

Agenda Item: 2

Staff Report and Commissioner Announcements [INFORMATION]



PAUL GILLESPIE, PRESIDENT, ext. 3  
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT  
RICHARD BENJAMIN, COMMISSIONER, ext. 1  
TOM ONETO, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6  
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7  
R. JAMES SLAUGHTER, ext. 4

JORDANNA THIGPEN, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**TO: Honorable Commissioners**  
**FROM: Jordanna Thigpen**  
**RE: Staff Report 04.22.8**  
**DATE: 4/16/8**

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This staff report provides the Commission with an update of department work from the past two weeks:

#### Administration/Policy

- Enforcement teams have been present at **AT&T Park** for three night games to combat illegal limousines. Staff from the Taxi Commission and SFPD continue to meet with SFMTA staff and Giants representatives to address taxicab service during night games at AT&T Park.
- **Merger:** the April 29 workshop on taxicabs, intended to be hosted by SFMTA, has been cancelled.
- **Open Forum Fridays** 1-2 PM – the first Open Forum Friday was held April 11, 2008. Mr. Wesley Hollis came and presented ideas for improving the industry. Separately, staff has also met with representatives of Yellow Cab and United Taxicab Workers.
- **Board of Appeals** update: on May 7, 2008, Robert Friedman's appeal will be heard at the Board of Appeals. On May 7, 2008, Mr. Reza Ghorbani, an Oakland cab driver, has a request for jurisdiction at the Board of Appeals. Also on May 7, 2008, Mr., Peter Witt's appeal of the Board of Appeals' decision upholding the Taxi Commission will be heard.
- **Expired A-cards** – At the last Commission meeting, it was reported that 1150 notices had been sent out regarding expired A-cards. As of this date, 1004 are still expired.
- The **Charter Reform Working Group** met on April 15, and discussed the financial viability of peak time medallions and other service-related improvements
- **Rules & Regulations Subcommittee** met on April 10 and will meet again on May 7. Several resolutions are pending.
- **Sunshine Task Force** – Mr. Peter Witt made a complaint regarding seven separate Taxi Commission hearings from July 25, 2006 to March 11, 2008. Staff will represent the department on April 22, along with President Gillespie, to defend the department with regards to these complaints.
- On April 23, staff from the Taxi Commission and the Taxi Detail will meet with the industry and GTU regarding **upcoming vehicle inspections**
- **Clean Taxi Program:** staff will have a sample color scheme fleet conversion plan by May 1, 2008
- **Grant Funding:** Taxi companies submitted revised letters of intent for the June 2007 grant funding cycle from BAAQMD on April 15, 2008. Due to companies that changed their minds, the industry lost

24 grants for \$2,000 each. Monies are still available from the March 2007 funding cycle which provided \$4,000 each for CNG grants. \$11,000 remains available.

- **Outreach:** Staff appeared at the South Beach Merchants meeting on Tuesday April 15, 2008
- The final **FY 2009 MOU with SFPD** will be submitted to SFPD for signature on Monday, April 26, 2008

**Staff would like to initiate a commendation program for SFPD members who are working hard on illegal limousine enforcement.**

#### **Enforcement/Regulation**

- **Disciplinary Cases:** On April 18, 2008, two cases, (Taxi Commission v. Rahimi and Taxi Commission v. Ellassali) were heard. On May 2, 2008, Taxi Commission v. Thomas Poole will be heard. On May 18, 2008, Taxi Commission v. Mahmudoglu will be heard.
- On April 25, 2008, staff will testify in a criminal trial involving an alleged illegal limousine operator. May 2 – disciplinary hearing
- SFPD and TXC issued a joint summary suspension against Cairo Machado on April 10, 2008 for a variety of offenses
- All color schemes still in existence have complied with the financial reporting requirement of MPC § 1095, with the exception of Six2Six. Six2Six was fined \$275 and failed to comply by the new deadline of April 18, 2008, so fines are now due and owing.

**Staff will provide a full Color Scheme Compliance Report to the Commission at the first meeting of June 2008.**