

Agenda: Item 3

Staff Report and Commissioner Announcements [INFORMATION]



COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737

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, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Honorable Commissioners
FROM: Jordanna Thigpen
RE: Staff Report 07.03.08
Date: July 3, 2008

Administration/Policy

- **Fuel Surcharge to Assist Drivers:** Staff is currently researching other jurisdictions' efforts to address fuel charges, and in addition, is contemplating some creative ways it could be addressed beyond a flag drop or meter increase, ie, a \$1.00 per passenger charge for each trip. We are informed that the Controller's Office will meet the August 1 deadline for the report.
- **Clean Air Taxi Program:** All companies, with the exception of one, are currently in compliance with the Program. Companies are using the Vehicle Introduction Form and GTU and the TXC office are working together to ensure prompt inspection of vehicles. As part of a Color Scheme change application, medallion holders must now submit two Vehicle Introduction Forms – one from the company which is deleting a vehicle and one from the company issuing the new vehicle. Companies are strongly advised to consider vehicle purchases **before** actually making them and submitting a Vehicle Introduction Form to our office.
- **Annual Inspections:** These are ongoing at GTU. When the Color Scheme Audit report comes out, we will have current figures of failure rates for companies which have been inspected by that time.
- **Camera Program:** Official notice of the new specifications will come from the office this month. All Raywood cameras must be replaced so companies with Raywood cameras need to start thinking about a plan for replacement now.
- **Outreach:** Open Forum will occur this Friday, July 11, 2008 with Sgt. Reynolds and myself at 1 PM. Additionally, the TXC staff is putting together a training class for the next 200 medallion holder applicants on the waiting list, to occur in August.
- **March 2007 Grant Funding:** We still have 6 grants at \$4,000 remaining for CNG vehicles.
- **June 2007 Grant Funding:** The June 2007 grant agreement is signed, so the Commission is in the process of signing contracts with each of the four companies affected by that particular grant cycle. There is funding for 51 hybrids in that particular grant. Once again we must reiterate that those companies receiving funds for that grant need to get their purchase orders and other documents ready and make sure they have sufficient inventory so that they can actually utilize the grant funding and do not jeopardize future funding.
- **June 2008 Grant Funding:** With the excellent assistance of the Department of the Environment, the TXC made an application for grant funding for the June 2008 grant cycle. We will have the final total of those vehicles applied for, on July 22, 2008.
- **Rules & Regulations Subcommittee:** We had a meeting on July 6, 2008. The next meeting will most likely occur in early August 2008.
- **Charter Reform Working Group:** The Group will meet on July 15, 2008.

Enforcement/Regulation

- **Bay Cab:** Pursuant to the Commission's direction, Bay Cab had until July 2, 2008 to produce evidence that all cabs were covered by worker's compensation which would be provided by Bay Cab. At least one individual has come forward with evidence that Bay Cab is requiring him to pay for his own worker's compensation. Bay Cab is requiring all medallion holders to purchase their own coverage at the rate of \$300-\$600 per month. By purchasing their own coverage, this means that individuals are not covered, pursuant to insurance company regulations. Bay Cab indicates that using the system described above, they will be in compliance by "next week."
- **American Taxi:** a comprehensive inspection of American Taxi was performed on July 3, 2008 by representatives of the San Francisco Fire Department, the San Francisco Police Department, and the Taxi Commission. SFFD issued a Notice of Corrective Action for eleven separate violations noted. SFPD and the Taxi Commission will issue a joint letter to the Commission regarding the violations which were noted.
- **2006 Proposition K Audit:** The 2008 Proposition K Audit report appears on this agenda.
- **Summary Suspensions:** Hakim Ikariouen and Yakub Mahmudoglu remain on summary suspension. Additional summary suspensions were filed and complaints are forthcoming for several individuals involving in a five-layer broker deal, and for a driver who performed a hit and run on a police vehicle and was apprehended.
- **Special Event Taxi Service and Illegal Limousine Enforcement:**
 - The new plan to ensure proper service at AT&T Park involves additional officers at the taxi stand location. SFMTA will not be providing additional PCOs to the area. In fact, SFMTA pulled all existing PCOs from deployment without notice to this department or SFPD.
 - The Taxi Commission continues to fund enforcement teams on a weekly basis to combat illegal limousines and conduct general street enforcement on out of town taxicabs.
- **Administrative hearings:** Yakub Mahmudoglu is scheduled for July 18, 2008. We are awaiting a decision on Taxi Commission v. Rahimi.
- **Board of Appeals:** We have several upcoming cases, including Robert Friedman, Grasshopper, and others pertaining to application issues.
- **Sunshine Task Force:** I will appear on July 22, 2008 to defend the Commission's position in the recently filed Barry Taranto v. Taxi Commission, a Sunshine Task Force complaint.