire vehicles.

Applications for the Taxi Lottery are currently under review by the department, thereafter the department schedules an appointment for the auditors to review and determine lottery eligibility. Upon completion, the department will notify applicants by mail of the determination of eligibility.

The department will conduct a public auction on February 14, 2012 commencing at 9:00 A.M. for six taxicab medallions, they are: 4 - Countywide sedan type vehicles, and 2 - Wheelchair Accessible vehicles on February 14, 2012 at 9:00 A.M.

**Adjournment:**

Vice- Chair Moskowitz moved to adjourn the meeting, with the Committee's unanimous approval.

## CHAUFFEUR NOMINATIONS

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012**

**January – March 2012**

### **Nomination #1-1**

CR original application 08/06/2007

Citations 2 – Complaints 1

In an email to the Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement Department, the passenger writes:

Subject: Driver Compliment

Hi Mr. Steven,

I would like to say thank you and pay a compliment for the excellent customer service and respect from your driver (the nominee) on 12/13/2011 around 11:00 AM. I had lost my wallet, having to wait for my roommate to arrive and to let me in my condo and to pay the taxi fare, (the nominee) was extremely patient with the wait and trusting toward to me, while I was under tremendous pressure and stress.

Thank you!

Flavia

Flavia Nguyen

Real Estate Sales Associate

PIQUET REALTY

[flavia@piquetrealty.com](mailto:flavia@piquetrealty.com)

[www.piquetrealty.com](http://www.piquetrealty.com)

1331 Brickell Bay Drive, Suite C-U2

Miami, FL 33131

### **Nomination #1-2**

CR original application 03/10/2005

Citations 3 – Complaints 1

In a chauffeur nomination form submitted to the Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement Department, the passenger writes:

**Customer Service:** I was broke down on South Beach and needed to get to work. The driver offered me a ride. When I told the driver I had no extra money, he told me to pay another time. He was not stubborn about payment. He never came to my job to get the money.

**Drivers Knowledge:** He knew the address of by job by me only telling him the business name, and got there quickly.

**Vehicle:** The vehicle was very clean. Smelled like cherry. Clean seat, no trash.

Nomination Outline\_TAG

Professional Attire: Driver was wearing a polo shirt with "taxi" on it. He didn't smell, and looked bathed.

Arthur Rivas  
Miami Beach, Florida

**Nomination #1-3**

CR original application 09/08/2000

Citations 3 – Complaints 1

In an email to the Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement Department, the passenger writes:

Hello Isabelle,

I just wanted to express my appreciation for (the nominee)

As I travel frequently, I use the airport taxi service typically to my displeasure; I generally leave the experience void of satisfaction. However, this was not the case being driven by (the nominee) on 2/8/12. After a surprisingly pleasant ride where he knew where to go, asked me whether I preferred air conditioning or windows, etc., we readily arrived at my home. Further, he understands how to drive and there were no warning lights flashing on his dashboard.

About an hour later, I realized I had left my phone in his taxi and when I called, he immediately answered. He said he was not sure whose it was but remembered me and my location. As soon as his next fare was complete, he came to my home which was some distance away from his location. In a time where you often see an every-man-for-himself attitude, it was very refreshing to experience his integrity. I appreciate and respect the honesty and courtesy of (the nominee) and can only hope that it becomes contagious in the taxi service in our city.

Regards,

Bryan P. Abboud  
121 Alhambra Plaza Suite 1500  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
+1-305-779-5611 off  
+1-305-490-2878 cel

**Nomination #1-4**

CR original application 08/20/1987  
Citations 0 – Complaints 0

In a telephone call to the Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement Department, the passenger reported:

Caller wishes to compliment (the nominee). As somebody who has been using taxicabs for 30 years, this vehicle was impeccable, smelled wonderful and the driver had the best attitude. He has the right personality in this time where we are trying to attract tourists. He was just wonderful. Kudos to (the nominee).

**Nomination #1-5**

CR original application 04/01/2002  
Citations 1 – Complaints 0

In a letter to the Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement Department, the passenger writes:

My husband and I were visiting South Beach on 2/25/12. We hailed a taxi at the Marriott to take us to Washington Avenue for dinner. When I entered the restaurant I realized I had left my pocketbook in the taxi. All my credit cards, licenses, medical info etc were in my wallet along with cash. I was extremely upset but after calling the police we came to the realization that there was nothing we could do without having any info on the cab and the driver.

We proceeded to order our drinks and view the menu although we were still very upset. After 40 or so minutes passed my husband went outside to make a phone call. The taxi miraculously appeared and the driver got out to return my pocketbook intact. Needless to say, it was refreshing to find such an honest man.

I'm so grateful and wanted to express that gratitude to your office with the hope that this will be noted on his record and that he gets some sort of commendation.

Joan Bryant  
Bayport, New York