

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

October 15, 2013

7:30 PM Conference 4/5
Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Chung,
Fee, Kirk, Hine, Luse, Nguyen

Absent:

Commissioners: Durant, Hargraves, Kazmi,
Martz, Roark, Rosier

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Department of Cable and Consumer
Services
John W. Burton,
Assistant County Attorney
Steve Sinclair, Chief,
Public Utilities Branch
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief,
Consumer Affairs
Susan Hafeli, Analyst,
Public Utilities Branch
Henri Stein-McCartney, Chief,
Regulation and Licensing Branch
Howard Stone, Analyst,
Public Utilities Branch
Carl Newcomb, Consumer Specialist II,
Regulation and Licensing Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 17, 2013, meeting was approved.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee mentioned that Cal Wagner, retiree of DCCS, was recovering from hip surgery.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman introduced Officer Gross and Officer Taylor of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Motor Carrier Section, to discuss their role in enforcing the taxicab industry regulations.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Kirk mentioned that staff is assisting a county resident with a complaint on unsatisfactory work performed by a contractor.

Commissioner Hine had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Luse had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Chung had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Nguyen mentioned a discussion with sedan drivers who are not being allowed to park their sedan at their complex or driveway. Staff will look into the issue.

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the commission.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

1. Overview of Taxicab Rate and Certificate Review Process

Steve Sinclair, Chief, Public Utilities Branch, provided an overview of taxicab rate and certificate review process. The presentation included: history of the current taxicab industry, response/impacts to Fairfax County regulatory approach, breakdown of the current taxicab fleet, public transportation, rates, fares, charges, the Fairfax county taxicab industry price index, weighted change, driver's association rate increase request, biennial review of operator's certificates, demand formula and analysis, mass transit/tourism growth rate, update on operator's certificate applications, regional taxicab comparisons, establishment of public convenience and necessity, public hearings, allocations of certificates, investigation of applicants, assessment rating review on all applicants, and performance assessment on current certificate holders.

By acclamation the CPC adopted staff's taxicab certificate application assessment on all applicants.

Commissioner Chung made the motion to start the November 19, 2013 public hearing at 6:30 PM. Chairman Fee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fee made a motion to accept staff's performance assessment of current certificate holders requesting new certificates. Six commissioners voted in favor of the motion. One commissioner opposed the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Fee made the motion to advertise a public hearing for November 19, 2013, at 6:30 PM, for the allocations of taxicab certificates. Commissioner Chung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Fee made the motion to advertise the rate increase for taxicabs rates. Commissioner Chung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.