

**Limousine Advisory Group  
Minutes for the July 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 there side bar conversations to a minimum both, at the table and, in the audience.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Ms. Baron 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.

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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.