



Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board 4/6/2018

Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board

Friday, April 6, 2018

Conference Room 12, City Hall

Members present

Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Charles Herrick, Adam Roof

Also present

Christine Dunbar, C/T; Anthea Dexter-Cooper, Asst. City Attorney; Phillip Peterson, DPW; Jan Wright, Sarah Aberle, BPD; Alexander Ash, Sam Donnelly

Meeting called to order at 3:02 PM

1. Agenda

Action, Procedural: 1.01 Adopt/Amend Agenda

Adopt/Amend Agenda as is

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Adam Roof.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

2. Public Forum

Discussion, Information: 2.01 Public Forum



Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board 4/6/2018

3. Hearing

Public Hearing: 3.01 Farley, Corey

****Hearing tabled until next VFH meeting**

Public Hearing: 3.02 Ash, Alexander

****Hearing occurred after item 4.02**

The Board introduced themselves and AD swore in CD and Alexander Ash. CD stated that Mr. Ash applied for a taxi license and she had to deny him because of a domestic battery conviction from 2015 that was listed on his background check along with a burglary/theft conviction from 2012. CD read a statement from Mr. Ash that was delivered to her office explaining the burglary/theft conviction and that he was not a convicted felon. JM asked Mr. Ash for an opening statement or comment regarding the convictions to which Mr. Ash stated "regrets, I have a few". Mr. Ash stated he is a different man now and that these incidents happened in Florida. He is married now and has two children who live with him. Mr. Ash is currently a taxi driver in Stowe, VT where he has been driving for the past two years. He would like to have the privilege to drop off in Burlington. JM asked Mr. Ash to further explain the domestic battery charge and he stated that it did happen between him and his girlfriend at the time and things got heated and they both began throwing things. He also did 30 days in jail for this incident. He has not had contact with this female since. CH asked who he worked for in Stowe and Mr. Ash responded he has been working for Classic Cab for the past 6 months. AR asked if he had been denied a taxi license before and he responded yes. JM asked if Classic Cab is going to do business in Burlington, then shouldn't they have a business license with the City. AD responded that Classic Cab would need to apply for a business license. Mr. Ash told the Board that he would continue to come back even if he was denied again because he loves his job.

4. Updates

Communication, Information: 4.01 Monthly fees

CD explained that Freedom Cab was the only company on the list that was 3 months delinquent. The Board agreed to schedule a hearing for Freedom Cab at the next VFH meeting.

****The owner of Freedom Cab has since come into the VFH administrative office to explain that he has not been operating as a VFH driver for the past few months. This statement was verified by the Airport. Freedom Cab knows to alert the Airport and the VFH administrative office when he is operating again.**

Discussion, Information: 4.02 Taxi stands – Bill

Phillip Peterson spoke on behalf of DPW. BK submitted recommendations for downtown taxi stands to DPW and PP attended the meeting to give the Board an update. PP stated that anything that goes in front of the commission is a process but with that said, certain spots downtown have been approved. The issue that keeps coming up is the spot in front of Juniors pizza on Main street that could be utilized as a taxi loading zone but instead is utilized by Juniors for their delivery vehicles. Jan Wright on behalf of the Burlington Police Department spoke on this matter. JW stated that Juniors and Big Daddy's do need spots to facilitate their business but there is also a need for taxi stands in the Church and Main



Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board 4/6/2018

area because of the public safety issue of drunk people stumbling in the road to find a taxi and or TNC vehicle. The loading zone in front of Mr. Mikes could potentially be a taxi zone after midnight once Mr. Mikes is done making their deliveries for the night. A designated spot for taxis and TNC's is needed in front of Kountry Kart Deli and or near the Flynn theatre to safely ensure that passengers are able to get into their VFH vehicle without having to cross the street to get to the North corner of Church and Main. PP stated that all proposed spots, besides the one in front of Juniors, have been approved as designated taxi stands.

Discussion: 4.03 Meter Rates

AD stated that there was a complaint from a taxi customer who stated that the meter rate card displayed in taxis was misleading or incorrect. The \$2.50 drop fee was not included on the Meter Rate card. CH stated he would look into this further and would report back to the Board.

Communication, Information: 4.04 VFH Audits

AD told the Board that audits were almost complete and that the next round of audits would be scheduled soon because they are semi-annual.

Communication: 4.05 Commissioner items

BK asked AD if the VFH Board had to write an annual report to City Council. AD was going to follow up on this question. JM stated that he wanted a monthly update from the compliance officer.

5. Minutes

Action: 5.01 January 11, 2018

Approve the minutes

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Jeff Munger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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

Action: 5.02 February 22, 2018

Approve the minutes

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Jeff Munger.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes



Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board 4/6/2018

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

**enter deliberative session at 3:52 PM

**exit deliberative session at 3:59 PM

6. Work session

Discussion: 6.01 VFH Policy Procedures

SA stated that the new letters should help with enforcement but she is encountering repeat offenders who seem to be ignoring the first round of letters that she sent out months ago. AD drafted letters that the compliance officer can send out and letters that CD can send out based on the infraction that occurs. SA stated that the majority of issues occur with TNC vehicles at Church and Main streets. CH suggested that SA wear something that better identifies herself as part of the BPD to come across more authoritative to taxi drivers. SA voiced her frustration with the policy and her ability to enforce it with the taxi drivers, particularly TNC's. SA suggested that the ordinance be changed so that the compliance officer and BPD could have the ability to write tickets to repeat offenders. JM expressed the urgency for DPW to create pickup/drop-off areas for TNC drivers in the downtown area.

7. Adjournment

Action: 7.01 Adjourn

Adjourn meeting at 4:41 PM

Motion by Charles Herrick, second by Adam Roof.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

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



Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board 4/6/2018