



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

FW: CM O'Farrell Motion (16-1053) on Tour Buses - Item in Transportation Committee Wednesday 9/28/16, 1 PM

1 message

Michael Giddens <mgiddens@pacificcoachways.com>
To: "Adam.Lid@lacity.org" <Adam.Lid@lacity.org>

Tue, Sep 27, 2016 at 6:46 PM

Please see the message below. I didn't realize your email address was not listed. Thanks!

From: Michael Giddens

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 6:43 PM

To: Dan Halden <daniel.halden@lacity.org>; Angelo Yenke <angelo.yenke@lacity.org>; Tony Arranaga <tony.arranaga@lacity.org>

Cc: 'tony@redlinetours.com' <tony@redlinetours.com>; Tom Giddens <tgiddens@pacificcoachways.com>

Subject: RE: CM O'Farrell Motion (16-1053) on Tour Buses - Item in Transportation Committee Wednesday 9/28/16, 1 PM

To the Transportation Committee:

I agree with the comments that Tony Hoover has stated below. There is a fundamental difference between sightseeing operators and tour/charter operators that is not made clear in this motion. It is the sightseeing operators that have created most of the problems highlighted in the motion, yet it seems that all buses are being blamed for the problems.

Tour/Charter operators fall under a multitude of federal and state regulations that give them authority to operate. In this category of operations, visitors are typically brought from other areas to visit locations such as Hollywood. These guests could include fellow Southern Californians, school groups from around the country, or tourists from around the world. These people want to come to the city to see the sights, as well as spend their money to buy local goods and services. When people choose to travel by bus into the city, it eliminates additional cars on the streets which in turn reduces congestion and pollution into the air. Travel by bus is also safe; it is the safest form of ground transportation available.

Sightseeing operators on the other hand are selling their product to visitors that are already in the city. They typically start and end their trips within the city. They are not bringing visitors into the city. I do believe that there are reputable sightseeing operators in the city, but there may be others that are not. There is not as much oversight or regulation on this type of business. They may very well require more regulations from the city in order create control (much like taxi operators are regulated by the city). However, a clear distinction must be made from these two very different types of business.

With that said, the tour/charter operators require the city's assistance in order to keep bringing those visitors into the city safely. We need places where our buses can unload, park and load safely. We appreciate the Councilmember's help with the trial bus parking program and hope that the iniquities of the sightseeing operators does not ruin everyone else's opportunity for a place to park while our visitors come to spend their money in the city. Unfortunately we find ourselves in a time when most cities are continually taking away parking making bus travel to those locations more difficult. While at the same time, clamoring for the tourists that are coming on those buses. If they make it too difficult, those people will look at other modes which may increase traffic and pollution, or they may not come at all.

We appreciate your consideration and understanding. I'd love to be able to address the committee in person, but unfortunately I am not able to make the meeting on such short notice. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Regards,

Michael Giddens

General Manager

Pacific Coachways Charter Services, Inc.

[714-892-5000](tel:714-892-5000)

From: Tony Hoover [<mailto:tony@redlinetours.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 5:38 PM

To: Dan Halden <daniel.halden@lacity.org>; Angelo Yenke <angelo.yenke@lacity.org>; Tony Arranaga <tony.arranaga@lacity.org>

Subject: RE: CM O'Farrell Motion (16-1053) on Tour Buses - Item in Transportation Committee Wednesday 9/28/16, 1 PM

Hi Dan,

As I read this attachment I was feeling that we need to separate the "sightseeing" van operations operating off the sidewalk, from national "charter" coach operations. They are two very different and separate types of businesses.

The vans are the crux of the problems described in the motion. These people are not regulated. Many are fly by night operations.

Charter buses are highly regulated and are held to a very different standard.

You may also want to be in touch with the American Bus Association (ABA) <http://www.buses.org/> to disseminate meeting information to their constituents (either locally or regionally) regarding these motions and issues. The ABA

can be a great resource for you in resolving issues relating to charter coaches specifically. Peter Pantuso is the President and CEO of ABA. I can make an introduction if you like.

Tony Hoover

Chief Operations Officer



P.O. Box 2089, Hollywood, CA 90078

TEL (323) 371 0373 FAX (323) 402-1070

tony@redlinegrouptravel.com

From: Dan Halden [<mailto:daniel.halden@lacity.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 5:15 PM

To: Angelo Yenko; Tony Arranaga

Subject: CM O'Farrell Motion (16-1053) on Tour Buses - Item in Transportation Committee Wednesday 9/28/16, 1 PM

Neighbors and Tour Operators,

Please be advised that Councilmember O'Farrell has introduced a motion (16-1053) calling for various reports and recommendations on how the City can provide for a better, safer environment regarding tour buses.

As you may know, the bulk of the regulatory authority for tour buses is under the jurisdiction of the State of California. If adopted, the motion will instruct various City departments to report on steps the City can take to help better protect the safety and quality of life of tour operators, passengers and residents of Los Angeles.

A copy of the motion is attached, and the Council file is here: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=16-1053>

The motion will be heard at the Transportation Committee hearing tomorrow, Wednesday 9/28, at 1:00 PM at City Hall. The agenda is here: http://ens.lacity.org/clk/committeeagenda/clkcommitteeagenda30106369_09282016.html

Transportation Committee is open to the public if you would like to attend to make a public comment. You can also submit any comments in writing to: Adam.Lid@lacity.org. Please CC Daniel.Halden@lacity.org and Angelo.Yenko@lacity.org; please reference Item 16-1053.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,



Dan Halden

Hollywood Field Deputy

Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District

1722 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026

(213) 207-3015 | www.cd13.com

Find the Councilmember on:    