



June 21, 2022 - Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board/ Transportation Energy and Utilities Joint Committee

6/21/2022

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Generated by Sarah Montgomery on Friday, June 24, 2022

Jack Hanson called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

Present: Jack Hanson, Mark Barlow, Gene Bergman, Hayley Mclenahan, Sarah Montgomery

1. Agenda

Action: 1.01 Adopt/ Amend Agenda

Motion by Mark Barlow. Seconded by Jack Hanson. Passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes

Action: 2.01 Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mark Barlow. Seconded by Jack Hanson. Passed unanimously.

3. Public Forum

Discussion, Information: 3.01 Public Forum

Ricky Handy spoke: Asked about pricing and asked committee to let him know if he is doing it correctly or not. He also asked how taxi meters are being properly regulated now that Centrodyne is no longer in Vermont and calibrating local meters.

Abdi Dhere spoke: He agreed that the meter is a problem and stated that he has been in bad shape economically but is willing to pay the city what he owes now. Jack Hanson commented that this would be discussed further in the hearing.

4. Hearings



June 21, 2022 - Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board/ Transportation Energy and Utilities Joint Committee 6/21/2022

4.01 Blazer Transportation - Ricky Handy

Hayley Mclenahan swore in the complainant, Patricia Daughtry: Patricia said she was a guest at the Hilton hotel on May 21st, 2022. She asked the hotel for the name of a taxi, and they provided a business card for Blazer Transportation. She was expecting a metered ride to the airport. She called and ordered the taxi and around 11:30am, her and another passenger were picked up from the Hilton to go to the airport. They had no bags. While in the taxi, she did not see a meter, but she was just hoping it was not visible to her. When they arrived at the airport, the driver told her it would be a flat fee of \$40. The driver told her that they had not had meters in the cars for two years or more and that was the rate the dispatcher was charging and she could pay in cash or by Venmo. She paid in cash and was provided a receipt for her payment. She was surprised because the day before she had taken a ride from the airport to the hotel and it cost \$23.50 for two passengers with bags. She originally called the office of Blazer Transportation and they told her to call Ricky. She left him a message, but hadn't heard back by the evening, so she submitted a complaint through the company's online form. She received a message back from Ricky stating that there were still meters in the cabs, but with the price of gas they can not stay in business with those rates. Patricia also reported the incident to the airport as Blazer is licensed to do business there.

Mark Barlow asked what the cab company was that she used the previous day. Patricia did not recall, but knows that it was a metered rate.

Hayley Mclenahan swore in the owner of Blazer Transportation, Ricky Handy: Ricky said he answered the phone when Patricia called and asked for a cab to the airport. She hung up before Ricky had a chance to tell her that it would cost \$40. Ricky picked her up, drove her to the airport, charged her \$40 and gave her a receipt. He said that this did not need to be a metered ride because it was a contract call. This is the rate they always charge people when taking them from this hotel to the airport. The vehicle that he drives does not even have a meter.

Councilor Gene Bergman joined the meeting at this time.

Mark Barlow asked if it is only Blazer Transportation who charges contract rates or if this is common practice among taxis. Hayley Mclenahan asked Ricky Handy if he has a rate sheet posted in his cabs. Ricky Handy answered that they have the meter rate posted. Hayley asked if he communicated the rate to the passenger. Ricky stated that he did not and that it is customary to tell the passenger the fare at the end of the ride. Mark Barlow clarified that he is interested in knowing specifically about the practice of charging contract rates. Ricky stated that as he understands anyone who calls in on the phone counts as a contract call. Hayley added that she understands Ricky to be using the term contract rates as a set rate, rather than an existing contract between him and the hotels. Mark Barlow asked if Ricky discussed the \$40 rate before the ride with Patricia Daughtry. Ricky said no - he attempted to, but the call got hung up.

4.02 All State Taxi - Hassan Dubad

Neither the complainant nor the defendant appeared to be present. Jack Hanson asked Sarah Montgomery if she had received any communication about them attending. She stated she had not heard back from either party. Jack Hanson recommended closing the hearing and using the written complaint to make the decision. Hayley Mclenahan noted that the hearing could also remain open and further notice could be sent to the parties involved or the committee could move forward and just make a decision based on the written complaint. Ricky Handy suggested that the committee the interested parties a call.



June 21, 2022 - Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board/ Transportation Energy and Utilities Joint Committee 6/21/2022

4.03 Airport Winooski Cab - Abdi Dhere

Hayley Mclenahan swore in Abdi Dhere. Abdi stated that he was having a difficult time since the pandemic started, but that he has not given up. He stated that nobody was asking for pick ups because of the pandemic and everything being shut down. He said he would come in will come in and pay the fees he owes for the past year.

Gene Bergman asked that Sarah Montgomery be sworn in to testify about what the exact problem is and what would be needed to rectify it.

Hayley Mclenahan swore in Sarah Montgomery: Sarah stated that Vehicle for Hire businesses need to submit monthly reports and pay fees to the city for the pick-ups and drop-off done within Burlington. Abdi has not submitted these reports or paid the fees for the entirety of the fiscal year - since July 2021. She stated the remedy would be for Abdi to submit the forms and make the necessary payments.

Gene Bergman asked if Abdi would be willing to remedy this and asked Sarah Montgomery if she could work with Abdi on this. Abdi and Sarah both agreed this was acceptable.

Jack Hanson asked why Abdi still hasn't paid the fees since he received the notice on June 9th. Abdi said he needs clarity on how much he needs to pay. Jack Hanson asked Sarah Montgomery if she has that number. Sarah Montgomery stated that Abdi needs to report on the numbers of pick-ups and drop-offs that he has done in order to calculate the fees. Abdi and Sarah will work together to resolve the issue.

Gene Bergman made a motion to table the consideration of this hearing item to the next meeting. Seconded by Mark Barlow. Passed unanimously.

5. Deliberative Session

Jack Hanson moved that the deliberation be taken offline. Gene Bergman seconded. Passed unanimously. Parties will be notified once decisions are made.

6. Adjournment

Action: 6.01 Adjourn

Gene Bergman made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mark Barlow. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:01pm