



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday February 23, 2021

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:**

**MCDOT Staff:**

Walton Harris, Denise James, Sam Oji,  
and Robert Hardesty

**Commission members Present:**

Elizabeth (Buffy) Ellis, Chair

Robert Alexander, David Mohebbi, Nelson Biama, Belay Teklehayimanot, Francis Creighton,  
Becaye Traore; Joyce Plaxen and Charles Kauffman

**Ex-Officio members Present:**

Christopher Conklin

**Commission members Absent:**

None

**Ex-Officio members Absent:**

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

**Guests:**

None

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.



### **Action Items:**

- Commission member Kauffman made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Creighton. The minutes were approved unanimously among the members present.

### **Ratification of letter sent to MCDOT Director Conklin re: Medicaid's NEMT program**

- Chair Ellis announced the results of vote on correspondence that was sent to MCDOT Director Conklin regarding the State of Maryland Medicaid Non-Emergency Management Treatment program. The director forwarded that correspondence to Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health.

### **Discussion Items:**

#### **Introduction to Robert W. Hardesty**

- Robert Hardesty, MCDOT's Taxicab Office Code Enforcement Officer, introduced himself to commission members and provided information about his background and offered his assistance to fleet owners and drivers moving forward.

#### **Discussion regarding Taxicab Services Commission Goals for 2021**

- Chair Ellis suggested adding brief biographical information of TSC members to the TSC page of the MCDOT's website as well as other initiatives to help raise awareness about the taxicab industry.
- Chair Ellis and Commission member Kauffman requested more information about the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF).
- Chair Ellis requested that trip data information be provided to the commission.
- Commission member Kauffman introduced the idea of an account that residents could open and contribute to that could provide taxicab service.
- Commission member Traore request that the department review the amounts of payments allocated to drivers from the TSIF for mileage, capital costs and the Call-n-Ride Guaranteed Fare program.
- Staff member James discussed the importance of providing the proper paperwork necessary to fully benefit from the county's TSIF incentive plan.

#### **Discussion regarding the composition of the Taxicab Services Commission**

- Commission members discussed the potentially changing the composition of the TSC.
- Commission member Mohebbi indicated that it would be best to further examine the possible scenarios regarding a change to the commission and decide at a later date.

- Chair Ellis recommended the commission review the idea and proposed providing a recommendation at the next TSC meeting.

**Other items:**

- Staff provided updated information regarding vaccination schedules and opportunities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.