## Agenda Item: 8

Consideration of Hearing Officer's Recommendations in <u>Taxi Commission</u> v. <u>Douglas Wong</u>: [ACTION]

• **Douglas Wong:** Consideration of Hearing Officer's decision regarding continuation of summary suspension of P-44 Permit # 050561 and P-16 Permit # 180, issued pursuant to San Francisco Municipal Police Code Section §1090(c) for alleged violations of Penal Code §§ 12020(a)(4) (carrying concealed dirk or dagger); 12025(a) (carrying a concealed firearm), and 12031(a)(1) (carrying a loaded firearm by carrying it in a public place or public street).



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

# TAXI COMMISSION MAYOR GAVIN C. NEWSOM

JORDANNA THIGPEN Acting Executive Director

April 08, 2008

#### NOTICE OF DECISION

SUBJECT: Suspension of Public Passenger Vehicle Permit 050561 and Medallion Number 180

**PERMIT HOLDER:** Mr. Douglas Wong, Medallion Holder # 180, engaged in the business of Desoto Cab Company, 555 Selby Street, San Francisco, CA 94124.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Taxi Commission's Hearing Officer, the following recommendation is submitted to the Commission:

#### FINDINGS:

The Taxi Commission approves the hearing officer's recommendation that the summary suspension remain in effect. Prior to or at the disposition of the criminal charges, the Commission may reconsider whether to lift the suspension, more for revocation of Mr. Wong's permit or take other disciplinary action it deems appropriate.

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#### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

#### ADMINSTRATIVE HEARING DECISION

Hearing Officer: Julie Rosenberg, Esq.

Hearing Date: March 21, 2008

#1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, SF, CA 94121, Room 408

Case: Douglas Wong

Type of Permit: Medallion #180, A-Card P44-050561

Terence Hallinan, attorney for Mr. Wong

Heidi Machen, attorney for the SF Taxi Commission

#### I. Facts

On February 1, 2008, at approximately 10:37 a.m., medallion holder Douglas Wong was arrested at 3448 Balboa St. in San Francisco for carrying: (1) a concealed dirk or dagger (Penal Code section 12020(a)(4)), (2) a concealed firearm (Penal Code section 12025(a)), and (3) a loaded firearm in a public place or street (Penal Code section 12031(a)(1)). The firearm was a PPK automatic handgun concealed on the back of Mr. Wong's waistband with seven live rounds. He was carrying additional clips of ammunition and the dagger was carried in a sheath. At the time of the arrest, Mr. Wong was approaching the driver side door of Desoto Cab #180.

#### II. Summary Suspension of Mr. Wong's Medallion and Driver's Permit

On February 2, 2008, the Executive Director of the San Francisco Taxi Commission (the "Commission"), pursuant to Municipal Police Code section 1090(c), summarily suspended Mr. Wong's permits for reasons of public safety.

Section 1090(c) states in part: "The Chief of Police may suspend summarily any permit issued under this Article pending a disciplinary hearing before the Police Commission when in the

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opinion of said Chief of Police the public health or safety requires such summary suspension."

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On February 11, 2008, Mr. Wong appealed this summary suspension by letter faxed to the Taxi Commission office and signed by his attorney of record, Terence Hallinan.

#### III. Mr. Wong's Testimony

At the hearing, Mr. Wong admitted that he was carrying a concealed firearm and dagger, but claims he did so because he feared for his safety. According to Mr. Wong, on January 26, 2008 (6 days before he was arrested) two of his passengers, while seated in the taxi, were approached by a drug dealer at 6th and Mission Sts. Apparently a conflict arose between the dealer and passengers at which point Mr. Wong told the passengers to get out of the car. At that time, an apparent accomplice of the dealer made threatening remarks to Mr. Wong (telling him to stay out of it; the accomplice apparently stated he knew the driver and his cab number). Since this incident, Mr. Wong has carried the firearm (owned by his brother) and dagger while driving his cab. Mr. Wong did not file a report with the police about this incident.

#### III. Hearing Officer's Decision

Mr. Wong admits violating Penal Code sections 12020(a)(4), 12025(a) and 12031(a)(1). Even assuming his story about the drug deal is true (and there is no independent evidence (apart Mr. Wong's testimony) which supports this story), those circumstances do not permit Mr. Wong to carry a concealed, loaded, automatic firearm and dagger. As a taxi driver, Mr. Wong serves the public. Carrying these dangerous weapons, for

whatever reason, increases the likelihood that a member of the public's safety will be compromised.

Consequently, the suspension will remain in effect. Prior to or at the disposition of the criminal charges, the Commission may reconsider whether to lift the suspension, move for revocation of Mr. Wong's permits or take other appropriate disciplinary action.

Julie Rosenberg, Esq.

Hearing Officer

3/21/08

Date

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#### SAN FRANCISCO TAXI COMMISSION

#### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

#### COMPLAINT

#### State of California City and County of San Francisco

Complaint is hereby made against Mr. Douglas Wong, Medallion Holder # 180, engaged in the business of Desoto Cab Company, 555 Selby Street, San Francisco, CA 94124, that said permit holder, while on duty as a taxi driver who also holds a taxi permit has conducted his business in a disorderly manner, has endangered public health and safety and in violation of Municipal Police Code 1090 (c).

- 1. On February 1, 2008, during school hours, a security guard at Washington High School, Michael Johnson, spotted Mr. Wong walking near the school and suspected that he was armed. He called for Police assistance and shortly thereafter, numerous units responded to the call. (See attached Police Report no. 080111627.)
- 2. Officers Mendribil #293 3G67 and Officer Tom #621 3GIC, detained Mr. Wong as he approached the driver side door of a Desoto Cab #180, license plate 8K43134 parked in front of 3448 Balboa Street. (Id.)
- 3. Officers Mendribil and Tom conducted a pat search of Mr. Wong and located concealed weapons. Specifically, Mr. Wong was carrying a four inch double sided dagger or dirk in a sheath attached to his person. He was also armed with a walther PPK automatic handgun concealed on the back of his waistband with seven live rounds in the weapon and he was carrying additional clips of ammunition. (Id.)
- 4. Police arrested Mr. Wong for the following Penal Code (P.C.) violations: P.C. §12020(a) (4) (carrying concealed dirk or dagger); P.C. § 12025 (a) (carrying a concealed firearm); and P.C. § 12031 (a) (1) (carrying a loaded firearm by carrying it in a public place or public street). (Summary suspension complaint). Mr. Wong's taxi badge, public passenger vehicle permit, taxi permit and taxicab photo i.d. were seized at the scene.
- 5. On February 2, 2008, under authority of 1090 (c), the Executive Director of the Taxi Commission along with the Chief of Police, issued a summary suspension of all of Mr. Wong's taxi permits for reasons of public safety. (Id.)
- 6. On February 11, Mr. Wong appealed his summary suspension by letter faxed to the Taxi Commission office and signed by his attorney of record, Terence Hallinan.

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- Conclusion: Based on the foregoing facts presented, the Taxi Commission requests Mr. Douglas Wong to appear for Disciplinary Action against his Driver Public Vehicle permit no. 050561 and taxi permit no. 180. This Complaint shall constitute the Executive Director's Notice pursuant to MPC § 1090 (c) and MPC 1188. The Commission requests that the summary suspension be maintained until the conclusion of the criminal charges and that the hearing be left open for further findings at such time as the criminal charges conclude.
- 8. Mr. Wong's fact-finding hearing on the alleged violations and the proposed penalty is scheduled for March 7, 2008, 10 am, City Hall Room 408 before a Hearing Officer. This Complaint and the attachments incorporated herein shall further constitute a statement of the issues to be determined by the hearing officer, and a statement of the evidence to be offered at the hearing pursuant to MPC § 1188(d). Sgt. Ron Reynolds will testify as a witness at this hearing.

Dated:

February 22, 2008

Signed:

Héidi Machen

**Executive Director Taxi Commission** 



February 20, 2008

Ms. Heidi Machen S.F. Taxi Commission 415-503-2115 415-503-2186 fax

Ms. Machen,

As previously discussed, please find the attached San Francisco Police Department incident report number 080111627. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide you with any additional documents regarding this matter because Mr. Douglas Wong is currently facing criminal prosecution for the events listed in this report. If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to call.

Yours truly,

Insp. Daniel Dedet #101

S.F.P.D. General Work Detail

415-553-9130

#### n Francisco Police Departme 080111627 INCIDENT REPORT port Type: Initial CAD Number Reported Date/Time Occurrence to Date/Time Occurrence from Date/Time 080321532 Incident Number 2/1/08 10:39 10:37 2/1/08 080-111-627 Firearm, Possession of Loaded -12100, Weapon, Carrying Concealed -12015 Type of Incident At Intersection with/Premiss type Location of Occurrence Sidewalk Reporting Unit (Type of Weapon Used) 33rd AV Domestic Non-Suspect Suspect 3G2A Suspect Arrest Violence? Confidential Incident? Unknown? Known? Made? Report? Location Sent Juvenile Prejudice 35TH Ave & Anza\_All Cang Elder Date/ Time Star Based? Name Subject? Reported to Bureau Related? Victim How Cleared? pages is true and correct based on my personal knowledge, or is based on 6 I declare under penalty of perjury, this report of Information and belief following an investigation of the events and parties involve D auc Signature: 5 YEAR/POST PROP 115 CERTIFIED C Watch Station Star 2/1/08 14:37:24 Reporting Officer 0600-1600 Richmond Station 334 Solano,Manuel C Date Watch satotie Blen a. Zimineman #1866 02 R А Watch Station T MS#334 Assigned by 5G200 Assigned to Re-Assigned to Related Case 0 Related Case Add'l Copies 5G200 5G200 Capies to Ν Allas Name (Last, First Middle) Code SFPD Ofc Perillo#1371 R Zip Code State City Home Address E Day Phone Type Zip Code State P City Work Address Night Phone Typs 0 ID No. ID Type Jurisd. Eys Color Hair Color Weight Height R Sex or age betwen: DOB DOB / Age T Unk. Relationship to Subject Statement Follow-up Form Star 293 PC Violent Crime E YES Confidential YES Notification [ Notification Other Information/H Interpreter Needed Specify Language Person Injury/Treatment School (if Juvenile) ALIAS Name (Last, First Middle) Code Wong, Douglas T Zip Code B 1 State City -94121-Home Address CA Туре Day Phone San Francisco В Zip Code State City Work Address Туре Night Phone Eye Color, Hair Color Weight Height Sex or age between BRO Race Date of Birth Ags BLK DOB 105 K 5'02 M 46 D Type/Jurisdiction/Number. Unknown ID Type/Jurisdiction/Number E ID Type/Jurisdiction/Number J/D# (if Juvi.) SFNO D CA DL Booking Location Book Section #5 Book Section #4 Book Section #3 Book Section #2 Richmond Station Book Section #1 12031(a)(1)PC 12025(a)(2)PC Star N/W 12020(a)(3 CWB Check Enroute to Dept Action # Court # Otis Warrant# Statement Time Star Date Mirandized Bail 14:00 Warrant Violation(s) 1559 2/1/08 Location of Appearance Appear Date/Time Violation(s) Citation# CA Form Booked School (if Juvenile) M X Rays Mass Arrest Code Copy Attached Star Book/Cits Approval 1355

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# in Francisco Police Department NARRATIVE

I responded to the area of 35th Ave and Anza St on a call of an Asian male, wearing a black leather Baseball cap backwards, brown plaid shirt and blue jeans, carrying a concealed gun on the back of his waistband. 3S21, Officer Perillo #1371 advised dispatch that she had the witness Johnson in her car looking for the suspect.

Numerous units responded to the immediate area looking for the suspect.

While enroute Officer Mendribil #293 3G67, and Officer Tom #621 3G1C, advised dispatch that he had a possible suspect detained at the corner of 36th Ave and Balboa St. (See Statement )Officer Mendribil told dispatch that the person he had detained was wearing a black leather cap backwards.

Officer Mendribil and Officer Tom advised me that B/Wong was approaching the driver side door of a Desoto Cab #180, license plate 8K43134 parked in front of 3448 Balboa St.

While Officer Tom conducted a pat search on Wong and located the handgun (E/1) on the left side of his waistband. Officer Tom retrieved the handgun and gave the gun to Officer Fong 659 3G61K, who arrived at the scene at the scene time that the suspect was being searched.

Officer Mendribil also found a dagger (E/7) in B/Wong's right front side of his belt. Officer Mendribil retrieved the dagger and handed it to Officer Fong.

Wong was placed under arrest by Officer Mendribil and Officer Tom at the scene.

Officer Perillo arrived at the scene with the W/R Johnson at the same time that Wong was being detained. Officer Perillo advised Officer Fong that the person being detained was the one that Johnson saw carrying the conceal handgun. (See Officer Perillo & Johnson's Statements E/12) Officer Perillo read the cold admonition to Johnson when she arrived at the scene. (See E/14)

Sgt Zimmerman #1355 3G102, and Lt Williams 1429 3G201, arrived at the scene.

At the direction of Sgt Zimmerman Officer Fong took custody of the medallion (E/9) and A-card #P44-050561 belonging to Wong, (See E/10&11)

Per Sgt Reynolds of the Taxi Detail the Cab was left at the scene locked and secured. Desoto Cab was notified and stated that they would pick up the cab later today.

Officer Mendribil transported Wong to the station, where he was Mirandized by Officer Carrasco #1599 3G35. (See Officer Carrasco's Statement)

Wong was booked at the station per the above listed charges by Officer Mendribil.

Officer Fong booked all of the above listed evidence at the station and issued Wong a property receipt for items taken from him. (See E13)



17:26

# SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT TAXICAB DETAIL

February 1, 2008

Mr. Douglas Wong DeSoto Cab Company. 555 Selby St. San Francisco, CA 94107 415-970-1300

Subject: Summary Suspension of Public Vehicle For Hire Permit.

Dear Mr. Wong:

Pursuant to Sec. 1090 (c) of the Municipal Police Code, <u>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN</u> that on: February, 2, 2008, the Taxicab Detail has summarily suspended your Driver of Public Vehicle for Hire Permit and Taxi Permit.

You have the right to appeal this suspension to the Taxicab Commission. Written notice of appeal must be filed with the Director of the Taxicab Commission at 25 Van Ness. Room 420, San Francisco, California 94102, within ten (10) DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER. You are entitled to a hearing on your appeal within thirty (30) days after the filing of the notice of Appeal.

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to immediately surrender your badge, "A" card and Taxicab Photo Identification and taxi medallion to the Taxicab Detail within 5 days of receipt of this notice.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Taxi Commission at (415) 503-2180.

#### Attachments:

1) Copy of Formal Complaint

Sincerely,

Sgt Ron Reynolds Officer in Charge San Francisco Police Taxi Detail

Permit Holder

Date

#### COMPLAINT

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

City & County of San Francisco

Complaint is hereby made against:

Douglas Wong Medallion 180

Engaged in the business of:

Driver Public Vehicle

At the address of 555 Selby St., San Francisco, in the said City & County, that the said business was conducted by Douglas Wong in an unlawful, disorderly and improper manner as follows, to wit:

On 02/01/2008, at 1143 hrs, Mr. Wong was legally operating DeSoto Taxicab# 180 in the City and County of San Francisco California. Mr. Wong parked his taxicab at 36<sup>th</sup> and Balboa Sts. and exited his vehicle. Mr. Wong then walked towards George Washington High School. Michael Johnson is a security guard at George Washington High School. Johnson saw Wong approaching the school and noticed that Wong had a black long holster connected to his belt on the right side of his waistband. Johnson used his radio to report a man with a gun was approaching the school. The police were called. Wong then walked west on Anza St. The police arrived and saw Wong at his taxicab at 36<sup>th</sup> & Balboa. Wong was taken into custody. Wong was armed with a walther PPK automatic handgun with seven live rounds in the weapon. He had additional clips of ammunition on his person. A four inch Dagger was found in a sheath attached to his belt.

Penal Code section 12020(a) (4) states:

(a) Any person in this state who does any of the following is punishable by imprisonment in a county fail not exceeding one year or in the state prison:

(4) carries concealed upon his or her person any dirk or dagger.

Penal Code section 12025(a) (2) states:

(a) A person is guilty of carrying a concealed firearm when he or she does any of the following:

**D**02

(2) Carries, concealed upon his or her person any pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person.

Penal code 12031(a) (1) states:

(a)(1) a person is guilty of carrying a loaded firearm when he or she carries a loaded firearm on his or her person or in a vehicle while in any public place or on any public street in an incorporated city or in any public place or on any public street in a prohibited area of unincorporated territory.

Mr. Wong's "A" card (P44-050561), badge and medallion were seized by the arresting officers and sent to the SFPD Taxi Detail.

The SFPD Taxi Detail believes that Mr. Wong poses an immediate danger to the public. Mr. Wong who was driving a taxicab at the time was carrying a loaded firearm and dirk concealed on his person. He did this in a school zone while students were in class. Therefore, the Taxi Detail requested that the Taxi Commission start administrative disciplinary proceedings against Douglas Wong for violent criminal behavior, public safety issues and for not being in compliance with the Taxicab/Ramped Taxi Rules and Regulations and the San Francisco Municipal Police Code.

Dated: February 1, 2008

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

Dated: February 1, 2008

Approved by: Lt. Jeanne Schlotz # 4020 Commanding Officer Permits Bureau

Dated: February 1, 2008

Heidi Machen

Taxicab Commission Executive Director

Supporting Documents:

1) SFPD Incident Report # 080111627