

Agenda Item: 11

Consideration of Resolution to Support Senate Bill 1519 [ACTION]



PAUL GILLESPIE, PRESIDENT, ext. 3
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT
RICIARD BENJAMIN, COMMISSIONER, ext. 1
BRUCE OKA COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
TOM ONETO, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7

JORDANNA THIGPEN, ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 8, 2008

At the meeting of the Taxicab Commission on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-XX

Urging the California State Senate to support passage of proposed Senate Bill 1519 from Senator Leland Yee.

WHEREAS, illegally operating limousines are destructive to the health and continued existence of the San Francisco taxi industry; and

WHEREAS, Senator Leland Yee has proposed Senate Bill 1519 in an attempt to combat these problems; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Taxi Commission officially supports Senate Bill 1519 and urges the California State Senate to take further proactive measures to combat the problem of illegal taxicabs and limousines in the State of California, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Taxi Commission directs staff to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor's State Legislation Committee to support the bill.

AYES:
ABSENT:

NOES:
RECUSED:

Respectfully submitted,

Jordanna Thigpen
Acting Executive Director



NAOMI M. LITTLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ARTHUR M. JACKSON, PRESIDENT
PAUL GILLESPIE, VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN "JACK" BARRY, COMMISSIONER
PATRICIA BRESLIN, COMMISSIONER
MARY McGUIRE, COMMISSIONER
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER
MARTIN SMITH, COMMISSIONER

Gloria Young
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm. 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

February 11, 2004

At the meeting of the Taxicab Commission on Tuesday, February 10, 2004 the following resolutions and findings were adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-06

Resolution Encouraging the Board of Supervisors to Urge the California State Legislature to Adopt Amendments to the California Public Utilities Code Relating to Regulation of Limousines by Cities and/or Counties.

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Taxi Commission has heard continuous complaints from the taxi industry regarding limousine operators and other charter party carriers in violation of the laws, ordinances and regulations that prohibit limousines and similar vehicles from rendering taxi services; and

WHEREAS, these violations of the law have both economic and public safety implications because the California Public Utilities Commission, which regulates limousines and other charter-party carriers, does not require criminal background checks for limousine drivers or provide enforcement when limousine drivers overcharge passengers; and

WHEREAS, among the reasons this situation has persisted over the years is that there are inadequacies in the laws and regulations governing limousine operators. For example, over the past few years, there has been an explosion of limousines unlawfully soliciting passengers in San Francisco, and the volume of repetitive and continuing offenses has reached epidemic proportions. Certain limousine operators are walking a fine line of supposedly "prearranging" a passenger fare ten seconds before turning on the ignition to drive a passenger to his or her destination; and

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission simply lacks the resources to enforce its rules and regulations and agrees that sanctions for violations of the law are on the low end and not enough of a deterrence; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Taxi Commission believes that local government body should have the option to license and regulate the limousine industry and other charter party carriers that provide services within their jurisdictions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Taxi Commission encourages the Board of Supervisors to urge the California State Legislature to support an amendment to the California Public Utilities Code that would allow a city and/or county to impose a business license fee, and adopt reasonable rules and regulations pertaining to charter party carriers operating within city and/or county jurisdictions.

AYES: Jackson, Gillespie, Barry, Breslin, McGuire, Smith

ABSENT: Paek

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya Banks
Commission Secretary