

Minutes of the Limousine Advisory Group (LAG)
June 22, 2010 - 10:00 AM
140 W. Flagler Street, Room #908

Members Present:

Neil Goodman	Aventura Limousine, Chair
Carla Boroday	Associated Limo, Vice Chair
Mark Mitros	MIA, Landside Operations
Austin Cohen	Red Limo
Robert Lopez	Majestic Limos
William Talbert	GMCVB
Antonio Meilan	Meilan Limo

Member Absent:

Khalid Salahuddin	Seaport
Fred Wong	Port of Miami

Staff present:

Joe Mora	Director, PTRD
Steve Bobes	Administrative Officer III, PTRD

Mr. Goodman called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and asked members and staff to introduce themselves. He then asked for comments or corrections from the minutes of the April 12, 2010 LAG/TAG meeting.

Ms. Boroday requested that the addition of "and concierges" after the word "executives" under the heading "One-Hour Pre-arrangement" since the majority of concierges were present. This was accepted by all.

Mr. Markowitz said that comments he made were not included in the minutes and Mr. Feliciano said that in the minutes Mr. Singer stated that the one-hour pre-arrangement was not a good idea; however the minutes said it was a good idea. Mr. Mora said that staff would make corrections where necessary.

Mr. Cohen stated that no action was taken on his request for the video recording of the meeting. Mr. Goodman stated that he would confer with his legal department and provide copies of the tape if there was no problem. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes subject to the corrections.

Mr. Talbert approved, seconded by Mr. Lopez and unanimously accepted.

Service Animal Ordinance: Mr. Mora stated that the ordinance amendment submitted by Commissioner Heyman regarding service animals arose from an incident on Miami Beach where taxis did not pick up a passenger with a service animal. The amendment increased fines from \$250 to \$500 on first offense; second offense, \$1,000 and if a driver receives two violations within any time period, he will serve a six-month suspension. The PSC or Service Provider is required to have each driver sign a copy of a memo to be provided by the CSD and said PSC or Service Provider must keep the signed memo for

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one year. Mr. Mora said that this will be taught in future classes and will become part of the curriculum for new drivers. In addition, he said that this is a State law and a Federal civil right. The ordinance passed on June 3, 2010.

Mr. Mitros said that there are people who use a service animal for psychological reasons and he suggested that if the driver determines that the animal is a service animal, he should take it.

Messrs. Moskowitz and Feliciano felt that an ordinance was not needed because there was enough deterrent for a driver not to get a citation; however there was a need for more enforcement by staff.

Mr. Mora said that when the item passed, four other commissioners became co-sponsors because they felt that this was very important. He said staff agreed with the taxi industry regarding enforcement and he advised that staff was working with other enforcement agencies to enforce the code. Mr. Mora said that service animals were trained and pose no threat to people. Mr. Goderich advised that if a person says he has a service animal, the driver should transport him.

Mr. Goodman asked about charging an additional fee for transporting a guide dog. Mr. Mora said that per Federal law, no extra fee may be charged for any disability.

Mr. Cohen had a problem regarding the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Mora explained that requests to place an item on the agenda for the next meeting could be done at the end of the present meeting. He said a reminder is sent before the meeting and that avenue could also be used to submit an item for inclusion on the agenda.

LAG Vacancies: Mr. Mora reported that there were 4 vacancies on the LAG (3 for the limo industry and 1 for a consumer). He said interested parties should go to the website and apply online. The deadline for applications was July 6, 2010.

Mr. Cohen asked how the election results would be determined and the process, whether there would be a committee, etc. Mr. Mora explained that staff would review the applications and a decision could be reached within 30 days. Mr. Mora said that TAG had a committee structure and the same could be set up for the LAG.

Minimum Rates: Mr. Mora referred to the section of the Code dealing with minimum rates and advised that the minimum rate for taxicabs is \$24+; however, since there are many add-ons by the limousine industry such as parking, tolls, gratuity, etc., it must be determined if the minimum rate must include the add-ons.

Ms. Boroday suggested that the Group look at the hourly rate of sedans (\$40/hr) compared to cabs (\$24/hr). Mr. Mora stressed that the Code mandated that the minimum rate of limousine should be \$80/hr. whether or not it included the add-ons. It was explained that in the limousine industry there were two rates: the all-inclusive rate and the

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base rate. Mr. Mora asked if the Group wanted a base rate plus the add-ons as the minimum rate. He also explained the difference between the taxi and limo industry rates.

Ms. Boroday mentioned that some online companies are charging less than the \$80 minimum rate as an all-inclusive rate. Mr. Mora said that would constitute a code violation. After discussions on the subject, most of the group members preferred to leave the rate as it was.

Mr. Moskowitz said that in the limousine industry the base rate should be \$87, which should include gratuity. He also mentioned that the taxi industry has not had a taxicab meter increase for 3 years and the TAG intended to request a meter increase from the County.

Ms. Jedwab said that the limousine industry in Miami-Dade County had a difficult time competing with Broward County and Miami-Dade should strive for a uniform system for both Counties.

Ms. Boroday said that at the FLA meeting about two years ago, the members voted to request that Broward County establish minimum rates for limousines. She suggested that the minimum rate remain as it is presently and the Group should work on the Broward issues.

There was misunderstanding in the reciprocity ordinance regarding county of origin. Mr. Mora read the ordinance and found everything to be clear; however, he said if the Group wanted to change the ordinance, there could be discussion on the issue.

All members agreed to leave the limousine rates as is.

Mr. Mora reminded members that the next limousine meeting was scheduled for September 28, 2010 and anyone interested in placing an item on the agenda could do so.

Mr. Cohen said that some items which were not being discussed at meetings included owner and driver rights, 2-year rule (buying vehicles which are older than 2 years); ART Basel, etc.

There being no other business, the motion was called; it was moved and seconded and the meeting was adjourned