



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday January 26, 2021

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

MCDOT Staff:

Walton Harris and Denise James

Commission members Present:

Francis Creighton, Chair

Robert Alexander, David Mohebbi, Nelson Biama, Belay Teklehayimanot, Elizabeth Ellis, Becaye Traore and Charles Kauffman

Ex-Officio members Present:

Christopher Conklin

Commission members Absent:

Joyce Plaxen; Afework Kidane

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Tom Hucker, Councilmember – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee

Guests:

Sam Oji – Chief of Enhanced Mobility and Customer Relations

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.



Action Items:

- Chair Creighton made the motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Ellis. The minutes were approved unanimously among the members present.

Nomination of new Taxicab Commission Chair:

- Chair Creighton nominated Buffy Ellis for the position of new chair of the Taxicab Services Commission. The motion was seconded by commission member Mohebbi. After further discussion, commission member Mohebbi made a motion to vote for commission member Ellis for chair of the Taxicab Services Commission. Commission member Creighton seconded the motion. The commission elected commission Ellis as the new Chair of the Taxicab Services Commission by a unanimous vote among the members present.

Discussion Items:**Discussion with Sam Oji – Chief, Enhanced Mobility and Customer Relations**

- Commission guest Oji discussed the process in which drivers who provide transportation services to clients of the Medicaid Assistance Program are paid.
- Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to draft a letter to the Maryland Department of Health regarding potential changes to Maryland's approach to Medicaid's Non-Emergency Medical Transportation program. Commission member Creighton seconded the motion. A vote to authorize Commission member Ellis to draft and send a letter to the Maryland Department of Health was approved unanimously among members present.

Discussion regarding ensuring quality wheelchair accessible (WAV) services during peak service times.

- Staff member Harris proposed the commission discuss ways to incentivize certain hours where, anecdotally, there has been a lack of WAV service to meet demand. Commission members requested staff produce a memorandum outlining options for changes to the current WAV incentive program.

Other items:

- Staff gave brief information regarding certain elements of the RELIEF Act introduced by Maryland Governor Hogan which included eligibility requirements to receive funding.
- Staff provided information regarding vaccination opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.