



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday May 31, 2022

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams



Attendees:

Commission members present:

Elizabeth “Buffy” Ellis, Charles Kauffman, David Mohebbi, Francis Creighton, Afework Kidane, Becaye Traore, Nelson Biama

Commission members absent:

Belay Teklehayimanot, Joyce Plaxen

MCDOT Staff: Walton Harris, Robert Hardesty, Ulysses Delaney

Ex-Officio members Present:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Chris Conklin – Department of Transportation

Tom Hucker – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee, Montgomery County Council

Guests:

Daniel Koroma – Montgomery County Business Solutions Office

Evelyn Angel – San Francisco Taxi Workers Alliance

The meeting was call to order at 6:04 p.m.

Action Items:

- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to approve the March 29, 2022, meeting minutes. Commission member Creighton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously among all members present.
- Staff explained that, because of a technological issue which caused two commission members to disconnect from prior TSC meeting, two motions that were made by Commission member Mohebbi during that meeting remained unaddressed.
- Commission member Mohebbi withdrew his motion from the March 29 TSC meeting to request that MCDOT staff explore the quickest method to implement a surcharge for taxicab trips.
- Commission member Mohebbi's second motion to request that MCDOT immediately permit taxicabs to implement a surcharge of \$1.50 per taxi trip until the price of gasoline is under \$4 per gallon. The motion passed 5-1.
- Commission member Mohebbi made a motion for MCDOT to permit the implementation of a \$1.50 surcharge, for all taxicab trips, to mitigate the increased cost of gasoline, with funds coming from the Transportation Services Improvement Fund. The motion passed 7-0 with one abstention.

Discussion Items:**Introduction to Ulysses Delaney – Taxicab Regulation Unit's new Code Enforcement Officer**

- Staff introduced Ulysses Delaney, the Taxicab Regulation Unit's newest Code Enforcement Officer, to members of the Taxicab Services Commission.

Taxicab gas disbursement payment to taxicab drivers in Montgomery County:

- Staff provided a status update on a supplemental appropriation for \$75,000 transmitted to the County Council intended to provide each active taxicab driver in Montgomery County a \$300 grant to offset the increase in gas prices.
- The Council increased the supplemental appropriation to \$150,000 which would provide for two payments of \$300 to taxicab drivers.

Discussion with Daniel Koroma – Montgomery County Business Solutions Group:

- Daniel Koroma, with the Montgomery County Business Solutions Group, provided information on County related business programs and resources.
- Mr. Koroma offered to meet with representatives from each company to discuss what services the Business Solutions Group could provide both companies and drivers.

Discussion with Evelyn Engel – San Francisco Taxi Workers Alliance:

- Evelyn Engel, with the San Francisco Taxi Workers Alliance, provided information regarding the pending partnership between Uber and taxicab companies in San Francisco which would allow Uber customers to be transported by taxicabs.

Meeting adjourned:

Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission member Biama seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the members present.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.