



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
SUSAN SUVAL, COMMISSIONER, ext 5
ARTHUR TOM, COMMISSIONER, ext 4

JORDANNA THIGPEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXICAB COMMISSION MINUTES

January 13, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 400

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Executive Secretary Tamara Odisho Benjamin – Taxi Commission, City Attorney Tom Owen, Sergeant Ron Reynolds- SFPD-Detail

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
2. **Staff Report and Commissioner Announcements [INFORMATION]**
 - **Executive Director Jordanna Thigpen:** Update
 - **Sgt Reynolds:** Update

Commissioner Announcements:

- **Com Breslin:** Commends Taxi Detail for following up on lost and found and finding her cell phone. How will procedures of the Commissioner's recommendations move forward after the merger? Hopes there is a formal venue where Commissioners can present information to the MTA.

Public Comment:

- **Tariq Mehmood:** Why didn't undercover police pull over rogue taxis.
- **Sgt Reynolds:** Under cover units cannot issue citations with three exceptions to the rule.

3. **Consent Calendar [ACTION]**

- **Director Thigpen:** Overview of items and

Public Comment

- **Tariq Mehmood:** Driver's are feeling the pinch of the economy.

4. **Annual Safety Hearing as Required by Municipal Police Code 1147.3 [INFORMATION]**

- **Director Thigpen:** Overview of item.
- **Sgt Reynolds:** Overview of details of the camera system. Some vehicles need to be updating since they are not working properly. For drivers with complaints SFPD-Detail would rather retrain drivers through education and not admonishments. Traffic statistics similar to last year. Drivers are safe drivers.
- **Pres Gillespie:** Camera issue needs to be resolved it's unacceptable that there are cameras that are not functioning.

Public Comment:

- **Thomas George Williams:** Public safety seems to be shifting from drivers to customers. GTU is not testing cameras, which is a big issue that needs to be resolved. GPS system that comes with a debit card machine should have an emergency dispatch button.
- **Emil Lawrence:** Cannot thank Sgt Reynolds enough for all the work the police department's work on illegal limos.
- **Jane Bolig:** Complaints per vehicle very low and is a good turnout. It's important to ensure that whoever downloads the camera image is trained on the process.
- **Marty Smith:** Luxor almost 60% compliant with green vehicles.
- **Ruah Graffis:** There should be a mandate for separate rear door and front door locks. Controlling where a passenger sits.
- **Mark Gruberg:** Should be more continuity from year to year to compare progress, if it's being made.
- **Peter Witt:** (See 100 word statement attached)
- **Tariq Mehmood:** Could you quickly address the issues of limos who wait at red zones.
- **Barry Korengold:** When there are less fares companies should not put more taxis on the street. Long term drivers tend to have better driving records than newer drivers.
- **Jim Gillespie:** Drivers do an overall excellent job. If the Commission could solve the limo issue there could be at least 2000 medallions.
- **Mike Spain:** Limo problem becomes more severe in the evening from 11- 3am due to more parties or restaurants being open.

3. Consideration of DRAFT SFMTA Motor Vehicle For Hire Regulations [INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION]

- **Director Thigpen:** Introduction of item.
- **Christiana Hayashi:** Overview of next steps and procedures. Would like to collect input from all commissioners. Most important are administrative procedures.
- **Com Benjamin:** What is MUNI's current drug policy?
- **Christiana Hayashi:** MUNI's policy is the same policy that is listed there and is currently being enforced.
- **Pres Gillespie:** Didn't see anything that wants or needs to raise questions about but may have some in the upcoming week. Rules Committee meeting coming up and would like you to attend.
- **Com Breslin:** Proponent of the merger but wouldn't want the work of the commissioners and industry fall by the waste side.
- **Pres Gillespie:** Did you see the Chronicle article this morning?
- **Christiana Hayashi:** Has not seen the contents of the proposal of the Charter Working Group and cannot comment on it.

Public Comment:

- **Emil Lawrence:** These are not the permanent rules but an attempt. These proposals do not address the issues properly.
- **Thomas George Williams:** It's important to focus on the customers but it also should focus on quality of life for the drivers.
- **Jane Bloig:** As a member of the taxi reform group, no job is as easy as it looks and the body recommended to slowly implement the rules for the first 6 months.
- **Mike Spain:** Congratulations to Ms Hayashi. The document should have been reviewed by the Commission before the MTA advisory groups.
- **Barry Korengold:** Most important rules and should be heard and discussed by the Commission.
- **Tariq Mehmood:** Requests a special day-long meeting addressing this issue.
- **Pres Gillespie:** Hopes there will be a taxi advisory group.

6. Special Order 8:00pm- 8:30pm

Public Comment (Please limit public comment to items NOT on the agenda)

- **Myriah:** Daly/Ma working well for all drivers.
 - **Vina Cab:** Father wants new color scheme and would like for the Commission to approve it.
 - **Marty Smith:** Tom Nguyen good medallion holder and would like the Commission to approve this application.
 - **Barry Korengold:** Opposed to the Mayor's proposition of auctioning off medallions.
 - **Name:** UTW filed lawsuit against city hall in federal court spending more of the drivers money.
 - **Mike Spain:** Mayor's announcement on transferability today which was shocking. There are many drivers who would like to buy their own medallion and are capable of buying them. This will end the bickering that goes on in this room every other week.
 - **Emil Lawrence:** There have been 2 sets of standards, one for pre k and the other for post k. The medallion becomes an annuity and a benefit. A medallion holder should have the right to retirement.
 - **Thomas George Williams:** Commissioner Heinicke jumped the gun and seems like the Mayor doesn't care what the voters approved.
 - **Norma:** A lot of drivers that do not know what's going to happen. The article is dismaying and doesn't understand that. This is discrimination against older drivers.
 - **Mary Maguire:** Malcolm Heinicke trying to propose an auction off medallions. Plan doesn't make sense. Mayor thinks this will provide better cab service.
 - **Jane Bolig:** Has a response but will work on it an email to Jordanna.
 - **Tariq Mehmood:** Knew this was coming down the road 6 months ago. When it will occur is unsure. UTW is causing the industry to go down and creating more costs and fees that drivers must bear.
 - **Mark Gruberg:** Mayor's message a surprise. The new director has a lot to learn and already has so much on her plate. Mayor signed a letter on Prop A and would not approve transferability. Taxi medallions will be cash cow for MUNI.
7. **Taxi Commission v. Tu Lam, Permit # 896 for violating Taxicab Rules and Regulations 4.A.1, 4.A.2, 4.A.3, 4.A.4, 5.A.1, 5.A.3, 5.A.4, 5.C.5, 5.E.1c, 5.H.3, 5.H.4, 5.H.6, 5.H.9, 5.H.15, 5.H.16, 5.H.17, 5.I.2, 5.I.3, 5.K.3, 5.C.2, MPC § 1081(f), MPC § 1123, MPC § 1138, MPC § 1140a, MPC § 1147.7 and MPC § 1148.6b [ACTION] – Continued to January 27, 2009 meeting.**
8. **Taxi Commission v. Ikarouien, Permit # Re-Hear Case for Violations of Rules 6.A.1, 6.D.1, 6.D.2, 6.D.3, MPC § 1141, California Penal Code §§ 211, 243(d), and 591.5 and Uphold Summary Suspension Pending Re- Hearing [ACTON] - Findings to be presented at January 27, 2009 meeting.**
- **Sgt Reynolds:** Overview of the facts of the case.
 - **Com Paek:** Is there a medical report? It is important evidence to have.
 - **Director Thigpen:** Yes there is, it is a confidential document not included in this report. This hearing is to produce factual evidence. Commission to vote on findings at next meeting, but defendant will not produce evidence.
 - **Com Benjamin:** Motion to continue suspension until 1.27.09 Taxi Commission meeting for adoption of findings.
 - **Com Paek:** Second motion.
 - **Com Oneto:** Would like transcript of the 911 tapes to be a part of the record.
 - **Director Thigpen:** The entire hearing is part of the permanent record. If anyone requests it, we can make a copy available.

Public Comment:

- **Tariq Mehmood:** There are questions in this case. She could of walked away from the situation but didn't.
- **Emil Lawrence:** He violated the rules by driving around the block and adding a fee and then fleeing the scene. Drivers can be revoked in San Francisco but operate taxis in other jurisdictions.
- **Sgt Reynolds:** Part of being a taxi driver is dealing with people and sometimes people who are drunk. While she was down on the ground, the driver took her phone, which is robbery.

9. Adjournment

From Peter Witt

To be entered into the minutes of the TXC hearing of Jan 13th 2009

Thought this was to be a seem-less Transition without controversy!!!

And I thought there was to be NO BROKERING Medallions by City Hall !!!

ONCE again..... broken promises, just like the Hearth plan!!!
Now I'd like to remind this commission about it's mandate, to conduct it's annual P.C.& N. Hearing.

You did ⁽²⁾ two P.C.& N. hearings in 2007 and added 119 cabs.
Your supposed to have a least one A yearwithA continuing force, in-between.

Don't you want to know, if the 119 cabs has increased service?
~~Let's see what the hell is going on~~

And BYE what authority does Miss Thigpen have, ... to replace your mandated ...

"Annual report to the Board," with an Auto-biography that will undoubtedlyfail to revealYOUR FA-TAL FLAWS....THAT HAVE LEAD... TO YOURDEMIZE.

YOU knowIF YOU LOOK..... LIKE A LAME-DUCK
Walk and talklike a lame-duck

YOU'RE must beA LAME-DUCK!

