

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System  
Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting

TAXI 585.3

December 14, 2016

10:00 a.m.

James R. Mills Building  
Board Meeting Room, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1255 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

## MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Lorie Zapf, Chair of the Committee, called the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2016

Ms. Zapf moved for approval of the minutes of the September 14, 2016, Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting and the vote was 12 to 0 in favor with Mr. Mayekawa, Ms. Mercer, Ms. Tanguay and Mr. Terzi absent.

3. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Abebe Antallo – Stated he was a lease cab driver and an organizer of the United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD). He noted that he was involved in pushing the city to lift the cap on taxicab permits and he is now an owner operator. Mr. Antallo suggested he is not making money due to Uber and Lyft and what he believes is unfair regulation. He would like the city and MTS to fight against Uber and Lyft because they are a threat to his livelihood.

4. Management and Committee Member Communications

a. Administrative Penalty Guidelines Revision

Mr. Kellerman stated with industry and driver concerns, along with permit holder requests the Taxicab Administration has reduced some of the administrative penalties. He noted many of the changes were the reduction of suspensions for second offenses; from a three day suspension to a two day suspension. Mr. Kellerman also mentioned some of the five day suspensions were reduced to three day suspensions. The revisions were submitted to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Chief Executive Officer and he approved and signed off on the revisions. Mr. Kellerman reminded the Taxicab Advisory Committee members that the administration tried to be sensitive to the needs of the industry, while maintaining the need for public safety.

Public Comment

Abdi Abdul – Representing the United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD) stated the UTWSD submitted some recommendations for the Administrative Penalty Guidelines in 2010 and 2012 and he believes the changes have not been implemented or considered. He is requesting the changes to be implemented.

Mr. Tasem inquired about the specific changes the UTWSD requested and why did it take the UTWSD so long to follow up. After some discussion, Mr. Abdul suggested not being able to go beyond 100 feet from their taxicab is unreasonable. Ms. Cooney recommended re-visiting what was submitted. Ms. Zapf noted Mr. Kellerman did not manage the Taxicab Administration at that time and advised Mr. Abdul to connect with staff to review what was submitted in 2010 and 2012.

Mr. Afifi displayed a taxicab driver ticket, and explained the driver parked in a taxicab stand, went to the restroom and got a ticket. He stated others are able to park and taxicabs are not. Mr. Afifi also wanted to address being stopped and questioned for trip sheets or not having a badge on. Mr. Kellerman reiterated that anything that could compromise public safety was not considered in the penalty guideline revisions and mentioned the trip logs are safety measures for the public. Mr. Kellerman is willing to consider anything reasonable and anything that does not compromise public safety. It was suggested another meeting take place to go line-by-line over the Administrative Penalty Guidelines. Mr. Hueso inquired about the monetary amounts on the penalty guidelines. Mr. Kellerman clarified the document Mr. Hueso was inquiring about was the Fee Schedule. It was noted the Fee Schedule is under review and it has not been published yet due to the mid-year budget review and the annual fees being one of the line items being considered for revision.

b. San Diego County Regional Airport Authority Inspection Results

Mr. Kellerman reviewed the results from the taxicab inspections that took place at the San Diego International Airport on October 11, 2016. It was a joint effort with the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA), San Diego County Sheriff's Licensing Department and San Diego County Agriculture, Weights and Measures. The inspections took place at the airport holding lot located on Harbor Drive. Ninety-five vehicles were inspected on October 11, 2016. Fourteen taxicabs were taken out of service that day. Mr. Kellerman stated staff was available throughout the day for the taxicabs to come back to the airport with the violations corrected; this allowed the taxicabs to immediately go back into service. Fifteen taxicabs received seventy-two hour notices and Mr. Kellerman stated the airport dealt with those corrections. Mr. Kellerman mentioned most of the vehicles were in pretty good condition and the drivers were largely complaisant.

c. Customer Service Enhancement and New Owner Orientation Programs – Tony Hueso

Mr. Hueso stated with the addition of the new permits in the city, as a group, he would like to create a program to enhance services for the community. He believes the industry can do better. It was proposed a subcommittee be created to connect the city, other agencies, and the hotel-motel industry to exchange dialogue. Mr. Hueso would like to help the underserved and the city as a whole. Mr. Hueso also suggested a program to orient new drivers that are trying to get into the business. Chairperson Zapf supports Mr. Hueso's idea. Mr. Afifi mentioned a meeting with Mr. Tasem and Mr. Kellerman

regarding customer service. He cited the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System's (MTS) new digitalized signs at bus stops and thought it would be helpful to have a revolving list of taxicab dispatchers displayed for the public. Chairperson Zapf suggested that idea would be better discussed at the subcommittee level. Mr. Kellerman stated he would be able to facilitate and host an ad-hoc committee or subcommittee, and suggested soliciting interest from the Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) membership. Mr. Hueso proposed a subcommittee meeting before the next TAC in March 2017. Mr. Chasteen mentioned he would be willing to work with Mr. Hueso on this program.

5. MTS Taxicab Administration Fiscal Year 2017 Amended Budget

Mr. Kellerman introduced Lucas Kromer, Operating Budget Supervisor, from the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Finance Department. Mr. Kromer provided a PowerPoint presentation of the MTS Taxicab Administration Fiscal Year 2017 Mid-year Amended Budget. Mr. Kromer reminded the committee that the Taxicab Administration works on a full cost recovery basis. Two options were offered to the Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) to reduce the contingency reserves. The first offer was Option A utilizing \$450,000.00 of contingency reserves to set the annual renewal fee at \$300.00 for fiscal year 2017 and adjust back to \$600.00 in fiscal year 2018. Option B is to utilize \$450,000.00 of contingency reserves to set the annual renewal fee at \$450.00 for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018.

Action Taken

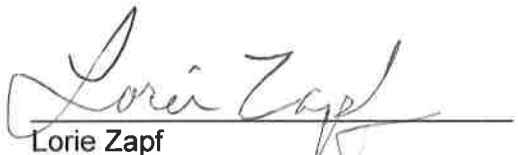
Mr. Hueso moved to utilize \$450,000.00 of contingency reserves to set the annual regulatory fee at \$300.00 for fiscal year 2017 and adjust back to \$600.00 in fiscal year 2018. Mr. Majid seconded the motion, and the vote was 12 to 1 in favor with Mr. Mayekawa, Ms. Mercer and Mr. Terzi absent.

6. Next Meeting – To be determined.


7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Accepted:

  
Lorie Zapf  
Chair of Taxicab Advisory Committee

Filed by:

  
Kristen Foster, Clerk of the Committee  
MTS Taxicab Administration

Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM  
TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING  
ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): December 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 10:07 a.m. ADJOURN: 11:11 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBER (Alternate)	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
Lorie Zapf (Chair) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MTS Board of Directors/SD City Council	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
George Abraham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/Eritrean Cab Co.	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Tarek Affi <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:12 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Alfred Banks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
David Boenitz <input type="checkbox"/> Marc Nichols <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	San Diego County Regional Airport Authority	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Ryan Chasteen <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Hotel Industry	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Tony Hueso <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alfredo Hueso <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/USA Cab, LTD	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Akbar Majid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/SDYC Holdings, LLC	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Daryl Mayekawa <input type="checkbox"/> Josh Layne <input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Convention Center		
Namara Mercer <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Hotel Industry		
Tony Palmeri <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michel Anderson <input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Travelers Aid Society	10:07 a.m.	11:04 a.m.
Able Seifu <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Margo Tanguay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	11:01 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
David Tasem <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Nasser Tehrani <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/N.A.T. Cab Co.	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Joe Terzi <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Hilemon <input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Tourism Authority		
Medhanie Weldegiorgis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/"A" Transportation, LLC	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Marco Mares <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-voting	San Diego County Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Edna Rains <input type="checkbox"/> non-voting	San Diego County Sheriff's Department Licensing Division		
Paul Jablonski <input type="checkbox"/> non-voting	MTS Chief Executive Officer		
Sharon Cooney <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-voting	MTS Chief of Staff	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Bill Kellerman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-voting	MTS Taxicab Administration Manager	10:07 a.m.	11:11 a.m.
Samantha Leslie <input type="checkbox"/> non-voting	MTS Staff Attorney/Regulatory Compliance		

CLERK OF THE TAC: J Britten Foster TAXICAB ADMINISTRATION MANAGER: Bill Kellerman