



**BURLINGTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE LICENSING BOARD
SHARON BUSHOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, 149 CHURCH ST.
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 11, 2024**

Draft

**Members Present: Paul Hines
Stephen Hamlin
Youness Jamil**

**Also Present: Hayley McClenahan
Tenzin Chokden**

Meeting start time: 05:36 P.M

1. Agenda

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1.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

Motion to accept the agenda by Stephen Hamlin, seconded by Youness Jamil.
Approved unanimously.

2. Approve Minutes

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2.1. Approval of 05/30/24 Minutes

Motion to accept the previous minutes by Stephen Hamlin, seconded by Youness Jamil.
Approved unanimously.

3. Public Forum

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3.1. PUBLIC FORUM - Verbal Comments

No members of the public commented.

4. Hearings

4.1. Ride Easy Taxi

Hayley McClenahan swore in Aziz Bakkali, the complainant, via Zoom. She also swore in Saadi AlJarah, the driver of Ride Easy Taxi, and Ali AlJarah, the business owner of Ride Easy Taxi.

Ali AlJarah stated he is representing Saadi AlJarah who is his father, and also serves as a translator for Saadi AlJarah, who doesn't speak English.

Due to poor cell reception hindering the video conference, the board paused the hearing to allow Aziz Bakkali to find a more suitable location. The board decided to move on to item #6, New business, and discuss the vehicle for hire ordinance change proposal that was discussed with the airport commission at their meeting on Tuesday, July 2nd.

The board acknowledged the written complaint but noted the complainant's absence from the hearing following a 5-minute recess. Due to this absence, the complainant's right to a hearing was waived.

Youness Jamil asked if it is legal to allow Ali AlJarah to translate for Saadi.

Hayley McClenahan advised it is up to the board's comfort, if the board wants to request a separate interpreter then the meeting will need to be rescheduled.

Paul Hines hears no objections from the board and will hear from the respondents first.

Ali AlJarah stated that he did not receive the full complaint and therefore he needs more time to review to respond.

A copy of the full complaint was provided and time allowed for review.

In a resumed video conference, Aziz Bakkali explained his complaint against Saadi. He accused Saadi of violating airport regulations by soliciting customers inside the terminal and stealing a client who had booked with Bakkali. Bakkali claims to have evidence that the customer repeatedly asked Saadi if he was Aziz, but Saadi feigned ignorance of English and kept answering affirmatively. The customer only realized the mistake after several minutes into the ride.

Bakkali claimed the driver wasn't following the queue rules. He alleged the driver skipped taking his rightful fare and instead gave the customer to a friend who was last in line. He stated that this violates the system where drivers take turns serving customers.

Saadi countered that the customer came up to him while he was waiting at the front of the queue and inquired about a taxi. The customer mentioned a long trip and asked if he could handle it. Saadi confirmed and had the customer enter the address on his phone. He claims she only asked his name after reaching exit 17, and he simply replied "Saadi." Unaware of any prior reservation, he completed the trip and gave the customer a business card. Saadi insisted he only learned it was Aziz's customer later from another driver. He denied any wrongdoing and alleged Aziz and Youness confronted him angrily upon returning from the trip.

Aziz Bakkali claimed to have witnesses who can testify about Saadi's rule violations at the airport and is ready to present them if needed. Although he has email reservation records from the customer, he failed to submit them before the hearing.

Stephen Hamlin asked why didn't he bring his witnesses to the hearing and submit the evidence.

Ali AlJarah stated that the complainant was not taking the complaint seriously by not being present in person and disregarded the hearing's importance by multitasking (phone) and not bringing relevant evidence. Due to a lack of evidence and inconsistencies, he believes the case should be dismissed.

The board will deliberate on this hearing and a decision notice will be sent by mail.

5. Deliberative Session

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The board entered a deliberative session at 7:00 PM and ended at 7:15 PM.

Youness Jamil recused himself from the deliberative session due to conflict of interest.

6. New Business

Paul Hines requested that Hayley McClenahan share the airport commission's thoughts on the proposed ordinance changes related to vehicles for hire. He wanted to know if she could briefly summarize their feedback.

Hayley McClenahan shared that there are suggestions for improving the signage on credit card payment. The signage is meant to inform passengers about the temporary cash-only period before credit card processing is available. The City Council is expected to discuss this on Monday to recommend sending the proposal to the Ordinance Committee for further review based on feedback from the airport commissioners.

The committee's schedule and current workload will determine when they can review the ordinance. City Council rules allow the Council to take over the ordinance if the committee hasn't addressed it after 3 meetings. However, it's expected that the committee will likely review it within the next few meetings after it's officially referred to them.

Hayley McClenahan informed the board they can attend the ordinance committee meeting to share further feedback on the draft. They should contact the chair of the committee.

The next meeting will be held on 08/14/2024 @ 5:30pm.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Stephen Hamlin, seconded by Youness Jamil.

Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.