



J. Jeffrey Munger
Chairperson of the Board

Taxi Licensing Board

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William Keogh
Vice Chairperson

Taxi Licensing Board Agenda
Conference Room 2, Burlington International Airport
Thursday, August 13, 2015
9:07 AM

Present: Bill Keogh (BK), Vice Chair
Dennis Duffy (DD), BPD
Gregg Meyer (GM), Assistant City Attorney
Lori Olberg (LO), City Hall
Ashley Bryce (AB), Taxi Administration, City Hall
Isaac Trombley (IT), Taxi Administration, Airport
Adam Roof (AR), License Committee Member
Matthew Kelsh (MK), Majak Taxi
Dean Athanson (DA), Green Cab
Ali Farah (AF), Atlas Cab
Carol Harvey (CH), State of Vermont, Rehab Center

1. AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Duffy the agenda was adopted as is.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Opened up public forum at 9:07 a.m., without having a quorum.

MK owner operator for Majak Taxi, was present to represent queue drivers to the fact for Uber Cabs coming into the airport picking up off the curb. MK stated he personally pays \$3,124 a year, \$750 for airport and rest for liability insurance. He did not believe Uber paid those amounts. He claimed an Uber driver started at south entrance and slowly cruised by customers showing his phone. City of Burlington licensed taxis have been masking their logos. MK stated if you want to be a taxi look like one and make logos certain size. He stated one guy worked for Uber for a week, decided not to because he picked up a customer by Higher Ground, in South Burlington and destination by Automaster, in Shelburne. Uber only charged \$5.00 for the service. MK insisted that Zab

Cab will be relaunching. MK explained Zab Cab to be a new branding of cabs, phone application like Uber, had been here in the past and will be coming back. MK stated he wanted the board to know, there was high frustration, not a consistency in branding or lack of. Believed procedures need to be followed. MK also complimented the change of Taxi Administration Office was ran very smoothly. MK stated it was the smoothest he had seen in 20 years, it was a great pleasure and highly officiant.

DA pointed out that if someone monitored the Uber Application they would see that all the cars are queued up in the arrival and departure lane. IT stated that was where they are supposed to be located. DA claimed they stay there for 15-20 minutes at a time. IT stated are supposed to be treated like passenger vehicles and be moving in and out. DA did not know drivers could stop there but between midnight and 4 a.m. needs to be watched.

Commissioner Keogh recessed at 9:16 a.m. for quorum to be filled.

3. DISCUSSION:

3.01. Atlas Cab – Queue Permit

IT stated that Ali Farah was there to explain his side and then IT will explain his side for the confusion of the transfer of the company and queue permit. IT believed there was a language barrier issue so he asked AF to come in front of the board.

GM background the transfer of companies was to change queue permit from one to the other.

CH, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the State of Vermont, stated she has been working with AF for 10 years to help him find employment. Stated AF has a very significant disability, below the knee amputation. He Immigrated in 2006, found work in manufacturing job but very few here. The only option they have found was to have the state help paid for AF to start a new business. This is driving taxi, he has done all work himself. They had met with IT to get business up and running.

IT more background information, previous owner Ali Haji came to him about becoming business partners. The original owner moved out of state, explained that queue permits can't be transferred between businesses. IT learned that they had a miscommunication of this happening. IT suggest that they allow him to get a queue permit.

AF stated when he took this company over he didn't know the rules of the City. He needed this job, believed if you are not working you are nothing but when he gets in the taxi he is happy. He has no education here.

IT followed up by stating 50 vehicles a year allowed in queue line with \$500.00 fee. There was never proof that they were partners. Then asks AF if he has dependents.

AF responded with 9 kids.

GM has AF and CH swear that the previous testimony was true.

No further testimony was given.

4. MINUTES:

4.01. Taxi Licensing Board 07/15/2015

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Duffy, the minutes were adopted as is.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Recessed on motion by Commissioners Keogh and Duffy, meeting for executive session after Taxi Appeals Panel Meeting at 9:42 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting was reconvened at 10:37 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Duffy, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went into executive session at 10:37 a.m. to deliberate.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, Taxi Licensing Board Meeting went out of executive session at 11:01 a.m.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof the Taxi Licensing Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Taxi Licensing Appeals Panel Agenda
Conference Room 2, Burlington International Airport
Thursday, August 13, 2015
Time: Directly following Taxi Licensing Board

Present: See Above
John Gero (JG), Green Cab
Raymond Cochones (RC), Dunwright
Tim Rourks (TR), Dunwright
Adam Roberts (AR1), Blazer's Transportation
Ricky Handy (RH), Blazer's Transportation
Scott Farnsworth (SF), Green Cab

1. AGENDA

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Duffy the agenda was adopted as is

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.01. COMMUNICATION: Alaa Arif re: Complaint

*waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Duffy the communication was accepted and placed on file.

3. TAXI DRIVER APPEAL HEARINGS:

3.01. John Gero

He appeared on behalf of his appeal. GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Taxi Appeal Panel and swore him in for testimony.

Background:

The applicant received a DW1 in 1982.

Testimony:

JG applied for taxi drivers license denied because of a DW1 in 1982. There has been nothing since on his record. He paid his fines and went to the courses at the time. He does not drink anymore.

DD asked when last time he drank was: JG answered with 2008, August to be exact. JG stated he learned his lesson and driving taxi will further his decision to not drink.

No further testimony was given.

3.02. Raymond Cochones

He appeared on behalf of his appeal with TR the co-owner of Dunswright Taxi. GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Taxi Appeal Panel and swore both in for testimony.

Background:

The applicant received speeding ticket and other moving violations in the past three years.

Testimony:

RC stated he always took for granted getting a license from the City since 1982. He explains he needs to look at this as a privilege then a right. RC asked for any opportunity to drive taxi again, it will be greatly appreciated.

TR states RC has worked with him for a little over a year. RC is great asset to their company, they have talked about his record and RC promised to change that. TR hoped the Board will give him another chance.

Questions opened to be asked from the Board:

DD asked if the speeding ticket in April was in a taxicab: RC answered that is was originally given to him on the interstate in Richmond, he was not in a taxi. RC stated he lost the ticket, and went back to Richmond Police to get information how to take care of it. He sent to White River and pled guilty. RC stated he never received anything until he received notice of suspension. RC claimed he received this on a Friday, he went to Montpelier the Monday following and took care of the issue.

BK asked if there are any other insurance that he will be improving his driving: RC stated his reinsurance is the love of his job that he always looked at the job as a right not a privilege.

AR asked if he has any dependents: RC responded with a disabled daughter.

No further testimony was given.

3.03. Adam Roberts

He appeared on behalf of his appeal with RH the co-owner of Blazer's Transportation. GM explained the procedure to be followed and introduced the Taxi Appeal Panel and swore both in for testimony.

Background:

The applicant received speeding ticket and other moving violations in the past three years.

Testimony:

AR1 stated he was recently denied for taxi license for speeding and parking in handicap spot. AR1 reasoning for parking in a handicap parking was because he was at Walmart late at night and did not notice the sign. He claimed one speeding ticket was for driving by UVM when speed limit goes from 35 to 25 mph. He admitted to having a heavy foot, and that he will work on that. He stated he had been driving cab for RH for the past 12 years.

Questions opened to be asked from the Board:

DD asked how many speeding violations have happened inside of the cab: AR1 claimed that they were all in the taxicab, believe there were two. AR1 stated there were no passengers in the vehicle.

RH on behalf of AR1 stated over the course of AR1 working, he had a fleet system in each car, where he gets an alert if a driver is going more than 10 mph over the speed limit; AR1 had the fewest speeding violations for his company with this system. RH claimed every time AR received a ticket is the only times he had gone over. RH claimed AR1 was just in the wrong spot at the wrong time. RH stated the other ticket was in Northfield, where AR1 had no idea the speed limit and at 4 a.m. RH said who pays attention to the speed limit.

DD wrong place wrong time and speeding.

RH stated everyone speeds, especially trying to get back to the airport to get more fairs; AR1 is great asset and would like to see him get his license back and be back at work.

BK asked about stolen property on AR1 File: AR1 claimed he already went to trial for that, and received license after:

AR asked if AR1 has any dependents: RH responded with no.

No further testimony was given.

3.04. Scott Farnsworth

He appeared on behalf of his appeal. GM explained the procedure to be followed and swore him in for testimony.

Background:

The applicant received three driving violations in the past three years.

Testimony:

SF stated he has been driving cab for 8 ½ years, had received couple speeding tickets when working for Quik Cab and now couple with Green Cab. SF explains each ticket: SF stated a girl ran a red light on bicycle and hit the cab. Quik Cab was supposed to pay, but failed to pay in the time granted. Next was failure to yield at a sign in a Green Cab, with clients in car. He claims he was pulled over for having break light and tail light out. Within the same night was pulled over for talking on the phone. Claimed dispatcher told him the police could not make him park the car. No kids.

Questions opened to be asked from the Board:

AR asked if SF got pulled over twice in one night: SF answered yes.

BK asked if before SF starts tour if he checks vehicle over and lights: SF responded with to check tail lights are hard unless you have someone else to look, lately he had been pulling up the building next to Green Cab to check.

DD asked how long had SF been at current address: SF responded with 6-7 years. DD asked how SF not get suspension letters to current address on your license: SF stated he never received suspension until after the fact; they mess up his mail all the time with his neighbors.

IT asked SF why he was operating at the airport four times in the past two weeks without having a license: SF stated he was told he could until the hearing. IT asked by who: SF responded with my boss. IT requested what boss: SF responded with Mike or Charlie. IT claimed he had witnessed him dropping of twice. DD asked when was notification was received: SF responded that he was not given notice. GM questioned how SF knew about the hearing. AB stated his employer received notice and contacted him. That is when SF came into her office, she handed paperwork directly to him, and stated that he could not drive in Burlington or Airport until he was issued a new license. GM restated the fact that SF drove at the airport fully aware that he was not supposed to be. SF stated he told Mike he was not supposed to but they advised him he could. GM asked who Mike was. SF responded Mike Leach was the general manager for Green Cab.

No further testimony was given.

3.05. Dean Athanson

He appeared on behalf of his appeal. GM explained the procedure to be followed and swore him in for testimony.

Background:

The applicant received possession of marijuana charge in 1993.

Testimony:

DA had taxi license in Burlington 2001-2002. He has worked for multiple trucking companies since. Has over 1 million accident free safe commercial miles traveling in 48 states. Right now dispatcher for Green Cab. They are expanding to Montpelier soon, and he will need to drop off passengers at the airport. He had numerous drug test and has had no incidences since 1993.

No further testimony was given.

4. MINUTES:

4.01. Taxi Licensing Appeals Panel 07/15/2015.

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Duffy, the minutes were adopted as is.

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Duffy, the Appeals Panel went into executive session at 10:25 a.m. to deliberate.

On a motion by Commissioners Keogh and Roof, the Appeals Panel went out of executive session at 10:36 a.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioners Roof and Duffy the Taxi Licensing Appeals Panel was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

DRAFT