Agenda: Item 7

Taxi Commission v. Simon Wong: [ACTION]

a. Consideration of Summary Suspension of Medallion # 82, Simon Wong, for violations of MPC §§ 1124 and Rule 4.A.1

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



TAXI COMMISSION MAYOR GAVIN C. NEWSOM

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, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5
SUSAN SUVAL, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

JORDANNA THIGPEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXI COMMISSION CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

ORDER TO APPEAR NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION ON PERMIT

10	Simon wong				
BUSINESS	Barry Slate Mortgage Compa	ny		····	
LOCATION	1350 Old Bayshore Hwy, Sui	te 450 Burlii	ngame, CA 94010		
	otified that the annexed con rancisco, and you are hereby				
Tuesday	July 8, 2008	AT	6:30 p.m.		
in room 408, City	Hall, #1 Dr. Carlton B. Go	odlett Place	, San Francisco,	CA to show car	use why your permit:
Public Passen	ger Vehicle permit #82				
heretofore granted said complaint.	d to you, should not be subje	ected to the	administrative ac	ction and for the	e reasons set forth in
		BY ORD	ER OF THE	TAXI COM	MISSION,
SAN FRANCISCO	, CA <u>July 2, 2008</u> Date		Executive	Director	A Company of the Comp





POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

THOMAS J. CAHILL HALL OF JUSTICE 850 BRYANT STREET SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-4603



COMPLAINT

JUN 27 2008

STATE OF CALIFORNIA City & County of San Francisco

Complaint is hereby made against:

Simon Wong #82

Engaged in the business of:

Medallion holder

At the address of 525 Jones St., San Francisco, in the said City & County, that the said business was conducted by Simon Wong in an unlawful, disorderly and improper manner as follows, to wit:

On 06/17/2008, at 1908 hrs, Luxor Taxicab # 82 (California license plate 7Y98694) was traveling south bound on Cabrillo St., approaching 12th Ave. The Luxor cab then drove through the intersection at approximately 10-15 MPH. 12th Ave and Cabrillo has a posted stop sign that requires all vehicles come to a complete stop before proceeding through the intersection. The driver of Luxor taxicab # 82 violated California Vehicle Code section 22450.

California Vehicle Code 22450 (a) states:

The driver of any vehicle approaching a stop sign at the entrance to, or within, an intersection or railroad grade crossing shall stop at a limit line, if marked, otherwise before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection.

Police officer Malcolm Fong, who was in police uniform and driving a marked police unit saw the Luxor taxicab run through the stop sign. He immediately started to follow the taxicab. Officer Fong made traffic stop on Luxor taxicab # 82 and discovered that Kumar/Raj was driving the taxicab. Officer Fong requested Kumar to present various proper documents. Officer Fong discovered that Kumar did not have the following required documents; a taxi badge, company photo ID, a current A card or a valid California Drivers License.

15:58

Municipal Police Code 1089 (g) states:

In addition the permits required by this section, shall be furnished to each licensed driver of a taxicab, or other motor vehicle for hire, upon the presentation of a driver's annual permit granted by the Chief of Police, a badge of such form and style as the Tax Collector may prescribe, with the license number of such driver thereon, which must, under penalty of revocation of the license, be constantly and conspicuously displayed on the outside of the driver's clothing when engaged I his or her employment, and shall only be worn by the person to whom the badge is issued.

Municipal Police Code 1077(a) states:

Rules and Regulations: The Taxi Commission from time to time shall, after a noticed public hearing, adopt such rules and regulations to effect the purposes of this Article as are not in conflict where within.

S.F. Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Rules and Regulations 6:B.5 states:

Every taxicab driver, while operating a taxicab vehicle shall have in their possession a three inch by five inch laminated identification card with a photograph of the driver's face, a minimum of one and one-half inches in width by two inches in length, displayed conspicuously at all times in a manner that is easily readable by any passenger in the taxicab vehicle. The card must include the photograph of the driver's badge number and the color scheme of the taxicab vehicle.

California Vehicle Code 12500 (a) states:

A person may not drive a motor vehicle upon a highway, unless the person then holds a valid driver's license issued under this code, except those persons who are expressly exempted under this code.

The driver of Luxor taxicab #82 was Raj Kumar. He presented a Luxor Cab identification card with the number 54572 on it. Officer Fong examined the driver's picture on the identification card and discovered that the card didn't belong to Kumar. (At a later meeting with Luxor, John Lazar stated that the identification card was fraudulent.) Officer Fong asked Kumar for his badge, A-card and photo ID. Kumar stated those items were at home and that Luxor Cab Co told him it was ok to drive without these items. Officer Fong called Luxor Cab Co. and spoke to dispatcher Bill #103. Dispatcher Bill was asked if Kumar was one of their drivers. Bill stated they had no record of Kumar ever driving for Luxor and did not know who that person was. Bill stated that Kumar did not have Luxor's permission to drive for them. Bill stated that if the company knew a driver didn't have a badge or identification card they would nover let them leave the yard.

NO.581

15:58

California Vehicle Code 31 states:

No person shall give, either orally or in writing, information to a peace officer while in the performance of his duties under the provisions of this code when such person knows that the information is false.

Officer Fong confronted Kumar on his misstatements and advised him it was a crime to lie to a peace officer. Kumar stated that the owner of Medallion #82, a Mr. Singh (possible Jasvir Singh Bains) let him drive Luxor #82 and allowed him to use Singh's Luxor's identification card. Officer Fong then inspected Kumar's waybill and discovered the way bill wasn't an official Luxor's waybill. Kumar admitted that the waybill wasn't filled out correctly.

Municipal Police Code 1138 states:

Drivers of taxicabs and motorized rickshaws shall keep an accurate and legible waybill.

Officer Fong checked the DMV record for Kumar and discovered that his license had been suspended and revoked. Since Kumar was an unlicensed driver, Officer Fong arraigned to have Luxor come and retrieve the taxicab #82.

On 06/26/2008 Investigator Scott Leon of the SF Taxi Commission and Sgt. Reynolds of the S.F. Taxi Detail met with Simon Wong and John Lazar. Wong is the person in charge of medallion 82 and John Lazar is the President of Luxor Cab Co. Mr. Wong stated that he leased medallion #82 to Jasmir Bains on 02/04/05. Bains has had the lease since that time. Bains pays him 3,725.00 a month for the medallion. Wong stated that the lease states that Bains must comply with all the laws and regulations of the Taxi Commission. Sgt. Reynolds asked Wong if he knew where the vehicle was being shift changed, who were the drivers operating medallion #82, where the way bills were stored and if all the drivers were legally permitted and licensed drivers? Wong stated he did not know. Sgt. Reynolds asked John Lazar if they knew Raj Kumar, they both said no. Lazar stated Raj Lumar doesn't work for Luxor and they have no record of him. Sgt. Reynolds asked Wong if he had a copy of the lease with Bains and if he would fax it to the Taxi Detail since the Police department didn't have a copy on file. Wong stated he would comply.

Municipal Police Code 1124 states:

Provided that a taxicab permit is operated in compliance with all other applicable statues, laws, rules and regulations, a taxicab permit tee may operate his or her permit by authorizing another to drive or operate pursuant to said permit under any otherwise lawful lease, employment, or other agreement. A true and correct copy of such lease, employment, or other agreement shall be filed by the permit holder with the Chief of Police within 10 days of the execution of that agreement, Nothing in this Section shall be deemed to modify, limit or excuse the obligations of any permit tee pursuant to the provisions of Section 1123 of this article.

15:58

S.F. Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Rules and Regulations 4.A.1 states:

Every licensed Medallion Holder shall comply with the provisions of the Charter, Police Code, Planning Code and Traffic Code of the City and County of San Francisco, The California Vehicle Code, California Worker's Compensation Laws and these Taxicab Regulations. The provision of all ordinances and regulations applicable at the San Francisco International Airport, San Francisco City and County Department of Agriculture and Weights and Measures, and all other governmental jurisdictions through which the permit holders traverse.

S.F. Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Rules and Regulations 4.A.3. states:

Every Medallion Holder shall ensure that their taxicab, color scheme holder, dispatch service and business operations adhere to all requirements set forth in both these regulations and the San Francisco Municipal Police Code. Failure to comply may result in administrative action.

Municipal Police Code 1090(a) (vii) states:

- (a) Revocation for Cause. Any permit issued under this article may be suspended or revoked by the Police Commission for good cause after a noticed hearing. "Good cause" hereunder shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
- (viii) The permit tee violated the Traffic Code of the City and County of San Francisco or the Vehicle Code or related laws of the State of California.

Municipal Police Code 1090(c) states:

(c) Suspension by the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police may suspend summarily any permit issued under this Article pending a disciplinary hearing before the Police Commission when in the opinion of said Chief of Police the public health or safety requires such summary suspension, Any affected permit tee shall be given notice of such summary suspension in writing delivered to said permit tee in person or by registered letter.

Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Rules and Regulations 6.A. 1. states:

Every licensed permit holder shall comply with the provisions of the Charter, Police Code, Planning Code and Traffic Code of the City and County of San Francisco.

15:58

The California Vehicle Code, California Worker's Compensation Laws and these Taxicab Regulations. The provisions of all ordinances and regulations applicable to the San Francisco International Airport, San Francisco City and County Department of Agriculture and Weights and Measures and all other governmental jurisdictions thought which the permit holders traverse.

The SFPD Taxi Detail believes that Mr. Bains demonstrated irresponsible criminal behavior and poor judgment regarding his allowing an unlicensed taxicab driver operate a vehicle for hire in San Francisco. The District Attorney is currently reviewing this case to see if criminal changes will be filed against Raj Kumar. Mr. Simon Wong is to ensure that anyone leasing his medallion shall adhere to all the requirements set fourth in the San Francisco Municipal Police Code and failure to comply may result in administrative action. Therefore, the Taxi Detail requested that the Taxi Commission start administrative disciplinary proceedings against Simon Wong, Raj Kumar and Jasvir Bains for; illegally operating a vehicle for hire in the City and County of San Francisco, for allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a Luxor taxicab, being a danger to public safety, criminal behavior, and for not being in compliance with the Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Rules and Regulations, the San Francisco Municipal Police Code and the California

Dated: June 26, 2008

Sgt. Ron Reynolds O.I.C. Taxicab Detai

Dated: June 26, 2008

Approved by:

Lt. Jeanne Schlotz # 4020

Commanding Officer Permits Bureau

Dated: June 26, 2008

Approved by:

Scott Lean for

Jordanna Thigpen

Acting Executive Director Taxicab Commission

Supporting Documents:

1) SFPD Incident Report # 080634691

San Francisco Police Department

080634691

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San Francisco Police Department PROPERTY LISTINGS

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San Francisco Políce Department

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080634691

San Francisco Police Department NARRATIVE

OTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED: CITE # 005273295, 1138 MPC 14601.5A & 14601.1A VC, 8/6/08 0800, HOJ RM 475.

NARRATIVE:

ON THE ABOVE DATE AND TIME, I WAS ON DUTY, IN FULL UNIFORM, DRIVING A MARKED POLICE VEHICLE. I WAS TRAVELING E/B ON CABRILLO ST., APPROACHING 12TH AVE. I STOPPED FOR THE STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION. BE ADVISED, THIS IS A FOUR WAY STOP SIGN INTERSECTION.

I SAW A LUXOR CAB, TRAVELING S/B ON 12TH AVE., APPROACHING THE INTERSECTION AT CABRILLO. THE LUXOR CAB RAN THROUGH THE STOP SIGN AT APPROXIMATELY 10-15 MPH., FAILING TO COME TO A COMPLETE STOP FOR THE STOP SIGN, AND DROVE RIGHT PAST ME. I INITIATED A TRAFFIC STOP ON THE LUXOR CAB, #82.

I REQUESTED THE DRIVER'S DRIVERS LICENSE, REGISTRATION, PROOF OF INSURANCE, A-CARD, AND WAY BILL. I NOTICED AT THIS TIME, THAT THE DRIVER DID NOT HAVE HIS BADGE ON HIS OUTER MOST GARMENT, AND HAD NO PHOTO ID DISPLAYED. I ASKED THE DRIVER WHERE HIS BADGE WAS AND HIS PHOTO ID. THE DRIVER TOLD ME THAT HE LEFT HIS BADGE AT HOME, AND SHOWED ME E1-PHOTO ID. UPON EXAMINATION OF THE PHOTO ID HE SHOWED ME, I ASKED HIM IF THIS WAS HIS PHOTO ID. HE TOLD ME THAT IT WAS NOT HIM, BUT THE OWNER OF THE CABS. THE PHOTO DID RESEMBLE THE DRIVER.

I ADVISED THE DRIVER OF 31 VC, FALSE AND MISLEADING INFORMATION TO A PEACE OFFICER DURING A TRAFFIC STOP. I ASKED THE DRIVER IF HE UNDERSTOOD 31 VC, AND HE TOLD ME HE UNDERSTOOD.

I ASKED THE DRIVER TO PRODUCE THE ITEMS I HAD REQUESTED. THE DRIVER PRODUCED A DRIVER'S LICENSE, REGISTRATION, PROOF OF INSURANCE, AND THE WAY BILL. I IDENTIFIED THE DRIVER AS C-KUMAR.

I ASKED KUMAR WHERE HIS A-CARD AND PHOTO ID WERE. KUMAR TOLD ME THAT THESE ITEMS WERE AT HOME, ALONG WITH HIS BADGE. I ASKED HIM IF LUXOR CAB CO. KNEW HE WAS DRIVING WITHOUT THESE ITEMS, AND KNEW THAT HE WAS DRIVING THEIR CAB. KUMAR TOLD ME THAT LUXOR CAB CO. DID KNOW THAT HE WAS DRIVING THEIR CAB, #82, AND THAT THEY KNEW HE HAD FORGOTTEN THESE ITEMS AT HOME, AND THEY TOLD HIM IT WAS OK TO DRIVE STILL.

I MADE A COMPUTER CHECK OF KUMAR'S DRIVER'S LICENSE, AND I DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS SUSPENDED AND REVOKED. I AGAIN ADVISED KUMAR OF 31 VC, FALSE /MISLEADING INFORMATION TO A PEACE OFFICER DURING A TRAFFIC STOP. KUMAR AGAIN TOLD ME THAT HE UNDERSTOOD 31 VC.

I ASKED KUMAR IF HE KNEW HIS LICENSE WAS SUSPENDED/REVOKED. HE TOLD ME THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HIS LICENSE WAS SUSPENDED/REVOKED. I ASKED KUMAR IF HE STILL LIVED ON S. NORFOLK IN SAN MATEO. HE TOLD ME THAT HE DOES STILL IVE THERE.

I TOLD KUMAR THAT HE HAS VIOLATED 31 VC, THAT HE DID KNOW, THAT A PEACE

OFFICER HAD SERVED HIM WRITTEN NOTICED(SEE E3- DL PRINT OUT, SUSPENSION EFFECTIVE .4/24/07), AND THAT HE JUST GAVE ME FALSE / MISLEADING INFORMATION.

SINCE KUMAR WAS DRIVING A CAB, PER DEPARTMENT POLICY, I CONTACTED THE CAB COMPANY, AT LUXOR CAB CO., I SPOKE WITH DISPATCHER BILL, #103, AND ADVISED HIM OF THE SITUATION, AND REQUESTED THAT HE HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE RESPOND TO TAKE CUSTODY OF THE CAB FROM ME, DUE TO KUMAR'S SUSPENSION /REVOCATION.

DISPATCHER BILL ASKED ME WHO WAS DRIVING THE CAB, AND WHAT WAS THE DRIVERS LICENSE NUMBER OF THE DRIVER. I RELAYED THE INFORMATION REQUESTED TO DISPATCHER BILL. HE ADVISED ME THAT HE HAD NO RECORD OF THAT PERSON DRIVING FOR LUXOR CAB, AND DID NOT KNOW WHO THIS PERSON WAS. DISPATCHER BILL TOLD ME THAT THE PERSON I HAD DRIVING THE CAB DID NOT HAVE LUXOR'S CAB PERMISSION TO DRIVE FOR THEM. HE FURTHER TOLD ME THAT EVEN IF HE WAS A DRIVER FOR HIS COMPANY, THEY WOULD NEVER LET THEIR DRIVER'S LEAVE AND DRIVE A CAB FOR THEM WITHOUT A BADGE OR PHOTO ID WITH THEM, PER THE MPC CODE. DISPATCHER BILL TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING OUT HIS OWN TOW TRUCK TO PICK UP THE CAB.

I QUESTIONED KUMAR FURTHER, ADVISING HIM THAT HE HAS VIOLATED 31 VC NUMEROUS TIMES, AND THAT LUXOR CAB HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIM DRIVING FOR THEM. KUMAR TOLD ME THAT THE OWNER OF THE MEDALLION, A MR. SINGH(POSS. JASVIR SINGH BAINS, THE L/O OF THE U-VEH.), LET HIM DRIVE AND USE HIS PHOTO ID. I ADVISED KUMAR THAT THE CAB COMPANY NEEDED TO KNOW THAT HE WAS DRIVING THE CAB, DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE WAS DRIVING USING THEIR NAME, AND NOT THE L/O OF THE VEHICLE'S NAME. I ASKED KUMAR IF HE WAS USING SINGH'S NAME, IMPERSONATING HIM DRIVING, SINCE HE TRIED TO PASS HIMSELF OFF AS THE PERSON IN THE PHOTO ID(E1) HE HAD HANDED ME. KUMAR DID NOT ANSWER ME.

UPON INSPECTION OF KUMAR'S WAY BILL(E2), I DISCOVERED THAT IT WASN'T FILLED OUT CORRECTLY, AND WAS INCOMPLETE (COPY ATTACHED). I QUESTIONED KUMAR ON HIS INCOMPLETE WAY BILL, AND HE TOLD ME HE KNEW IT WAS NOT FILLED OUT CORRECTLY

I ASKED KUMAR WHEN HIS A-CARD HAD EXPIRED OR WHEN DID HE APPLY FOR HIS A-CARD. KUMAR TOLD ME THAT HIS A-CARD WAS CURRENT, AND THAT HE HAD APPLIED FOR IT RECENTLY, ABOUT A MONTH AGO. HE TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN DRIVING A CAB FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS OFF AND ON, BUT COULD NOT TELL ME WHEN HE HAD LAST APPLIED FOR HIS A-CARD. I ADVISED HIM THAT PER MY INFORMATION CHART, HE WAS TO HAVE APPLIED/RENEWED HIS A-CARD PRIOR TO FEB. 1ST OF EACH YEAR. KUMAR TOLD ME HE DID NOT KNOW THAT.

I CITED KUMAR FOR FAILING TO COME TO A COMPLETE STOP FOR THE STOP SIGN, NO BADGE, NO A-CARD, FALSE/MISLEADING INFORMATION TO A PEACE OFFICER, UNPERMITTED DRIVER OF A CAB, NO PHOTO ID DISPLAYED/USING SOME ONE ELSE'S PHOTO ID, WAY BILL INCOMPLETE, AND FOR 2 CURRENT AND ACTIVE SUSPENSIONS/ REVOCATIONS OF HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE.

I COMPLETED DMV FORM 310 AND SERVED C-KUMAR OF HIS SECOND SUSPENSION/REVOCATION OF HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE. I CONFISCATED C-KUMAR'S DRIVER'S LICENSE, AND SENT IT ALONG WITH FORM DMV 310 TO DMV.

I BOOKED E1-E3 AT CO. G. A TOW TRUCK ARRIVED AT THE SCENE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE LUXOR CAB CO., AND TOOK CUSTODY OF THE CAB, #82. COPIES OF

E1-E3 ATTACHED. COPY OF C-KUMAR'S DL ATTACHED. COPIES OF CITATIONS ISSUED ATTACHED. COPY DMV 310 FORM ATTACHED.



SAN FRANCISCO TAXI DRIVER



PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL

I declare that:

I am employed by the City and County of San Francisco, State of California.

I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within cause. My business address is San Francisco Taxicab Commission, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Room 420, San Francisco, California 94102

On July 3, 2008, I served the within, the Complaint and Order to Appear, upon the permit holder in said cause, by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in email and in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid, in the United States mail at San Francisco, California, addressed as follows:

Simon Wong Barry Slatt Mortgage Company 1350 Old Bayshore Hwy, Suite 450 Burlingame, CA 94010

Simonw@slatt.com

Annaia ()

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on July 3, 2008 at San Francisco, California.

Tamara Odisho Executive Secretary