



Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board 7/27/2017

Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board (Thursday, July 27, 2017)

Generated by Christine Dunbar on Tuesday, August 1, 2017

Members present:

Jeffrey Munger, JM

Bill Keogh, BK

Dennis Duffy, DD

Adam Roof, AR

Also Present:

Anthea Dexter-Cooper, AD

Eugene Bergman, EB

Christine Dunbar, CD

Ashley Bryce, AB

Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM

1. Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Keogh, second by Commissioner Roof to amend the agenda to introduce the new City Attorney for the VfH board, Anthea Dexter-Cooper.

Voting: Unanimous, motion carried.

2. Public Forum

None

3. Hearing

3.01 Youness Jamil

Youness Jamil not present. BK, AR and DD recused themselves from this hearing as they were personally involved in this case as it was occurring.

3.02 John Shoram, JS

John Shoram present. EB swore in JS, AB and CD. AB presented to the board that on July 7th she received a call from the airport stating that a driver for Blazer Transportation, JS, had been previously convicted on May 12th for vulnerable adult



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sexual abuse and was sentenced. AB stated he was also on the sex offender list. CD stated that as soon as this was discovered, the City Attorneys were alerted and letters were sent out to JS and Ricky Handy, the owner of Blazer Transportation stating that JS must stop driving for Vehicle for Hire immediately and hand in his taxi driver's license. AB also placed a call to Ricky Handy to alert him of the situation to which Ricky replied "yes, I am aware of this". CD stated that she received a call from a man named Chad who used to work for Blazer Transportation and told CD that he recently saw JS driving around in Ricky Handy's personal vehicle and per their conversation, JS admitted to still be working as a Vehicle for Hire driver despite his recent conviction. The records introduced in the case are the background check that was done on July 7th by CD, the current case docket from the Burlington Police Department, the sex offender online print out of JS, and the letters that were sent to JS and Blazer Transportation to notify them of the hearing.

JS admitted to being convicted of the crime listed before him but stated he was unaware the young woman was a vulnerable adult when he met her. He said she gave consent for sexual activity with JS and that there were never any complaints against him while he was driving for Blazer and that he was always very professional. JS stated that once Ricky Handy received the call from the City, he revoked JS's license immediately. JM asked JS to explain the allegation of him driving Ricky's personal vehicle. JS stated he did not drive any of Ricky's vehicles after Ricky was alerted of his conviction. BK asked JS how long he has had a taxi driver's license to which JS responded a little over a year. BK asked if JS had his license with him today and JS said no. BK asked JS if he was aware that per the ordinance, he has to report any convictions to the license committee and JS replied that he was not aware of this. BK asked if JS had any other source of income at the time besides driving taxi and JS responded no. BK stated that the ordinance is pretty clear that if someone is convicted of a felony, their taxi driver's license will be suspended and then asked JS why they should not suspend his license. JS said that he's never had any issues or complaints from customers while driving taxi. AR said that based on the record he was reading and per the Vehicle for Hire ordinance, he was having trouble finding a reason not to suspend JS's license. AR stated he did not feel comfortable giving JS permission to drive for the public that they are supposed to represent and protect. DD asked JS about the simple assault he was charged with involving the same vulnerable adult. JS stated that he did not assault this woman in any way and was not sure why he was charged with that. BK asked if JS had any dependents to which JS said he was divorced and has two kids who live with their mother. EB suggested the Board move into executive session to deliberate. JM told JS he would receive a letter with the Board's decision.

Motion to move into executive session at 9:25 a.m.

Motion by Adam Roof, second by Bill Keogh.

Voting: Unanimous, motion carried.

Motion to end executive session at 9:31 a.m.

Motion by Jeff Munger.

Voting: Unanimous, motion carried.



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4. Updates

4.01 Commissioner Items

EB stated that it was permitted for the VfH board members to review the VfH monthly fees at their meetings and that it was public information and could be discussed in public session.

JM requested that an agenda item be added to every VfH board meeting to include the monthly fees. BK is still in the process with DPW of securing the taxi only parking spaces downtown. AR stated that he has not seen any signage for these new spots yet. AR wanted to follow up on the sexual assault case discussed in the previous meeting. AR asked DD how this Board goes about disclosing this information to other towns and DD stated we do not have any authority to do this based on state regulations.

5. Minutes

5.01 July 13, 2017

Motion to approve the minutes

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Adam Roof.

Voting: Unanimous, motion carried.

6. Adjournment

6.01 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:39 a.m.

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Adam Roof.

Voting: Unanimous, motion carried.



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