

VEHICLE FOR HIRE BOARD

October 26, 2023

4252 Groves Rd
Columbus, OH 43232

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cathy Collins at 9:37 A.M.

The roll call of Board Members showed ten (10) members present, three (3) members absent, and two (2) currently vacant. A quorum was met. A motion was made by Jennifer Atkinson to dispense the reading of the minutes and to approve all old minutes that hadn't been approved. Vicki Miller 2nd the motion.

APPLICATION FOR NEW PEDICAB/QUADRICYCLE OWNER LICENSES

One (1) owner license issued

APPLICATION FOR NEW TAXICAB OWNER LICENSES

None

APPLICATION FOR VEHICLE TRANSFER OF TAXICAB OWNER LICENSES

Five (5) vehicle licenses transferred

APPLICATION FOR OWNER TRANSFER OF TAXICAB OWNER LICENSES

One (1) owner license transferred

APPLICATION FOR VEHICLE TRANSFER OF LIVERY OWNER LICENSES

One (1) vehicle license transferred

APPLICATION FOR NEW LIVERY OWNER LICENSES

Two (2) owner licenses issued

OLD BUSINESS

- Gave pledge of ethical conduct/oath of office to board members not present at previous September meeting.
- License section/Weights & Measures moving from Public Safety to Building & Zoning. MA II Ben Lee will be making the transition as well.

NEW BUSINESS

- Board meetings going to quarterly starting in October, then January, April, July, etc.
- Discussed open board positions (Livery Owner, Driver, and Alternate Vehicle Driver)
- Discussed Taxicab/Livery owner license renewals ongoing and the no renewals permitted after October 31st per CCC 587.07.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Discussed with VFH owners the issue of vehicles check engine lights, salvaged vehicles, and age of vehicles. See attached testimony.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Glenn Taylor and was second by Lucy Frank. Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Dear members of the License Section Board, my name is Tessema Fike, I am a taxi owner, and I have served my community for over 10 years. I'd like to respectfully bring up some important matters concerning taxi drivers in Ohio.

1. Regarding the age limit for taxi vehicles, the current requirement is that taxis must not be older than 10 years. However, due to the rising prices of vehicles and economic challenges, it would be greatly appreciated if this limit could be extended to 15 years.
2. The rules and regulations for taxi operations in our city have remained unchanged since 2012 and 2014. We find ourselves in a difficult situation, and we kindly request your support. It would be a big help if we could update these rules to better adjust to the needs of the taxi business today. This could include integrating smart city apps, securing government contracts, allowing for business advertisements, implementing smart meters, and fostering government convention connections.
3. Lastly, we would like to propose allowing rebuilt title cars into the taxi business, as long as they pass inspection and receive approval from the Highway Patrol. This adjustment would provide us with more options and flexibility to serve our community.

We want you to know that we are more than willing to adapt and change our ways of working to ensure the sustainability of our taxi businesses.

Your assistance in these matters would not only help our livelihoods but also enhance the services we provide to our fellow citizens. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.