

## Agenda: Item 2

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  
SUSAN SUVAL, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

JORDANNA THIGPEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**TO: Honorable Commissioners**  
**FROM: Jordanna Thigpen**  
**RE: Staff Report 07.22.08**  
**Date: July 17, 2008**

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### Administration/Policy

- **Clean Air Taxi Program:** We have some minor changes to the Vehicle Introduction Form – a new one will be sent on Monday.
- **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.
- **Training and Color Scheme Town Hall:** Open Forum will occur this July 25, 2008 at 1 PM. I have set a date for the waiting list applicant training class and will notice everyone once the venue is confirmed. Additionally, I will be holding a Town Hall for all taxi companies in early August to streamline the color scheme standards and outline points of agreement to bring to the Rules Subcommittee and the Commission. I will announce the time as soon as I identify a location.
- **Camera Program:** The camera program will be officially launched and discussed at the Color Scheme Town Hall. Once again: Raywood cameras need to be replaced.
- **ADA Lawsuit:** Staff will mail notice post-K medallion holders the week of July 21, 2008.
- **Vehicle Grant Funding: March 2007 Funding:** We still have 6 grants at \$4,000 remaining for CNG vehicles. **June 2007 Funding:** The Commission has signed contracts with Green, Yellow, and Luxor for 51 hybrids for this grant cycle and has begun processing grants. National has not yet signed its application for 25 of those grants. **June 2008 Funding:** We applied for hybrid vehicles for the June 2008 grant cycle. SFO applied for 26 CNG grants for Yellow and Luxor.
- **Rules & Regulations Subcommittee:** We had a meeting on July 6, 2008. The next meeting will occur on July 25, 2008 and we will be discussing the color scheme standards and worker's compensation. The Commission staff is continually updating.
- **Charter Reform Working Group:** The Group met on July 15, 2008 and discussed possible reforms to the medallion permitting process.
- **Airport Taxi Service Task Force:** I convened a meeting with SFO and GTU staff on July 9, 2008 to discuss methods of improving taxi service at SFO. Sgt. Reynolds, Scott Leon, and myself met with Airport and GTU staff.
- **Macy's taxi stand:** I attended an SFMTA hearing on July 11, 2008 to discuss some changes to the loading zone in front of Macy's and advocated for the preservation of the taxi zone and enforcement with regards to illegal use. There are ongoing problems in that area which city staff in several departments are working to address. Everyone is committed to preserving the taxi zone and resolving the enforcement issues.

- **Debit Card Central System:** This is the long-awaited paratransit debit card program. Commission President Gillespie and myself attended a meeting at SFMTA on July 14, 2008 at which the RFP for the in-taxi equipment (ITE) was announced. We received an update on the status of that project and the timeline for implementation.
- **Yellow Cab Pre-Payments:** I met with YCC management on July 10, 2008 to discuss the new prepayments policy. I have requested some follow-up information in response to the meeting. While other jurisdictions have taxi companies that have implemented this procedure, none of them have a medallion program and gas and gates drivers like San Francisco does, so it is not unusual that we would not have a history with such a program. I have received several calls from drivers concerned about their ability to make the prepayment.
- **Taxi Wraps:** I will be approving a two-week extension for Monterey Bay Aquarium's campaign because some of the penguins were decapitated at SFO, resulting in down time for the campaign while the decapitations were addressed.
- **Dispatch Reports:** Companies were noticed by the office to submit their dispatch reports by July 25, 2008. 311 has contacted the office about the feasibility of referring taxicab calls to dispatch companies.

## Enforcement/Regulation

- **Bay Cab:** Compliance issues. No medallion holders covered.
- **American Taxi:** letter will issue jointly from Sgt. Reynolds and the Taxi Commission staff regarding the problems when Sgt. Reynolds returns from vacation.
- **2006 Proposition K Audit:** As promised the corrected version appears attached to this report. The individual preparing the report made typographical errors with regards to the medallion holders at Metro Cab by switching their names and numbers. That error has now been corrected and all staff participated in re-checking all names and medallion holders to ensure accuracy.
- **Special Event Taxi Service and Illegal Limousine Enforcement:**
  - 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.
  - Staff is preparing a large report on the problems with the illegal limousine issue. The issue is much larger than just illegal limousines mobbing the City and actually extends across multiple jurisdictions.
- **Administrative hearings:** Yakub Mahmudoglu will occur July 18, 2008. We are still awaiting a decision on Taxi Commission v. Rahimi.
- **Administrative Complaints:** The case of People of the State of California v. Peter Witt was dismissed on July 3, 2008. Additionally, the complaints of Taxi Commission v. Bains, Taxi Commission v. Simon Wong, Taxi Commission v. Singh, Taxi Commission v. Ikariouen, Taxi Commission v. Kumar, and Taxi Commission v. R.Kumar have been filed.
- **Board of Appeals:** We have several upcoming cases, including Reza Ghorbani, 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.
- **Surprise Inspections:** I am arranging surprise inspections with GTU and SFPD staff to occur sometime very soon to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Taxi Program as well as general compliance.
- **Salvage Vehicle Program:** I will announce the Salvage Vehicle Program in a memo to all color schemes by July 21, 2008. This Program was developed in consultation with GTU. A carfax.com report and an inspection at AAA will be required for all salvage vehicles introduced into the fleet once the Program takes effect.
- **Questionnaire Re: Color Scheme Changes:** a new questionnaire will be required for color scheme changes. In the past, SFPD Taxi Detail used a questionnaire. A copy of the SFPD questionnaire and the Commission questionnaire will be available at the hearing.