

**Taxicab Advisory Group
Amended Meeting Minutes for the October 25, 2011
140 West Flagler Street, #908**

Members Present:

Dr. William Samek	Consumer/Chairperson
Dawood Akhtar	Chauffeur
Jerry Moskowitz	PSC Principal
Les Eisenberg	PSC Principal
Rolando Aedo	Visitor Industry Representative
Diego Feliciano	License Holder
Fred Wong	Seaport Representative
Anson Jean-Pierre	Chauffeur

Members Absent:

Monica Beltran	MIA Representative
Ilene Hyams (Retired)	Office of ADA Coordination

Staff Present:

Mario Goderich	Assistant Director, SPEED
Joe Mora	Director, For-Hire Passenger Transportation
Steve Bobes	Administrative Officer, SPEED
Raul Gonzalez	Special Project Admin, SPEED
Bridgette Newsome	Secretary, SPEED

Mr. Mora informed the Chair, a quorum had been reached. Mr. Mora advised Ms. Monica Beltran informed his office that she would be absent and requested an excusal and Ilene Hyams from the Office of ADA Coordination officially retired from County services. Mr. Mora stated, he planned to reach out to the Office of ADA to fill the vacated seat left by Ms. Hyams retirement.

Vice Chair Moskowitz commenced the meeting on Dr. Samek's behalf, welcoming members and review of the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Samek requested approval of the October 25, 2011 minutes as amended. Mr. Moskowitz moved the October 25, 2011 minutes, seconded by Mr. Aedo, with unanimous Committee approval.

Chauffeur of the Quarter

Mr. Moskowitz nominated driver 3-4 as Chauffeur of the 1st Quarter for his heroic jester, seconded by Mr. Akhtar with, unanimous Committee approval. Mr. Moskowitz also nominated Driver 3-1 to receive a Fifty dollar donation from Mosko Cab, for rendering excellent service, seconded by Mr. Aedo.

Mr. Mora stated, the Chauffeur of the Quarter recipient receives a five hundred dollar monetary award and are entered in the chauffeur of the year category. If chosen in that category, they have a possibility of receiving a twenty-five hundred dollar monetary award.

Taxicab Stand Update

Mr. Mora read into record newly created and reinstated taxicab stands located throughout Dade County. Locations identified were:

- Established a three (3) car stand at the Hialeah Market Tri-Rail Station located at 1200 SE 11th Avenue.
- Re-established a one (1) car stand at the Hialeah Tri-Rail Transfer Station.
- Established a two (2) car stand at SW 57th Court and Sunset Drive, stand is operational from 6:00 PM to 7:00 AM.
- Coordinated the reestablishment of a one (1) car taxicab stand located at the 1600 Block & Meridian Court, adjacent to the Macy's on Miami Beach.

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 on the SE corner of SE 12th Street and Brickell Bay Drive
- The JW Marriott Miami has agreed to allow two (2) taxicabs to stage on the hotel ramp throughout the duration of the SE 12th Street construction.

The following temporary taxicab stands were activated in an effort to provide additional transportation service to the public attending these events:

- Sun Life Stadium Gate 4 for the September Miami Dolphins football games as well as, the September 17, 2011 UM games.

Miami Beach Convention Center

- Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) from July 31 thru August 4th. Approximately 6,000 people attended event.
- 2011 FIME (International Medical Exposition) August 10 -12. Approximately 7,000 people attended event.
- The American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) event from October 1-6, 2011. Over 12,000 people attended this event.

Staff currently working on establishment of temporary taxicab stands for upcoming events below:

- **NASCAR**
- **Art Basel / Art Miami**

For taxicab stand location listings please visit the department's website at:
http://www.miamidade.gov/csd/library/taxi_stand_loc.pdf

Miami-Dade County's Reorganization of County Departments:

Mr. Mora informed members of the departments name change to Sustainability, Planning and Economic Enhancement (SPEED) as part of the Mayor's reorganization plan and provided a brief overview, and assured members our operation would not be affected.

Review of Commissioner Martinez newly adopted WAC Ordinance

On October 4, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners' approved Chairman Martinez Code amendments which provided wheelchair accessible vehicles an additional year extension for December 31, 2011 for expiring vehicles.

Mr. Eisenberg proffered a motion of adding an additional year extension to 2012-2013 on all new taxicabs due to the economy, seconded by Mr. Feliciano. Majority of members favored Mr. Eisenberg's motion with one opposing member.

Updates:

Mr. Mora discussed Commissioner Martinez and Commissioner Diaz allocations for the taxi lottery categories. Commissioner Martinez allocated four (4) medallions, four (4) senior drivers and Commissioner Diaz allocated Six (6) veterans.

PTRD mailed 758 applications with 204 returned, of those 192 were senior drivers and 13 were veterans.

The department will review applicant submissions and conduct a thorough audit prior to holding the lottery. Upon completion of the above task, notification to the industry and advertisement for a public auction of six taxicab medallions, 4 regular sedans and 2 wheelchair vehicles will occur sometime February, 2012. The minimum bid for these medallions will start at: \$140,000.00 for regular sedans and \$100,000.00 for wheelchair accessible vehicles.

Credit Card Solution

The department continues to research various methods and opportunities to provide passengers the ability to utilize credit cards, avoid associated transactions fees for usage, or that would pass down burdensome cost to drivers.

Underserve Area (UA) & Smart

Mr. Mora discussed a request from Assistant Director Mario Goderich to this Committee. Mr. Goderich would like the Committee to revisit the issue of odd and even days based on driver hack license numbers for those working in the South-Dade and Underserve areas. The Committee agreed to honor the request and offered a motion that was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Samek moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Akhtar, approved by all.

The meeting therefore adjourned.