Agenda: Item 8

Disciplinary Case: Taxi Commission v. Amine Benchekor [ACTION]

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TAXI COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

ADMINSTRATIVE HEARING DECISION

Hearing Officer: Julie Rosenberg, Esq.

Hearing Date: November 14, 2008

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

Case: Amine Benchekor

Type of Permit: A-Card Permit #59292

I. Summary Suspension of Mr. Benchekor's A-Card

Mr. Amine Benchekor has held an A-Card Permit since June 2004. On October 10, 2008, the Taxi Commission ("Commission") summarily suspended the permit because Commission staff believed that Mr. Benchekor posed a threat to public health and safety. Municipal Police Code ("MPC") 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 opinion of said Chief of Police the public health or safety requires such summary suspension."

II. Facts

The Commission believes that a summary suspension is warranted because Mr. Benchekor allegedly did the following:

- (1) made a threatening statement to the management of Luxor Cab;
- (2) drove in an unsafe and reckless manner, and (3) had a physical altercation with another taxi driver.

a. Statement made at Luxor Cab.

The Assistant Manager of Luxor Cab, Mr. Charles
Rathbone, stated that Mr. Benchekor made a threatening
statement to the Luxor management. <u>See</u> Exhibit A,
Declaration of Charles Rathbone.

Although Mr. Benchekor has a long-term lease with Yellow Cab, he agreed to cover a one-day shift for a Luxor driver who was going out of the country. In order to work the shift, Mr. Benchekor had to apply for the position and get approval from Luxor's insurance company. On September 8, 2008, he submitted the necessary paperwork, including a printout of his DMV record for the past three years. Mr. Rathbone, had concerns about the record¹ and asked Mr. Benchekor for his driving history for the last ten years. Mr. Benchekor submitted the requested information on September 9, 2008. Upon seeing the record, Mr. Rathbone, told Mr. Benchekor that it was unlikely he could get insurance coverage, and therefore he could not work at Luxor.² Mr. Benchekor left the office without incident.

Apparently, Mr. Benchekor felt uncomfortable with Luxor retaining his records, so on September 22, 2008, he went to the Luxor offices and asked for his paperwork to be returned. Mr. Rathbone informed him that he would keep copies for Luxor's records. Mr. Benchekor insisted that Luxor not retain any documents. According to Mr. Rathbone, Mr. Benchekor became confrontational and an argument ensued which resulted in the owner of Luxor, Tom Stanghellini, being summoned. After the exchange of more heated words, Mr. Benchekor stated, as he was leaving: "It doesn't

¹ According to Mr. Rathbone, on the three-year print out, there were three convictions, one was for driving in a HOV lane and one was for an accident which took place in an apartment complex in Walnut Creek. Apparently Mr. Benchekor presented Mr. Rathbone with a letter which exonerated him from fault for the accident.

² Mr. Benchekor's driving record was not presented as a basis for the summary suspension. It is the hearing officer's understanding that the convictions were not for serious violations like reckless or drunk driving.

statement, but felt alarmed. He filed a police report three days later. See Exhibit B.

Mr. Benchekor testified that he believed Mr. Rathbone

testified that he did not feel physically threatened by the

matter, you'll all be dead in 2016 anyway." Mr. Rathbone

Mr. Benchekor testified that he believed Mr. Rathbone and Mr. Stanghellini were treating him in a humiliating and discriminatory manner because he appears to be of Middle Eastern descent. According to Mr. Benchekor, Mr. Stanghellini referred to him as a Pakistani and told him something along the lines of get the f***k out. Mr. Benchekor testified that he had stated that they would not be alive in 2060 and that he was not making a threat. The reason for the statement was to show them how unnecessary it was to treat him so badly i.e. human beings have a finite time on this earth.

Whether Mr. Benchekor said "2016" or "2060", there is no threat of imminent harm. The statement was made after a heated argument. Furthermore, Mr. Rathbone testified that he did not feel physically threatened and in fact, he did not file the police report until three days after the statement was made.

Finding: Mr. Benchekor's statement at Luxor Cab does not support a finding that he is a threat to public health and

Mr. Benchekor is from Morocco in North Africa.

⁴ Mr. Lassaad Venhasshine, a former Luxor driver, testified that Luxor management treated drivers who were of middle eastern descent or Islamic in a discriminatory way.

safety. Consequently it is not a sufficient basis for the summary suspension of his permit.

b. 311 Complaint

On September 25, 2008, the SF 311 Call Center received a complaint about a cab driver by Mr. Benchekor. See Exhibit C. According to the caller, who was the driver of another car, Mr. Benchekor drove in an aggressive manner by weaving and tailgating. When the caller and Mr. Benchekor's vehicles exited the 101 Freeway at King St. and stopped at the stop light, Mr. Benchekor got out of his cab and tapped on the window of the complaining party. According to Mr. Benchkor, the complaining party stated he was going to call Yellow Cab's manager and then he drove off. At that point, concerned about a complaint, Mr. Benchkor asked his passenger, Mr. Scott Frief, for his name and telephone number.

Mr. Frief, who often travels to San Francisco for business, testified by telephone about the incident. Mr. Frief had never met Mr. Benchekor prior to the incident and very credibly testified that the aggressor in this case was the driver of the other vehicle (who is apparently the party who complained to 311). According to Mr. Frief, the other driver cut them off twice coming within inches of the cab and was driving in an extremely unsafe manner. Mr. Frief testified that Mr. Benchekor handled the incident in an appropriate manner and did not become angry.

Finding: The Commission has not established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that Mr. Benchekor was driving in an unsafe manner on 9/25/08. Consequently, this incident is not a sufficient basis for the summary suspension.

c. Altercation with another Taxi Driver

On May 8, 2008, a dispute arose between Mr. Benchekor and another taxi driver, Mr. Luis Constancio. See Exhibit D, Police Report. Apparently, Mr. Constancio pulled ahead of Mr. Benchekor in the cab line in front of the Hilton Hotel on O'Farrell St. After two passengers entered Mr. Constancio's cab, Mr. Benchekor approached him and said: "What the fuck are you doing? That's my fare." Mr. Benchekor then reached into the cab and knocked off Mr. Constancio's glasses and hat. However, according to Mr. Constancio, Mr. Benchekor hit him in the face. Mr. Constancio got out of his cab and punched Mr. Benchekor in the face.

Two police officers were walking in the vicinity and were told by a pedestrian about the fight. According to the police report, both parties denied being injured; declined to sign a citizen's arrest form or make a citizen's arrest. Both parties were released at the scene.

Sergeant Ron Reynolds of the SF Taxi Detail ("the Detail") testified that based on his reading of the report, Mr. Benchekor was not necessarily the aggressor. Sergeant Reynolds described the parties as "mutual combatants."

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 Mr. Benchekor testified that Mr. Constancio made an ugly comment about his mother which incited Mr. Benchekor's anger. 5

Although it is troubling that Mr. Benchekor engaged in a physical altercation after swearing at Mr. Constancio, it does not necessarily mean he is a threat to public health and safety. No arrests were made and the altercation was considered mutually combative by the Detail.

Finding: The altercation in front of the Hilton Hotel is not a sufficient basis for the summary suspension.

III. Other Evidence Supporting Mr. Benchekor

a. Exhibit E has been reducted
"Confidential - Do Not Disclose."

b. Letter, dated November 5, 2008, from the Vice President of Yellow Cab Company.

Mr. Nicholas Olson, Vice President of Yellow Cab, stated that he considered Mr. Benchekor to be his peer and fellow professional. He believes Mr. Benchekor is responsible and

⁵ The police report states that Mr. Benchekor told the officers he became anary because his mother had recently died.

⁶ According to Dr. Chandra, Mr. Benchekor "has suffered from depression and anxiety, exacerbated by the death of his mother last year and separation from his wife and children due to visa issues."

upright and he has never seen him try to force others to agree with him. See Exhibit E.

c. Letter from Communication Manager of Yellow Cab.

Mr. Lucky Walker, who is in charge of dispatch at Yellow Cab, submitted a letter in support of Mr. Benchekor. Mr. Walker stated that he has known him for seven or eight years and he has always been "a perfect gentleman in his demeanor and his comportment." Mr. Walker has never received any complaints about Mr. Benchekor, and believes he drives "safely and professionally." See Exhibit E.

Recommendation IV.

The Commission has not established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that Mr. Benchekor is a threat to public health and safety or has driven in an unsafe manner. Consequently, the hearing officer recommends that the summary suspension of his permit be lifted.

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Hearing Officer

EXHIBIT A

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DECLARATION OF CHARLES RATHBONE

- I am over the age of 18, a citizen of the United States, and I am not a party to this action. If called to testify to the facts below I could competently testify thereto.
- My name is Charles Rathbone. I am an assistant manager in the operations department of Luxor Cab, a permitted color scheme in San Francisco. My duties include screening applicants in cooperation with my supervisor, Tom Stanghellini.
- My first contact with Amine Benchekor was on or about September 8, 2008. At that time, Mr. Benchekor applied for a driver position at Luxor Cab. He was referred to me by one of our taxicab owner-operators who wanted to hire Mr. Benchekor as a driver for his cab. Part of the hiring process is for the new driver to be approved for coverage under Luxor's liability insurance policy.
- As is our usual procedure, I asked Mr. Benchekor to fill out a one-page questionnaire, which he did. The form has spaces for name, telephone number, driver license number, taxi driver badge number, and similar information. He also provided at my request a print-out of his DMV driving record along with his driver license and taxi driver A-card. I made photocopies of these documents in his presence and returned the originals to him.
- My assessment was that Mr. Benchekor would not be approved by our insurer due to 5. multiple items that appear on his DMV print-out. My supervisor agreed, but Mr. Benchekor insisted that the adverse items could all be explained. He produced a lefter which he said exonerated him with regards to one of the incidents. In order to resolve our concerns about his driving record, we suggested that he go back to DMV and obtain a ten-year print-out in addition to the standard three-year print-out that he had already given to us.
- On or about the following day, September 9, Mr. Benchekor returned with the ten-year print-out. A review of that document confirmed our concerns about his driving record and we

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October 20, 2008

Luxor Cab

Charles Rathbone

Executed in San Francisco, California

advised him that he would not be allowed to drive a Luxor Cab. He departed without incident, leaving the original of his ten-year print-out with me. I stapled it together with the other documents and placed them in a file of recently declined applicants.

- A week or ten days later, Mr. Benchekor came back to my office and requested that I return his paperwork. I retrieved the documents from a drawer and separated the ten-year DMV print-out, which I assumed was what he wanted. At that point, he told me to give him all of the paperwork. I told him that I would return his original DMV print-out to him, but that we would first make and retain a copy of it, and that he could not have the other documents.
- 8. I commenced to making a copy of the ten-year print-out, handing the original pages to him as they came out of the copier. Mr. Benchekor insisted that I could not retain any documents related to him, and that I must give them all to him right now. His manner became loud and confrontational, and disrupted the work of others in the office. I told him to get out of the office. He became even louder and continued to insist that I give him all of the documents.
- 9. A co-worker went to the other office and summoned my supervisor for assistance. After a shouting match, Mr. Benchekor departed while calling out to us, "It doesn't matter, you'll all be dead in 2016 anyway." I do not know what he meant by that, but his statement seemed to be a veiled threat to myself and my co-workers. A few days later, on September 25, I went to the police station on Williams Street and made a report of the incident.
- 10. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.



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On 9/25/08 at approximately 1445 hours, I was working station duty at Bayview Station, (R) Charles P Rathbone came to the counter and reported a suspicious occurrence incident.

Rathbone told me that he is the assistance manager of Luxor Cabs located at 2230 Jerrold Ave. In September 2008, (S) Amine Benchekor applied a taxi driver position with Luxor Cabs and was rejected. Rathbone stated on 9/22/08 at approximately 1300 hours, Benchekor went to his office and asked Rathbone returned all the job application documents with no duplicate copies kept in Luxor Cabs. Rathbone stated he explained to Benchekor that it is the company policy to keep copies of all application on file. Rathbone stated Benchekor became talk loudly and had to be told to leave and he complied. While leaving the office, Benchekor yelled, "Would be dead in 2016 anyway." Rathbone regarded that statement was threatening and came to the station to document the incident. Rathbone stated that Benchekor was not seen since 9/22/08.

I gave Rathbone a Follow-Up Form with a case number, and advised him of the follow-up procedure.

Rathbone wrote a (EVD 1) statement which I selzed from Rathbone and booked it into evidence at Co. C.

Page 3 of 3

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TAXI Complaint

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Comments:

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Because he didn't go up 101, he tried to fit into the 280 split, he tried to squeeze his cab, my car and a bus, taking up the emergency shoulder on the left side, I was inches on both side, because I was getting squeezed. My horn was going off for quite a while and he wasn't budging. He was going to squeeze me out. For the rest of the

wasn't budging. He was going to squeeze me out. For the rest of the ride up 280, which by the way he had passengers, he was tail getting me, trying to push me.

We then got to the off ramp down king street, he made sure he pulled next to me, started yelling, and got out of the cab, tapped on my window, and I said to him, I'm calling yellow cab, your nuts and he had the same expression. He had his face up against the window, the light changed and then we proceeded to go our separate directions. He was weaving and jumping on people's bumpers on more than one case all the way up 101."

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San Francisco Police Department

080483595 **ADDITIONAL SUSPECTS** Name (Last, First Middle) CODE Benchakor, Amine S 2 S Zip Code State Home Address City Day Phone Турс San Francisco CA 94108 (415)Zip Code Simo City Night Phose Турс Work Address S Yallow Cab Byo Color Weight Hair Coker P BOG Height Raco 800 DOB School (if Juvenile) BRO Unknown 12/21/87 508 180 BLK М E ID No. D No. I/De (If Jav.) ID No. SFNO C Book Charge 5 Where Booked Book/Charge 3 Book/Charge 4 Book/Charge 2 Book/Charge i Slar CWB Check Action# Dept Envoyie To Court # Western # 17 Ball Mirandized Date/Time Studenent. Warrant Violation(s) Appear Date/Time exation of Appearance Violation(s) Cibrion # Mass Arrest Code M X Reys Star Book/Cits Approval Other Information: Citalian/Warrant/Booking Churge(s)/Missing Persona-Subject Description/Scars, Marks, Taines SF Taxi Cab medallion #0407 ORIGINAL PRIVATE PERSON'S ARREST FORM BOOKED AS EVIDENCE. PHOTOCOPY PVT FERSON ARKEST ATTACHED WITH THIS REPORT. Allas Naroc (Last, First Middle) CODE State Zip Coda CIV Flore Address Type Day Proces State Zip Code City Work Address Night Phone Турс Hair Color Eye Color Height DOB Height Sex DOB Reco School (II hive tile) Unknown ID No. D No. ID No. I/Dit (if lov.) SFNO Where Booked Book/Charge 5 Book/Chargo 4 Book/Charge 3 Book/Charge A Book/Charge CWB Check Sias Eprovie To Depl Action # Count Wateri # Date/Timo Statement Buil Mirendized Warrast Violation(s) Location of Appearance Appear Date/Time Violation(s) Criedica 8 Mass Artest Code MX-Rays Book/Cite Approval Other Information: Citation/Warrant/Booking Charge(s)/Minaing Forsons-Subject Description/Scare, Marks, Tatous 100 ORIGINAL PRIVATE PERSON'S ARREST FORM BOOKED AS EVIDENCE. PHOTOGOPY ATTACHED WITH THIS REPORT. SFPD377 E (11/02)

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San Francisco Police Department NARRATIVE

080483595

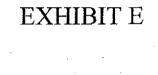
Officer Cortes #842 and I, in uniform, were working the Market St Foot Beat program and were walking south on Mason St, at O'Farrell St. We were approached by an unidentified female (WF, 40). She told us that two cab drivers were fighting in front of the Hilton Hotel. Officer Cortes and I walked to the front entrance of the hotel; 333 O'Farrell St, and approached (S1)Constancio and

(S2)Benchekor.
Constancio told me the following, in summary: He was in the taxi cab line and was waved up to the entrance by a Hilton Hotel doorman. Two people entered his cab. Another Yellow Cab pulled in front of him. The driver, Benchekor, quickly exited the cab and approached Constancio's cab and opened the driver's door. Benchekor shouted "What the fuck are you doing? That's my fare." Benchekor reached in the cab, with his right hand, and struck Constancio one time in the face. Constancio's sunglasses got knocked off. Constancio got out of his cab and punched Benchekor one time in the face and told Benchekor to leave him alone. Constancio got back in his car. Benchekor kicked the side of Constancio's cab once with his foot. There was no damage to the door. Benchekor told Officer Cortes the following, in summary: Benchekor had thought he was next in the cab line. Constancio had pulled in ahead and picked up a fare. Benchekor approached the other cab, opened the door and told Constancio "What the fuck are you doing? That's my fare."
Constancio shouted at him "What are you doing, motherfucker?" Benchekor told Officer Cortes that he became angry because his mother had recently died. He reached into the cab and knocked off Constancio's glasses and hat. Constancio got out of his cab and punched Benchekor one time in the

face.

Both Benchekor and Constancio both dented being injured. They had no visible injuries. They both Benchekor and Constancio both dented being injured. They were released at the scene. declined to sign a citizen's arrest form or make a citizen's arrest. They were released at the scene.







SAN FRANCISCO YELLOW CAB COOPERATIVE, INC.

November 5, 2008

To whom it may concern:

Mr. Amin Benchekor is a Long-Term Lease holder (Cab #407) at Yellow Cab Cooperative of long standing; that is, since April 2004 he has leased the use of a taxicab medallion and accessed our customer order base, and he has been responsible totally for the purchase and upkeep of his vehicle as well as for buying the required insurance. He has also been responsible for choosing and assigning drivers to his cab, subject to the rules and regulations of the Taxi Commission and the S.F.P.D. Taxi Detail.

Mr. Benchekor has for all this time been a responsible business partner with Yellow Cab and has navigated the regulatory rapids of the City and our Company with exemplary precision. He did the same for years before with us as a regular daily lease driver.

Often, in addition to conducting business with Amin, I've had the pleasure of extended conversations with him about life and the wide world. While he is an upright man with strong personal convictions, I've never seen him try to force others to agree with them, a tendency many other people I've known in this business display often. I've seen him deal with stressful situations with passengers and cab people just by sighing and moving on. Rather than acting out, he has kept the stress within, no doubt sometimes to his own detriment.

I've been a cab driver for thirty-two years, twenty-three of them full time on the night shift; I consider Amin Benchekor to be my peer and a fellow Professional.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,

Nicholas N. Olson 1st Vice President

Until Clase



To whom it may concern:

I am the communication manager at Yellow Cab Co-Op in San Francisco; this means that I am in charge of the dispatch operation. I have known Amin Benchekor for 7 or 8 years and he has always been a perfect gentleman in his demeanor and his comportment. He takes a lot of radio orders and quickly, professionally services the calls. I take care of a lot of complaints about drivers and the way they drive, there are many cab drivers that drive frightfully and cause other drivers to call me up and complain about the driving. I have never received any complaints about Amin, from what I can tell, he drives safely and professionally.

Lucky Walker

Communication Manager

Yellow Cab SF Co-Op

(415)593-9257

(415) 298-1625 cell

(415)401-1714 fax

lucky@yellowcabsf.com

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

JORDANNA THIGPEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TAXI COMMISSION CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

ORDER TO APPEAR NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE **ACTION ON PERMIT**

То	Amine Benchekor
Business:	Yellow Cab Coop
Location:	GF, CA 94109
City and County Of Sa Officer of the Taxi Co in room 408, City Hall your permits: <u>Drive</u>	d that the annexed complaint has been filed with the taxi commission of the in Francisco, and you are hereby cited to appear in person before the Hearing immission on Friday, November 7, 2008 AT 11:30 a.m. I, #1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA to show cause why r Public Passenger Vehicle For Hire P-44 #59292 heretofore granted to you, it to the administrative action and for the reasons set forth in said complaint.
	, do hereby willingly accept Notice to Appear and the Complaint
	Applicant Signature Date
	BY ORDER OF THE TAXI COMMISSION,
SAN FRANCIS	SCO, CA October 23, 2008 Date Executive Director

SAN FRANCISCO TAXI COMMISSION CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

COMPLAINT BASED ON SUMMARY SUSPENSION

- Complaint is hereby made against AMINE BENCHEKOR, Driver Permit # P-44 59292, that said permit holder has conducted himself in a disorderly manner and violated provisions of the Municipal Police Code and the Taxicab/ramped Taxi Rules and Regulations as described below.
- 2. Mr. Benchekor has held a P-44 ("A-card") Permit since June 17, 2004. He is also on the waiting list for a P-16 ("medallion") Permit.
- 3. On September 22, 2008, police were dispatched to Luxor Cab for a suspicious occurrence. Mr. Benchekor had applied for a taxicab position with Luxor Cab and was rejected after an investigation by Luxor Cab into Mr. Benchekor's driving record.
- 4. After being rejected, Mr. Benchekor became extremely agitated, angry, and confrontational towards Luxor Cab staff. See Exhibit A, Declaration of Charles Rathbone. In response to a final decision from Luxor Cab, Mr. Benchekor screamed out "It doesn't matter, you'll all be dead by 2016 anyway." Luxor Cab believed this was a threatening statement from Mr. Benchekor, and Mr. Rathbone filed a San Francisco Police Report # 081020605. See Exhibit B.
- 5. Further investigation revealed that Mr. Benchekor has had prior incidents implicating workplace violence. Specifically, on May 8, 2008, Mr. Benchekor was involved in a battery incident at the Hilton Hotel on O'Farrell in which he punched another driver in the face. See Exhibit C, SFPD Report # 080483595.

6.	On September 25, 2008, only three days after the incident with Charles Rathbone, at 10:45
AM, Y	ellow Cab # 407 was the subject of a 311 complaint for extremely unsafe driving bordering
on "roa	nd rage." See Exhibit D, 311 Complaint. Mr. Benchekor's identity as the driver of Yellow #
407 wa	s later verified by the San Francisco Police Department.

7. Mr. Benchekor came in to the San Francisco Police Department Taxi Detail on October 10, 2008. He submitted to an interview with Sgt. Reynolds and gave Sgt. Reynolds a document from

Exhibit E Reducted

Confidential - Do Not Disclose"

ï.

- 8. Because of the recent events involving aggression on Mr. Benchekor's part, the San Francisco Taxi Detail summarily suspended his permit.
- 9. As a further violation, Mr. Benchekor's P-44 Permit expired by operation of law on May 1, 2008, yet he renewed his A-card on May 28, 2008 (the payment posted on July 4, 2008) without going to taxi school, in violation of the law. See Exhibit F, Screenprint from Treasurer's Rhumba System Indicating Payment and Renewal Dates of Permit.
- 10. The Taxi Commission will present Charles Rathbone and Sgt. Reynolds as witnesses.



12:27

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT TAXICAB DETAIL

October 10, 2008



Mr. Amine Benchekor American Cab Company. 1200 Mississippi St. San Francisco, CA 94107 415-282-3737

Subject: Summary Suspension of Public Vehicle for Hire Permit # P44-059292 Number.

Dear Mr. Bechekor

Pursuant to Sec. 1090 (c) (viii) of the Municipal Police Code, <u>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN</u> that on: October 10, 2008, the SFPD Taxicab Detail has summarily suspended your Public Vehicle for Hire A-Card #P44-059292.

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 you're A-Card, Badge and Company Identification card 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 SFPD 081020605

Sgt Ron Reynolds Officer in Charge

San Francisco Police Taxi Detail

Permit Holder

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



TAXI COMMISSION MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-773

PAUL GILLE:

PAUL GILLESPIE, PRESIDENT
PATRICIA BRESLIN, VICE PRESIDENT
RICHARD BENJAMIN, COMMISSIONER, ext. 1
TOM ONETO, COMMISSIONER, ext. 6
MIN PAEK, COMMISSIONER, ext. 7
SUSAN SUVAL, COMMISSIONER, ext. 4
ARTHUR TOM, COMMISSIONER, ext. 5

JORDANNA THIGPEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: All Interested Parties (All Color Schemes, SFO, GTU, Treasurer's Office, DAJA, and others)

FROM: Taxi Commission and SFPD RE: Summary Suspension of P-44 059292

DATE: 10/15/08

Please be advised that the Taxi Detail and the Taxi Commission have summarily suspended the permit of #59292, Amine Benchekor.

Color Schemes: Do not hire Mr. Benchekor.

TTX: Please amend your records to reflect the suspension.

SFO/GTU: Please take note.

DAJA: Please suspend the smart card of Mr.

Benchekor as he is not authorized to operate at the Airport.

RECLEVED)
OCT 20 ZOUR

Amine. BENCHEYOR

S.R. CA 94109

-To whom it may concern

I would like to have my hearing on novembre

Ith FRIDAY at 10:00 Am.

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Incident# 081020505

Page 2 of 3

On 9/25/08 at approximately 1445 hours, I was working station duty at Bayview Station, (R) Charles P Rathbone came to the counter and reported a suspicious occurrence incident.

Rathbone told me that he is the assistance manager of Luxor Cabs located at 2230 Jerrold Ave. In September 2008, (S) Amine Benchekor applied a taxi driver position with Luxor Cabs and was rejected. Rathbone stated on 9/22/08 at approximately 1300 hours, Benchekor went to his office and asked Rathbone returned all the job application documents with no duplicate copies kept in Luxor Cabs. Rathbone stated he explained to Benchekor that it is the company policy to keep copies of all application on file. Rathbone stated Benchekor became talk loudly and had to be told to leave and he complied. While leaving the office, Benchekor yelled, "Would be dead in 2016 anyway." Rathbone regarded that statement was threatening and came to the station to document the incident. Rathbone stated that Benchekor was not seen since 9/22/08.

I gave Rathbone a Follow-Up Form with a case number, and advised him of the follow-up procedure.

Rathbone wrote a (EVD 1) statement which I seized from Rathbone and booked it into evidence at Co. C.

Page 3 of 3

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San Francisco Police Department ADDITIONAL SUSPECTS

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Incident# 080483595

Page 2 of 3

San Francisco Police Department NARRATIVE

080483595

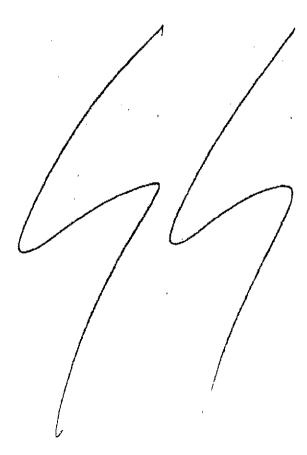
Officer Cortes #842 and I, in uniform, were working the Market St Foot Beat program and were walking south on Mason St, at O'Farrell St. We were approached by an unidentified female (WF, 40). She told us that two cab drivers were fighting in front of the Hilton Hotel. Officer Cortes and I walked to the front entrance of the hotel, 333 O'Farrell St, and approached (S1)Constancio and

(S2)Benchekor.

Constancio told me the following, in summary: He was in the taxi cab line and was waved up to the entrance by a Hilton Hotel doorman. Two people entered his cab. Another Yellow Cab pulled in front of him. The driver, Benchekor, quickly exited the cab and approached Constancio's cab and opened the driver's door. Benchekor shouted "What the fuck are you doing? That's my fare." Benchekor reached in the cab, with his right hand, and struck Constancio one time in the face. Constancio's sunglasses got knocked off. Constancio got out of his cab and punched Benchekor one time in the face and told Benchekor to leave him alone. Constancio got back in his car. Benchekor kicked the side of Constancio's cab once with his foot. There was no damage to the door.

Benchekor told Officer Cortes the following, in summary: Benchekor had thought he was next in the cab line. Constancio had pulled in ahead and picked up a fare. Benchekor approached the other cab, opened the door and told Constancio "What the fuck are you doing? That's my fare." Constancio shouted at him "What are you doing, motherfucker?" Benchekor told Officer Cortes that he became angry because his mother had recently died. He reached into the cab and knocked off Constancio's glasses and hat. Constancio got out of his cab and punched Benchekor one time in the

Both Benchekor and Constancio both denied being injured. They had no visible injuries. They both declined to sign a citizen's arrest form or make a citizen's arrest. They were released at the scene.



Incident# 080483595

Page 3 of 3



Date: 2008-09-25 10:55:40

Service Request Number: 287434

TAXI Complaint

Name: Phone:	Bill	
Complaint Details: Complaint Type:	Taxi cab driver tailgating and was aggressive Unsafe Driving	
Incident Date/Time:	09/25/2008 10:45 am	
Cab / Medallion #:	Clarify if necessary. Eg Is it Fri 1:30 or really Sat 1:30am [407] (Cab # is on top, sides and back.) (Medallion is a metal plate on the dash facing forward)	
Driver Name/Badg	e# NA (Photo ID faces passenger and has: Company name, picture, badge #, optional)	name is
Driver Physical Description:	male, medium complexion, not black or caucasian, beard, 40&aposs, black hair (ethnicity, gender, physical characteristics, facial hair, glasses, etc)	
Vehicle Description:	Yellow Cab (Colors, company name, logo/picture)	
Dispatched:	No	
Starting point: Ending point:	NA Destination From/To)	·
Dispatched: Starting point: Ending point:	(Colors, company name, logo/picture) No 101 north and 280	

Comments:

Motorist states, "I was driving north on 101 past the airport, I had this cab come up fast behind me and I'm a left lane driver. He was coming up real strong. He then chose to go around on the right, he jumped 2 lanes to do that. We reached the 280 split off 101, he did the same approach. He went past me, he did the same approach to a light duty truck, trying to go around him on either side. That person was proceeding to change lane.

Because he didn't go up 101, he tried to fit into the 280 split, he tried to squeeze his cab, my car and a bus, taking up the emergency shoulder on the left side , I was inches on both side, because I was getting squeezed. My horn was going off for quite a while and he wasn't budging. He was going to squeeze me out. For the rest of the ride up 280, which by the way he had passengers, he was tail getting

me, trying to push me.

We then got to the off ramp down king street, he made sure he pulled next to me, started yelling, and got out of the cab, tapped on my window, and I said to him, I'm calling yellow cab, your nuts and he had the same expression. He had his face up against the window, the light changed and then we proceeded to go our separate directions. He was weaving and jumping on people's bumpers on more than one case all the way up 101."

Submit Cancel

Confidential –Do Not Disclose

TLA2 ACCT. NO: P44	059292 TAX ID	- CENS	US	OLD# 051478		
DBA TOWN TAXI		CERTIF NBR	DATE START	TED 06-17-04		
SITUS 0000 VARI	OUS LOCATIONS S	0000 T	DATE INACTIVAT	TED		
OWNER BENCHEKOR,	AMINE	CARE OF				
ADDRESS 526 ELLIS	ST. #53	SAN FRANCISCO	, CA. 94	1109		
CONDOMINIUM DIST	RICT CODE NON-M	ATCHING ADDRESS	UNIT COUNT			
PERMIT NO. 088525	SUB-CLASS DES	C. DRIVER-PUB.PA:	SS.VEH. ACCOUN	IT TYPE A		
COMMENT: RELEASE HOLD PER OFF. MAK #1601						
EXPIRE DTE		12-31-07				
DATE PAID	05-28-08	02-21-07				
BATCH NO	0550	0293	0800			
ISSUE DT 00-00-						
DUE: FEE		52.00	5.00	50.75		
SURCHRG	3.00	3.00				
MISC.						
PENALTY	12.00 68.00	4.70				
TOTAL	68.00	59.70				
PAID: FEE	53.00 3.00	52.00	5.00	50.75		
		3,00				
MISC.	12.00					
PENALTY		4.70				
TOTAL		59.70		50.75		
BALANCE		0.00		0.00		
P44 059292 RECORD	RETRIEVED - ENTER	CLASS-ACCOUNT FO	R NEXT RECORD			

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DECLARATION OF CHARLES RATHBONE

- 1. I am over the age of 18, a citizen of the United States, and I am not a party to this action. If called to testify to the facts below I could competently testify thereto.
- 2. My name is Charles Rathbone. I am an assistant manager in the operations department of Luxor Cab, a permitted color scheme in San Francisco. My duties include screening applicants in cooperation with my supervisor, Tom Stanghellini.
- 3. My first contact with Amine Benchekor was on or about September 8, 2008. At that time, Mr. Benchekor applied for a driver position at Luxor Cab. He was referred to me by one of our taxicab owner-operators who wanted to hire Mr. Benchekor as a driver for his cab. Part of the hiring process is for the new driver to be approved for coverage under Luxor's liability insurance policy.
- 4. As is our usual procedure, I asked Mr. Benchekor to fill out a one-page questionnaire, which he did. The form has spaces for name, telephone number, driver license number, taxi driver badge number, and similar information. He also provided at my request a print-out of his DMV driving record along with his driver license and taxi driver A-card. I made photocopies of these documents in his presence and returned the originals to him.
- 5. My assessment was that Mr. Benchekor would not be approved by our insurer due to multiple items that appear on his DMV print-out. My supervisor agreed, but Mr. Benchekor insisted that the adverse items could all be explained. He produced a letter which he said exonerated him with regards to one of the incidents. In order to resolve our concerns about his driving record, we suggested that he go back to DMV and obtain a ten-year print-out in addition to the standard three-year print-out that he had already given to us.
- 6. On or about the following day, September 9, Mr. Benchekor returned with the ten-year print-out. A review of that document confirmed our concerns about his driving record and we

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Charles Rathbone Luxor Cab October 20, 2008

Executed in San Francisco, California

Pothbone

advised him that he would not be allowed to drive a Luxor Cab. He departed without incident, leaving the original of his ten-year print-out with me. I stapled it together with the other documents and placed them in a file of recently declined applicants.

- 7. A week or ten days later, Mr. Benchekor came back to my office and requested that I return his paperwork. I retrieved the documents from a drawer and separated the ten-year DMV print-out, which I assumed was what he wanted. At that point, he told me to give him all of the paperwork. I told him that I would return his original DMV print-out to him, but that we would first make and retain a copy of it, and that he could not have the other documents.
- 8. I commenced to making a copy of the ten-year print-out, handing the original pages to him as they came out of the copier. Mr. Benchekor insisted that I could not retain any documents related to him, and that I must give them all to him right now. His manner became loud and confrontational, and disrupted the work of others in the office. I told him to get out of the office. He became even louder and continued to insist that I give him all of the documents.
- 9. A co-worker went to the other office and summoned my supervisor for assistance. After a shouting match, Mr. Benchekor departed while calling out to us, "It doesn't matter, you'll all be dead in 2016 anyway." I do not know what he meant by that, but his statement seemed to be a veiled threat to myself and my co-workers. A few days later, on September 25, I went to the police station on Williams Street and made a report of the incident.
- 10. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.