



Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board 12/17/2019

Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board (Tuesday, December 17, 2019)

Generated by Christine Dunbar on Friday, January 24, 2020

Members present

Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Charles Herrick(arrived at 9:28am), Adam Roof(phone)

Members absent

Bethany Whitaker

Also present

Christine Dunbar, C/T; Joy Hovestadt, Asst. City Attorney; Alaa Arif, Future Cab; Jassim Jassim, Champlain Taxi; Holly Sanders, witness; Ted Adler(phone), witness

Meeting called to order at 9:07 AM

1. Agenda

Action, Procedural: 1.01 Adopt/Amend Agenda

Adopt/Amend Agenda as follows: switch the order of the hearings, Champlain Taxi will go first followed by Future Cab

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Adam Roof.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Adam Roof

Not Present at Vote: Charles Herrick

2. Public Forum

Discussion, Information: 2.01 Public Forum



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3. Hearing

Public Hearing: 3.01 Future Cab - Alaa Arif

- Mr. Arif is the owner of Future Cab and was the driver during this trip. Future Cab has a business license from the City of Burlington.
- Mr. Arif appeared in person at the hearing. Mr. Adler appeared by phone.
- On November 10, 2019, into the early morning of November 11, 2019 Mr. Adler and his travel companion, Todd Lamothe, arrived at Burlington International Airport, and went to the taxi stand to arrange for a ride home. Mr. Arif picked them up there.
- Mr. Adler and Mr. Lamothe were riding to two different locations. A third passenger with a different destination was added to the taxi. There was conflicting testimony as to whether the two original passengers agreed to the addition of the third passenger. Mr. Adler testified that they did not consent, but felt like they could not object. Mr. Arif testified that they did consent, and that due to the time of day and weather he did not want to leave the third passenger behind.
- The passengers initially believed that Mr. Arif was going to take a longer route to their destinations, but he ultimately took the route their wished upon their request.
- When Mr. Adler was dropped off the metered rate was \$14. He did not pay when he was dropped off, as Mr. Lamothe was going to pay for both of them at his final destination. When the second passenger was dropped off downtown she was charged \$17. When Mr. Lamothe was dropped off he was charged \$35, despite the meter reading \$22. The Mr. Lamothe was dropped off on November 11, 2019 at 12:43 a.m.
- Mr. Arif testified that he did not remember if he restarted the meter after the first drop off, but that he did restart the meter after the second passenger was dropped off.

Public Hearing: 3.02 Champlain Taxi - Jassim Jassim

- Mr. Jassim is the owner of Champlain Taxi and was the driver during this trip. Champlain Taxi has a business license from the City of Burlington.
- On November 4, 2019, Ms. Sanders received a ride with Mr. Jassim from Lime Rock Road in South Burlington to Burlington International Airport.
- Ms. Sanders testified that it was not her, but someone else who arranged for the ride over the phone. She based her understanding of what the cost of the ride would be on a ride that she had taken that same day between the same two locations.
- Mr. Jassim testified that the rate had been agreed upon prior to the ride.
- When they arrived at the destination Mr. Jassim informed Ms. Sanders that the fare for the ride was \$17.00. Ms. Sanders informed him that her previous fare had been \$12.00 plus a \$3.00 tip, and that her understanding was that this would also be the fare for the current ride. Ultimately Ms. Sanders paid \$12.00 plus a \$3.00 tip for the ride. Mr. Jassim requested to be paid in cash, but ultimately accepted a credit card when Ms. Sanders objected.
- Ms. Sanders testified that she looked for driver identification in the vehicle but did not see any. Mr. Jassim testified that he does have identification in his vehicle.



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4. Communication

Communication, Information: 4.01 Monthly fees

CD provided the Board with FY19 and FY20 spreadsheets for comparison. The numbers appear to be on track in comparison to last year and company audits will not be taking place at this time.

Communication, Information: 4.02 Staff/Compliance Officer Update

JH stated that a meeting took place at BPD and Shelby Losier agreed that the Compliance Officer could be staffed at the Airport. JH will follow up with HR to see where they are at in the process as there is a candidate that has received the offer to work in this position part-time, and he is ready to start working.

Communication, Discussion: 4.03 Commissioner items

5. Minutes

Action, Minutes: 5.01 November 25, 2019

Approve the minutes

Motion by Charles Herrick, second by Bill Keogh.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Charles Herrick, Adam Roof

6. Adjournment

Action: 6.01 Adjourn

Adjourn meeting at 11:04 AM

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Jeff Munger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Charles Herrick, Adam Roof



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