

Minutes of the Limousine Advisory Group (LAG)

July 12, 2011 - 10:00 AM

140 W. Flagler Street, Room #908

Members Present:

Neil Goodman, Chair
Carla Boroday, Vice Chair
Austin Cohen
Paul Cookley
Mark Mitros
Freddy Wong, Jr.
William Talbert

Aventura Limousine
Associated Limo
Red Limo
Ritz Carlton
MIA Landside Operations
Seaport
GMCVB

Members Absent:

Antonio Meilan
Judith Barron

Meilan Limo
Carey International

County Staff Present:

Joe Mora
Steve Bobes
Ivan Cotayo
Nancy Perez
Bridgette Newsome

Director, PTRD
Administrative Officer, PTRD
Enforcement Officer, PTRD
Senior Executive Secretary, CSD
Secretary, PTRD

Mr. Mora conducted member roll-call. While awaiting a quorum, Mr. Mora informed members, Ms. Judith Barron of Carey International had been chosen to fill the vacated incumbent, Robert Lopez's LAG seat and Neil Goodman would be serving another term. Mr. Mora further announced, in lieu of former CSD Director, Ms. Cathy Grimes Peel's retirement, effective July 1st, Deputy Director Mario Goderich was appointed Interim Director for the Consumer Services Department.

Chairman Goodman reiterated to LAG members they were bound by the Sunshine Law. This law prohibits, outside of these meetings, members to engage in any discussions regarding LAG agenda items, public business or any matter that will foreseeable come before the Board of County Commissioners for action.

Mr. Mora conducted member roll-call and informed the Chair a quorum had been reached. Mr. Goodman commenced with the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Goodman sought approval of the April 12, 2011 meeting minutes. Mr. Cohen requested clarification of his motion on the entry age for luxury sedans vehicles. Mr. Cohen insists his motion stated 5 years instead of the 3 years noted in the April minutes, for vehicle entry with the exit period remaining the same. Mr. Mora replied, CSD staff would review the tape of the April 12th meeting to determine what the exact verbiage/conversation was, if different than written, the minutes would be amended accordingly. Ms. Boroday noted her request to review "minimum rates" *not* "maximum rates" should be corrected in the minutes.

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Ms. Boroday offered a motion to approve the amendment to the April 12, 2011 minutes, seconded by an unidentified Committee member, with unanimous approval.

Limousine Advisory Group Vacancies

Mr. Mora informed members, selection and/or filling vacant seats was a department task not that of the Committee. Mr. Mora requested LAG members nominate candidates to fill the vacated seat by past Chair Goodman. Members took a straw ballot and selected Mr. Austin Cohen as LAG's Chair and Paul Cookley as Vice-Chair. Mr. Cohen extended his appreciation to Mr. Goodman for serving as their former Chair and willingly accepted this new role as Chairman of the Limousine Advisory Group.

Red Cap/Designated Driver Program

Mr. Mora reviewed the Red Cap's Designated Driver Program. Based on Red Cap's website their program is based out of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Mora's advised base rate charges for drivers to customers were dependent on the service level of one's membership with the program. Mr. Mora emphasized, even though the program seemed similar to We Drive U, it was not.

Ms. Boroday expressed concern regarding such programs and their ability to hire unlicensed drivers. She believed drivers, acting as a chauffeur, were doing the identical work as licensed for-hire chauffeurs and should be treated and governed under the same regulations as Dade County's licensed chauffeurs. After much discussion, members agreed businesses of this type should be held to the same standards and regulations as their industry. Mr. Mora emphasized, the County does not have regulatory oversight over business matters such as these.

Commissioner Martinez Vehicle Entry Age Proposed Ordinance

Mr. Mora reviewed Commissioner Martinez proposed for hire ordinance which passed first reading, July 7, 2011. The proposed ordinance relates to vehicle age limitations for wheelchair accessible taxicabs (WAC). The ordinance proposes to extend vehicle replacement age for ten (10) year old WAC vehicles expiring at the end of the year for one (1) additional year. Currently, there are seventy eight (78) WAC vehicles of which three (3) are eligible for the vehicle age extension provisions of this ordinance, if adopted.

Mr. Mora further stated the proposed ordinance temporarily amends vehicle age restrictions for luxury, stretch, and super stretch limousines by allowing vehicles to be placed into service at three years (instead of two (2) years of age) in 2011 and 2012.

Mr. Mora announced the public hearing for this matter would be scheduled at the September 12th Regional Transportation Committee with final ordinance adoption slated for October 2011. CSD staff, upon receipt of Board agenda item's, will forward same to all interested parties electronically. Mr. Mora reiterated Commission meetings are open to the public and urged members and interested parties alike to attend.

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Miami Beach Police

Retiring Sergeant Porter of the Miami Beach Police Department informed staff he has transferred his duties and assignments of the for-hire vehicle training task force to Sergeant Camacho. Sergeant Camacho, currently assigned to another investigation reached out to CSD staff and will assist with preliminary planning and scheduling for conducting these training sessions.

Enforcement Stats

Mr. Cotayo provided the following quarterly update on 56 limousine enforcement actions as of April, 2011, listed below:

- 22 citations were issued for no valid or current for-hire license.
- 25 citations were issued for failure to comply with out-of-county origin exceptions.
- 3 citations were issued for allowing any person to operate without a Chauffeur Registration.
- 4 citations were issued for operating a for-hire vehicle without a current, valid operating permit or inspection decal.
- 1 citation was issued for publishing advertisements for ground transportation service without a for-hire license.
- 1 citation was issued for permitting or authorizing any chauffeur to operate any for-hire vehicle without a current operating permit displayed.

The above does not include: 22 citations issued to drivers for failure to obtain a chauffeur registration, 42 citations issued for failure to provide a valid chauffeur registration and 66 citations for operating a for-hire vehicle without a valid inspection decal. The following citations affect all industries.

Furthermore, on a monthly basis, PTRD enforcement has conducted four (4) limo sweeps at MIA. In addition, Enforcement has provided coverage to the following major events in an effort to ensure limousine service is in compliance.

- The Latin Billboards Awards (April 28th, 2011)
- Monitored all the Heat games at AAA arenas.
- Lady Gaga concert (April 13th, 2011)
- Luis Miguel concert (May 21st, 2011)
- U2 concert at the Sun Life Stadium (June 29th, 2011)

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss Ms. Boroday offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Goodman, with unanimous Committee approval, the meeting adjourned.