

Minutes of the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission
Board Meeting - Friday, March 5, 2004
1:00 p. m., in the Auditorium at 100 North Tucker Boulevard.

Call to order at 1:15 p.m., by Vice Chairman Lou Hamilton, who announced that he will chair today's meeting due to the absence of Chairman Tom McCarthy.

Roll Call was conducted. Present were: Commissioners Hamilton, Harris, McNutt, Morgan, and Satz. Absent, in addition to Mr. McCarthy, were Commissioners Bennett and Rudawsky.

(Note: there were 8 attendees in the audience)

Mr. Hamilton opened the meeting by welcoming our new Commissioner, the appointed successor to Solomon Tadesse, who had resigned in November 2003. He is: Abera Shiferaw, a driver for Gateway Express.

Mr. Hamilton apologized on behalf of the Commission for the abrupt cancellation of last month's meeting (on February 20). Just as that session was about to begin, it was learned a Commissioner was ill - thus we did not have a quorum. Mr. Hamilton explained that our Charter requires there to be present two Commissioners from the City and two from the County in order to hold an official meeting.

Approval of Minutes of January 23 meeting – All Commissioners had been sent an advance copy of the Minutes for review.

Motion to consider and adopt the Minutes was made by Mr. Satz, seconded by Mr. Morgan, passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Hamilton asked if there are any comments or proposed changes to the draft? Hearing none, he called the vote to approve the Minutes. Without opposition, the Minutes were approved.

Old Business

Random Drug Testing – per Mr. Tully, he and Mike Morgan have worked on this program and Mr. Tully now wishes to announce that our implementation date will be July 1, that our target group will be 10% of the driver population, and that a company (BJC Healthcare) has been selected as the provider of this service. The company will maintain the database and they will be responsible to randomly select the drivers and then notify them of the requirement to be tested. Mr. Hamilton suggested the MTC should officially notify all the company owners that they are *required* to comply when selected; he also asked Mr. Tully what penalty will result for failure to comply? Mr. Tully replied that we still cannot assess fines/penalties, we only can suspend and revoke licenses.

Mr. Hamilton stated that if anyone fails to comply, there should be an automatic suspension; Mr. Tully concurred.

Waiting time limitations / use of transponders:

Mr. Tully reported that last week, two separate meetings were conducted by Airport Deputy Director Gerard Slay: one, with the On-Call drivers and owners, the other with the Airport drivers and owners.