Taxicab Services Commission

November 19, 2024

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Meeting held Virtually on MS Teams

Attendees:

Commission members present:

Elizabeth "Buffy" Ellis, David Mohebbi, Willie Sumo, Reza Raoofi, Charles Kauffman

Commission members absent:

Nelson Biama, Joyce Plaxen, Becaye Traore, Afework Kidane

MCDOT Staff: Ulysses Delaney, Walton Harris, Kofi Bempah, Kristopher Starks, Ulysses Delaney, Sam Oji, Antoinette Brunson

Ex-Officio members Present:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Chris Conklin – Director – Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Evan Glass – Montgomery County Council President and Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee

Guests:

None

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Action Item:

- There was not a quorum at this meeting to approve the September 17, 2024 Taxicab Services Commission meeting minutes. Commission members will need to approve both the September 17 meeting minutes and the November 19, 2024 meeting minutes at a future Taxicab Services Commission meeting.

Discussion Items:

Discussion – Calendar year 2025 meeting dates

- Commission members reviewed future Taxicab Services Commission meeting dates for calendar year 2025.

Discussion – Bill 53-14 – Taxicabs – Licensing – Vehicle Requirements

- Taxicab Service Commission members discussed prior legislation that mandated that the Department of Transportation develop a plan for the taxicab industry to reach a 100 percent accessible vehicle fleet by 2025.

- Commission members discussed the improbability of achieving that goal and highlighted the current number of wheelchair accessible vehicles available.

Discussion – Update Bill 19-24 – Taxicab Licenses – Amended Requirements

- Taxicab Regulation Unit staff discussed a bill recently transmitted to the Montgomery County Council that would increase the age of in-service eligibility from eight years to 10 years for sedans and from eight years to 12 years for electric, hybrids, and wheelchair accessible vehicles.

- Staff also informed the commission and taxicab operators of other aspects of the bill including additional reporting requirements and clarifying language in the code.

Discussion – Biennial Report

- Commission members discussed finalizing the 2024 Biennial Report which included detailed recommendations to a change in the meter rate.

- Several Commission members suggested no change to the meter rate but changing the rate for miles traveled.

- Commission members discussed the addition of a nighttime charge for taxicab service that occurs after a certain hour.

Discussion – EZRide Montgomery

- Staff provided a brief update regarding the budgetary process for advocating and advancing new program proposals to the Department of Management and Budget.

New business

- No new business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned:

Commission member Kauffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Raoofi. The motion was passed unanimously by those in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.