

**BOARD OF TAXICAB
COMMISSIONERS**

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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA**



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 S. MAIN STREET, 10TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

SELETA J. REYNOLDS
GENERAL MANAGER

ITEM #3

**BOARD OF TAXICAB COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 21, 2018
10:00 AM**

CONVENED

The Board of Taxicab Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, June 21, 2018 @ 10:33 AM in Room 1070, City Hall at 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM NO. 1 – WELCOME

President Spiegelman called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present noting that those wishing to testify before the Board must fill out a speaker's form. He informed the audience that if anyone is a registered lobbyist, City ordinance requires that it should be indicated on the speaker's form. He also reminded everyone that this session is being broadcast on Council phone, to speak into the microphone, and to silence cell phones.

ITEM NO. 2 – ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Andrea Martinez, Marilyn Grunwald, Boris Gorbis, and Eric Spiegelman; Bridget Smith, Assistant General Manager; Jarvis Murray, Taxicab Administrator; Michael Nagle, Deputy Assistant City Attorney

Absent: Commissioner Mampre Pomakian

ITEM NO. 3 – MINUTES

President Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Gorbis to approve the Minutes of April 19, 2018. Commissioner Martinez abstained. Motion carries. Minutes are APPROVED.

ITEM NO. 4 – COMMUNICATIONS

Commission Executive Assistant introduced a letter received from Neil Evans, attorney representing LA Checker Cab. Copies were distributed to Board members. The Board will review and take it under advisement.

ITEM NO. 5 – COMMISSION BUSINESS

There was no commission business reported.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENT

There was no neighborhood council comment taken.

PUBLIC FORUM

Public comments were taken.

INFORMATION ITEM

ITEM NO. 7 – LETTER FROM STEVEN M. NEIMAND, ATTORNEY AT LAW, ON BEHALF OF BEHZAD BITARAF, AUTHORIZED TAXICAB SUPERVISION (ATS), IN RESPONSE TO THE APRIL 19, 2018 LETTER FROM THE TAXICAB COMMISSION NOTIFYING APPELLANT, AMARJOT GHAUNIA, THAT HIS APPEAL IS BEING REMANDED BACK TO ATS FOR RE-HEARING (Taken out of order)

Jarvis Murray, Taxicab Administrator, addressed the board. Mr. Neimand was not present. President Spiegelman responded by stating that ATS missed the point of the letter we sent them. According to their letter, the appellant withdrew his appeal. However, Mr. Neimand did not address what was requested from ATS by LADOT in their letter. President Spiegelman requested a review of all punishments taken against taxi drivers by ATS during the past year. Mr. Murray stated that staff would make the request. However, the Board agreed to draft a letter to ATS detailing the request. This letter will be added to the agenda and discussed at the next meeting.

ITEM NO. 6 – PRESENTATION ON RIDEHALE REVOLUTION: RIDEHAIL TRAVEL AND EQUITY IN LOS ANGELES (Taken out of order)

Anne Brown, PhD candidate in Urban Planning and post-doctoral scholar at the Institute of Transportation Studies at UCLA, presented the findings of her doctoral dissertation to the Board.

Question and answer session occurred.

Public comments were taken.

President Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Martinez to take a 5-minute break.
Unanimously APPROVED.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM NO. 8 – REVOCATION OF L.A. CHECKER CAB COOPERATIVE, INC. D.B.A. L.A. CHECKER CAB, FOR VIOLATIONS OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE 12510(A)(5), TAXICAB RULE 429, AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF ITS TAXICAB FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

President Spiegelman introduced the item, pointing out the seriousness of the allegations. He noted that the recommendation does not accord with the Los Angeles Municipal Code or the rules of the Taxicab Commission. He stated that the Board does not have the authority to revoke a franchise. The power to revoke a franchise rests solely with the City Council. Also, taxicab rules 900 – 916 require an administrative hearing before the Department of Transportation (DOT) before any revocation can take place.

President Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Grunwald, to have DOT staff schedule and conduct an administrative hearing with LA Checker Cab before the July or August Board meetings and to remove the revocation of the franchise from the item to be considered, in favor of a penalty of suspension of one year, pending the outcome of the administrative hearing. Unanimously APPROVED.

Public comments were taken.

Commissioner Gorbis moved, seconded by President Spiegelman to take a 5-minute break, then enter into Executive Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ITEM NO. 9 – APPEAL OF RAUL AMILCAR PALACIOS, CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT’S OCTOBER 2, 2017, SUSPENSION AND SUBSEQUENT APRIL 9, 2018, REVOCATION OF HIS TAXICAB DRIVER PERMIT #516594, PURSUANT TO BOARD ORDER 471, RULE 608R. NO COMPANY SPONSOR

Patricia Barker, Senior Transportation Investigator, presented the report. The appellant was not present.

Commissioner Gorbis moved, seconded by President Spiegelman, to deny the appeal. Unanimously APPROVED.

ITEM NO. 10 – APPEAL OF YOUNG DUK KIM CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT’S MARCH 6, 2018 DENIAL OF HIS TAXICAB DRIVER PERMIT #519696 PURSUANT TO BOARD ORDER 471, RULE 617

Eric Cavarlez, Transportation Investigator, presented the report. The appellant was present and addressed the board.


President Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Gorbis, to deny the appeal, without prejudice, with the provision that a new application be submitted for re-consideration (Board will direct Department to waive fees), and that all falsified social security cards be turned over to DOT for destruction. Unanimously APPROVED.

President Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Gorbis, to enter into regular session. Unanimously APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.7

With no further business before the Board of Taxicab Commissioners, President Spiegelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Martinez to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously APPROVED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM.

Approved: 7/16/18
Board of Taxicab Commissioners

Commission Executive Assistant