

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES COMMISSION
Minutes of the April 20, 2016 meeting

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bresciano called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE

Present: Members: Chair Peter Bresciano, Councilor Joshua Cyr, Commissioner Mike Merando, Lieutenant Chris Cummings and Deputy City Clerk Dianne Kirby

Absent: Commissioner Tristan Law

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 2016

Councilor Cyr moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the March 16, 2016 Transportation Services Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Merando. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Placards

Chair Bresciano said he has been approached concerning the placards and some company names that don't fit on one line on the placard. He said he doesn't care how many lines are used as long as the required information is on the placard. He said there has been some discussion about numbering the placards in order to prevent unauthorized vehicles making up a placard when they are not registered. Lieutenant Cummings said if we go that way it would involve the City Clerk's office to issue them and he understood we were trying to lessen the involvement of the City Clerk's office. He stated the bigger issue is the hack licenses. He said when we pull over a vehicle we know the cab belong to a certain company, but we have no idea if the driver has had a background check or not. Chair Bresciano said this falls on the company owner. He said if the vehicle is registered, but the driver is not, we send it to legal for them to take to court or not. Councilor Cyr asked if the requested size is mainly for legibility for police and patrons. Chair Bresciano stated that to be correct. He said the police only needs to see the basic placard and the date from across the street. He said if he has an issue with the vehicle he can approach the vehicle for a closer look.

2. Review of Transportaton Services Ordinances (John Palreiro – Great Bay Taxi)

Chair Bresciano stated he talked to Mr. Palreiro and he is unable to be at the meeting this morning and has asked that his item be tabled until the next meeting.

Councilor Cyr moved to table this item until the next Transportation Services meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Merando. Motion passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

(There was no old business)

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police Representative Report

Lieutenant Cummings stated there were four (4) complaints involving Transportation Services vehicles. He said not all complaints were with UBER vehicles. He further stated that on the 25th and 26th of March 2016, the Police Department held a compliance operation. He stated on the 25th of March five (5) summonses were issued and on the 26th of March another five (5) summonses were issued. He stated these summons were not only issued to UBER drivers, but original taxi companies as well. Chair Bresciano asked what happens with repeat summons. Lieutenant Cummings stated they go to court. Commissioner Merando asked what the fines are associated with the summons. Lieutenant Cummings stated the ordinance stated the first summons carries a \$500.00 fine with \$1,000.00 fine for the second offence. He stated they have not found out what the judge with issue as a fine as he can raise the fine or lower it as he deems appropriate.

2. Public Comment

Merle White – Anchor Taxi stated his placard is metal and resembles the old medallions. He said they cost \$40.00 a set and have removable numbers so the date can be changed each year. He said this would stop people getting placards that weren't registered as \$40.00 is more than they would want to pay.

He said Portsmouth Taxi has multiple vans and keeps switching the placard from one vehicle to another.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dianne M. Kirby

Dianne M. Kirby, Deputy City Clerk