

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 4th Quarter:

Mr. Moskowitz nominated driver 3-2 as Chauffeur of the 4th 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 14th 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 1st Ave & NE 31st Street (between NE 30th & 31st St)
- Rubell Collection Wynwood: A seven (7) car stand was established adjacent to the building 95 NW 29th 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 27th UM football game, November 5th Miami Dolphins and November 20th 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 2nd Street.
- A three (3) car stand was established on Washington Avenue between Commerce and 1st 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

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.