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NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Held on Tuesday, June 22, 2010

40 Rector Street

New York, New York.

Time: 9:00 a.m.

1 A P P E A R A N C E S :

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4 DAVID YASSKY, Chairman
5 HARRY GIANNOULIS, Commissioner
6 ED GONZALES, Commissioner
7 IRIS WEINSHALL, Commissioner
8 ELIAS AROUT, Commissioner
9 CHARLES FRASER, General Counsel

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2 MR. YASSKY: Good morning. Thank you
3 very much. I want to just first thank the
4 commissioners very much for being very
5 flexible with your schedules, and not just
6 scheduling this meeting on short notice but
7 the time change as well. For members of the
8 public in the industry who are here, I
9 appreciate your bearing with us.

10 We are going to make this as brief of a
11 meeting as we can because that is what we
12 promised, and we have a full meeting coming
13 up in July. So, I will skip a lengthy
14 chairman's report and move directly to
15 adoption of the minutes. Is there a motion?

16 MR. AROUT: Motion.

17 MR. GONZALES: Second it.

18 MR. YASSKY: All in favor?

19 THE COMMISSION: (In unison) Aye.

20 MR. YASSKY: A unanimous vote, the
21 minutes of the May 20, 2010 Commission
22 meeting are adopted.

23 We have a series of base applications
24 for approval. Can we do all of these
25 together, the new renewals, not the denials,

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2 but all the acceptances together?

3 MR. AROUT: Right.

4 MR. YASSKY: So, I want to remove from
5 the list, there is one renewal and relocation
6 application for Bliss 48, Inc., that's
7 B01103. I know that there were not materials
8 for that included in the materials circulated
9 to the commissioners, so we will withdraw
10 that from consideration today and defer that
11 to the next meeting, but for the remainder of
12 the approvals, the new and renewals indicated
13 in the materials, is there a motion to
14 approve those?

15 MR. AROUT: Motion to approve.

16 MR. GONZALES: Second.

17 MS. STEELE-RADWAY: All 26?

18 MR. YASSKY: All 26. So, there is a
19 motion. All in favor?

20 THE COMMISSION: (In unison) Aye.

21 MR. YASSKY: So, by unanimous vote,
22 there are 26 new and renewal base
23 applications approved.

24 There are also two being recommended for
25 denial.

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2 MS. STEELE-RADWAY: Thirty days in
3 addition so that they can submit the
4 outstanding items.

5 MR. YASSKY: So, are we recommending --

6 MS. STEELE-RADWAY: We are recommending
7 for denial another additional thirty days.

8 MR. YASSKY: Is there a motion to accept
9 that recommendation and deny those
10 applications?

11 MR. AROUT: So move.

12 MR. GONZALES: Second.

13 MR. YASSKY: All in favor?

14 THE COMMISSION: (In unison) Aye.

15 MR. YASSKY: A unanimous vote. Thank
16 you, Georgia. Those applications are denied.

17 Now, the main item of business today is
18 a proposal for a group ride stand for
19 medallion taxicabs on York Avenue on
20 Manhattan. The presentation for that
21 proposal will be by Emily Gallo.

22 MS. GALLI: Good morning. Beginning on
23 June 27th, the MTA is going to discontinue
24 the X90 express bus service that travels
25 between the Upper East Side and the Financial

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2 District. The X90 serves approximately 400
3 passengers each morning and makes stops every
4 few blocks along York Avenue from 92nd Street
5 to East 67th Street, as you can see on this
6 map. The price is approximately 4.50 to 5.50
7 per passenger depending on the type of fair
8 media that they purchase.

9 To offer an alternative to offer to
10 passengers who are affected by this service
11 cut, we are proposing to pilot a taxi group
12 ride stand in the area. In choosing the
13 location, we had several criteria. We wanted
14 the stand to be placed in an area that would
15 reach the most passengers of the X90 without
16 being too close to the existing taxi stand at
17 East 79th Street and York Avenue.

18 We also wanted the stand to be
19 conveniently located near an entry to the FDR
20 Drive South, so that the drivers could take
21 the most express route to lower Manhattan.

22 And lastly, we wanted to find a location
23 that we could use without inconveniencing
24 neighbors by eliminating a minimal number of
25 parking spaces.

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2 So, TLC's staff traveled on the X90 for
3 two mornings to count the number of
4 passengers who boarded at each stop. Our
5 counts showed that the highest number of
6 pickups were located at East 79th Street
7 where a current taxi stand is located,
8 followed by East 82nd, East 74th, East 72nd,
9 and East 67th. Based on these observations,
10 we went to scout for a site located in the
11 upper 60s or lower 70s.

12 The location that we believe is ideal
13 for this group ride stand is located on the
14 northbound side of York Avenue located
15 mid-block between East 70th and East 71st
16 Street. This location is convenient for an
17 estimated 100-plus X90 passengers and could
18 appeal to those as far south as East 67th
19 Street. It's a location of an existing taxi
20 stand that is five parking spots in length,
21 which means that we do not need to eliminate
22 one parking spot, we could just add the
23 option to group ride from this location.

24 And finally, this area provides very
25 easy access to the FDR Drive South allowing

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2 drivers to make a simple right turn on East
3 73rd Street.

4 So, the stand will offer both group ride
5 and standard rides. For the group ride, the
6 fare will be \$6 per person, which is the same
7 fare as the 79th Street taxi stand. The
8 taxis will be expected to enter the FDR Drive
9 by the 73rd Street entrance, and drop-offs
10 can begin in Lower Manhattan along Pearl
11 Street Water Street and as far as the World
12 Financial Center.

13 As you can see from this map, we have
14 suggested a route for the drivers, but
15 depending on the unique destinations of their
16 passengers, they can make drop-offs as they
17 see fit. For example, if a driver were to
18 pick up three passengers who were all heading
19 to the World Financial Center, we would
20 expect them to travel along the FDR Drive
21 straight to the World Financial Center.

22 So, pending your approval, outreach will
23 begin immediately for the new group ride
24 stand. We have created flyers for both
25 passengers and drivers to tell them about the

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2 stand, both the new stand and the current
3 79th Street stand, and the flyers explain how
4 the group rides work. We are planning to
5 distribute these flyers to X90 passengers
6 later this week and distribute flyers to
7 drivers at the airports, to our facilities,
8 and to the fleets and garages to tell them
9 about this opportunity.

10 Does anyone have any questions?

11 MS. WEINSHALL: I don't have a question,
12 I just have an observation. As I discussed
13 with the Chairman, I travel to work that
14 route every morning, something to be aware
15 of, and I think you are going to have to work
16 with the police department, there is a lot of
17 trucks that double-park because of the
18 hospitals, and they also park in the taxi
19 lane. So, the only thing that I would say is
20 that, it's already very difficult for a car
21 to drive, and you just may want to monitor
22 where the trucks are double-parking or
23 parking in the taxi lane so that cabs can
24 actually pull in and pull in passengers
25 there.

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2 MR. YASSKY: Understood, and we
3 certainly will work with the precinct and our
4 own enforcement edition. The hospital, I
5 looked up the location myself, and as you
6 say, you know, the presence of a hospital
7 there means that there's a lot of traffic,
8 and sometimes people are coming out from the
9 curb. So, yes, that's something to be aware
10 of.

11 MS. WEINSHALL: And it's the worse time
12 for this type of stand, because it's early in
13 the morning that they're making the
14 deliveries to the hospital. So, you just
15 sort of have to be aware of that.

16 MR. AROUT: Emily, I just want to say
17 thank you very much for emailing. This was
18 great. You did a great job, it wasn't easy
19 putting together, but thank you very much. I
20 can understand it.

21 MS. GALLO: Thank you.

22 MR. YASSKY: Any further questions?

23 (No response)

24 MR. YASSKY: On that note, before we
25 vote, I'll say that I want to thank the TLC

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2 staff, Ms. Gallo, and the entire staff who
3 worked on this. They did a terrific job very
4 speedily. You know, to deal with this loss
5 of service, we wanted to react with
6 appropriate quickness, and the staff went
7 above and beyond to do that and I just want
8 to thank them for that and for the quality of
9 the product. I'm very optimistic about this
10 being of use to some of the affected
11 commuters.

12 We are going to be calling on the staff
13 to do that even more in the coming weeks and
14 I suppose months, with everything on the
15 agenda, but in particular as a kind of
16 follow-up to this.

17 The Mayor, later this morning, will be
18 making an announcement -- and I don't want
19 to -- indeed, I could not preempt that, but I
20 noticed it is described on his public
21 schedule as "Announces new group ride van
22 service for commuters affected by MTA bus
23 cuts," an announcement at 10:30 for anyone
24 who wants to join at Melbourne Avenue and
25 150th Street in the Borough of Queens.

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2 You know, what the Mayor will do is ask
3 us commissioners to do what we have done here
4 in responding to the need for service to help
5 some of the commuters affected by MTA cuts
6 elsewhere in the City. It is kind of easiest
7 in Manhattan because our rules fit well with
8 the type of service needed in Manhattan.
9 Outside, it is a little more difficult and
10 will require some work because we have to of
11 course respect our fundamental policy
12 commitment that street service is provided by
13 13,237 medallion taxis, and that has worked
14 very well to ensure a high level, a
15 consistently high level of service to New
16 Yorkers and visitors. So, we have to use our
17 creativity and our energy to make sure that
18 we do what we need to do and should do to
19 help get people to work and around a little
20 bit faster where the MTA is unfortunately
21 being forced to cut back, and yet but working
22 within our framework.

23 So, that's the challenge for us. We've
24 been asked to do this, we will be asked to do
25 this in a really expedited time frame. So,

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2 the staff here will be working very hard.
3 Commissioners, I will be communicating with
4 you as these ideas evolve. But certainly the
5 expectation is that we will bring you a
6 presentation at the next Commission meeting
7 for some type of service outside of Manhattan
8 to deal with this. So, I just want you to be
9 on alert for that, and again, I will
10 communicate with each of you and work with
11 you as the thoughts evolve.

12 So, with that, is there a motion to
13 approve the York Avenue Taxi Group Ride
14 Stand?

15 MR. AROUT: Move.

16 MR. GONZALES: Second.

17 MR. AROUT: Mr. Chairman, do you have
18 the date for July?

19 MR. YASSKY: I believe it is July 15th.
20 Feel free to correct me. Yes, I see one head
21 nodding.

22 MS. WEINSHALL: Is that a Friday?

23 MR. YASSKY: I would be surprised. I'm
24 guessing that's a Thursday. Yes, I see
25 another head nodding. So, I believe that's a

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2 Thursday, the 15th.

3 MR. AROUT: Thank you.

4 MR. YASSKY: Again we'll confirm with
5 each of your offices. I believe we sent that
6 date out earlier, but we'll confirm with each
7 of your offices.

8 The motion has been made. It's been
9 seconded, but the kind of tension is building
10 appropriately, I was just waiting for the
11 drum roll but I see our musical accompaniment
12 is on leave. So, all in favor, say aye.

13 THE COMMISSION: (In unison) Aye.

14 MR. YASSKY: Opposed?

15 (No response)

16 MR. YASSKY: Without objection, the
17 motion is approved. I will now entertain a
18 motion to adjourn.

19 MS. WEINSHALL: So move.

20 MR. YASSKY: Can I second that?

21 MR. FRASER: You can.

22 MR. YASSKY: Seconded.

23 All in favor?

24 THE COMMISSION: (In unison) Aye.

25 Without objection, the meeting is

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adjourned at an impressive 22 minutes. Thank
you commissioners.

1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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3 STATE OF NEW YORK)
: SS.:
4 COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

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7 I, CASEY MARTIN, a Stenotype Reporter and
8 Notary Public for the State of New York, do hereby
9 certify:

10 THAT this is a true and accurate
11 transcription of the New York City Taxi & Limousine
12 public meeting held on June 22, 2010.

13 I further certify that I am not related
14 either by blood or marriage to any of the parties
15 in this matter; and

16 I am not in any way interested in the
17 outcome of this matter.

18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
19 hand this 22nd day of June 2010.

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CASEY MARTIN

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