



Taxicab Services Commission

September 17, 2024 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Meeting held at 101 Monroe Street

Rockville, Maryland 20850

**Attendees:**

**Commission members present:**

Elizabeth “Buffy” Ellis, David Mohebbi, Afework Kidane, Becaye Traore, Willie Sumo, Reza Raoofi

**Commission members absent:**

Nelson Biama, Joyce Plaxen, Charles Kauffman

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

**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:**

Taxicab operators

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**Action Item:**

- Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to approve Taxicab Services Commission meeting minutes from the July 23, 2024 Taxicab Services Commission meeting. Commission member Traore indicated that certain comments were excluded from the minutes and requested that those comments be incorporated prior to voting to approve the minutes. Commission Chair Ellis

indicated that the minutes could be approved pending the submission of amended minutes. Commission member Sumo seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by all commission members present.

## **Discussion Items:**

### **Discussion – Bill XX-24 Age of Vehicle In-Service Eligibility**

- 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 – Montgomery County Committee Evaluation and Review Board Questionnaire**

- Taxicab Regulation Unit staff briefly discussed a questionnaire that the Montgomery County Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB) requested commission members review and complete.

### **Discussion – Biennial Report**

- Commission Chair Ellis discussed several aspects of the Biennial Report with sedan and WAV taxicab operators in attendance.
- Commission Chair Ellis opened the floor to taxicab operators who provided insight and suggestions regarding the changes to the meter rate. Operators discussed changes to the miles traveled rate and the initial “drop” charge.
- Taxicab operators also discussed changes to the total number of Passenger Vehicle Licenses available.
- Taxicab operators discussed changes to the fee structure currently used by the Department of Transportation. Commission member Traore suggested eliminating all fees imposed on the taxicab industry by the county.
- Taxicab operators briefly discussed a change to insurance requirements for drivers, however, based on advice from the Office of the County Attorney, the department will not entertain a further reduction of required coverage amounts.
- Taxicab operators discussed changes to the accessibility requirements under Article 5 of Chapter 53, but provided no suggestions to that provision.
- Taxicab operators discussed certain changes to the dispatch and affiliation requirements with some taxicab operators suggesting that the county end the requirement to affiliate with a company or association.

**New business**

- No new business was discussed.

**Meeting adjourned:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.