NEW YORK CITY
TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION
COMMISSION MEETING

December 3, 2015
10:25 a.m.

33 Beaver Street
New York, New York

Present:
MEERA JOSHI, Chair and Chief Executive Officer
CHARLES WILSON, General Counsel

Board of Commissioners:
ELIAS AROUT
EDWARD GONZALES
LAUVIENSKA POLANCO
NORA C. MARINO
FRANK V. CARONE
JACQUES JIHA

Reported By: Nicole Ellis

STENO-KATH REPORTING SERVICES, LTD.
139 MAMARONECK AVENUE
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
(212) 95-DEPOS (953-3767) or (914) 381-2061
FACSIMILE: (914) 722-0816
Email: stenokath@verizon.net
CHAIR JOSHI: Good morning. The time is 10:25, and we're going to start our public meeting. And I just want to note, this is our last Commission Meeting of the year, so I want to take the opportunity to wish everybody a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season, and best wishes in the new year.

We got a little -- an early holiday present. On November 7th, baby Darlee Lu (phonetically) Lu was born in a taxicab. Her driver, Mr. Saha, picked the couple up on the way to the emergency room at Mount Sinai Hospital, a six-minute journey. They made it all the way to the front of the ER and little baby Darley decided to be born right there in the cab before they could make it into the emergency room. So we -- a heartfelt thanks to Mr. Saha who was calm, cool, and collected through the whole drive and the delivery, and we look forward to thanking him in person in the new year at our Commission Meeting in 2016.
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(Applause.)

CHAIR JOSHI: As you all know, our Licensing facility moved last month -- well, I think it was November 12th. We're in the Falchi Building in Long Island City. It's been a transition, but I want to thank everybody for their patience, especially for the Licensing staff, who not only have been working exceedingly hard during the actual move, but exceedingly harder and harder as they transition into the new space. And it's taking a lot of adjustments to get used to the different format of this building. And we'll be working on a lot of improvements for how we move people through the lines, so that when licensees come to the Falchi Building, the time that they spend there to get processed is less. But more importantly, we want to make sure licensees can do more things online so they don't actually have to come into the Licensing facility at Falchi. Not that they're not always welcome, but they
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probably have better things to do. So we
look forward to rolling out and hopefully
you seeing the benefits of some of those
efficiencies in the next couple of months.

And today we have a pretty short
meeting. On the agenda are only two items.
One is an amendment to a pilot that we
approved last month, basically providing
alternative leasing options for garages as
long as they don't go over the aggregate
lease cap. And then the second item on
the agenda is some changes to our green
taxi rules, basically to mirror some of
the transfer requirements on the medallion
side so there's notification to equipment
vendors when a green taxi permit is
transferred, and that all fines due are
taken care of before those transfers take
place.

So with that, I'm going to turn over
to Licensing to go over our -- I'm sorry,
adoption of the minutes. With that, we'll
turn to adoption of the minutes.

All in favor of adopting the minutes
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from the October 2015 Commission Meeting?
(Chorus of Ayes.)
CHAIR JOSHI: With that, the minutes are unanimously adopted.
And now to Base Applications.
MS. MIOLA: Good morning. My name is Angelique Miola, Supervisor for the Business Unit in the Licensing Division.
Today we have 12 livery bases for your review and approval. There's one new application, six renewals, and five bases with assorted changes, such as location, name and (inaudible).
CHAIR JOSHI: Those materials are in everybody's commission book. All in favor of approving the recommendations?
(Chorus of Ayes.)
CHAIR JOSHI: With that, it's unanimously approved.
MS. MIOLA: Thank you.
MR. WILSON: Okay. Now on the agenda are rules governing the transfer of SHL green cab licenses. These rules are intended to align integral requirements for transfer
Proceedings with those in the medallion industry upon transfer and provide for the following: Removal of the LPEP system and taximeter from any vehicle for which the SHL license is revoked, surrendered or non-renewed. The proposed rules require notification to the LPEP providers of a transfer at least 30 days before transfer, although provider upon notice can waive notification of 30 days, as indicated in the taxi rules. The proposed rules require the person seeking transfer of the SHL permit, must resolve all summonses, outstanding fines and penalties owed to the TLC. And finally, the proposed rules provide procedures for limited operation by an estate pending transfer of a permit to a qualified transferee.

These rules were published in The City Record on October 28, 2015 with the comment deadline of November 27th. No public comments were received. We have one speaker. Forgive me if I pronounce this wrong, Berminich Riveras from SOT.

FEMALE SPEAKER: Fernando Garcia
Proceedings from SOT.

MR. WILSON: Fernando Garcia, I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER MARINO: Oh, my God, not even close.

MR. GARCIA: (Through an interpreter) Good morning, I'm going to do a little bit of interpretation for Mr. Garcia. Fernando Garcia represents the Independent Taxi Drivers and he said he was a little concerned about one of the rule changes, but he says that he talked to somebody who overran it with him and explained it.

CHAIR JOSHI: So you're okay now?

MR. GARCIA: (Through an interpreter) His concern was about the 120 days for the SHL permit, if it's, I guess, not used or transferred over to somebody else, people, whoever are in charge of it will lose it or have to bring it to the Commission. That's what his worry was.

MR. WILSON: Yes, we do permit exceptions for hardship for that, and, no, nobody loses the permit. It just has to
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do with whether or not the vehicle can be
operated beyond that point time. And if
somebody gets appointed to run the estate,
and we say okay, they can continue
operating indefinitely until we schedule
that.

MR. GARCIA: (Through an interpreter)
He says he hopes that everything will work
out well, and we'll keep in touch, and
hope that you keep making great moves
for the SHL. Thank you.

CHAIR JOSHI: Thank you.

MR. WILSON: Thank you.

As local law requires, the final rule
for Commission action, which was changed from
the proposed rule was posted on the TLC
website on November 30th and sent to the
Commissioners on that date.

Do people have any questions,
otherwise are we ready for a vote?

(No response.)

MR. WILSON: Okay. All in favor.

(Unanimous silent indication.)

MR. WILSON: And so it passes
unanimously.

Next on the agenda is an amendment to pilot to test taxi leasing models. As you'll recall in October, you approved a resolution to start a taxicab leasing pilot program to test and evaluate increased flexibility in arrangements for leasing taxicabs. Licensees, since the resolution passed, have expressed desire for an even more flexible leasing models beyond the fair-splitting or Commission models approved in the resolution.

The amendment to the pilot resolution, if approved, would allow taxicab lessors to propose shift hours and lease caps specific to each lessor and make periodic modifications for their leasing models.

This amendment contains additional reporting requirements to further protect drivers from overcharges, while also providing more information that is readily available to drivers under the current lease cap system.

All lessors' specific leasing models
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will be posted on the TLC website as well as the lessors' facility at least seven days before going into effect. Additionally, the TLC will post some information about each participating lessor such as shift change location and average age of lessors' taxicabs. The TLC hopes the drivers will utilize this information in determining which lessors provide the type of service drivers desire in competitive lease prices.

Finally, the amendment will require that each prospective lessor send a plan offering his or her evening shift change outside the 4 to 8 p.m. hours prior to receiving approval from TLC participation (inaudible).

As local law requires, the proposed resolution was posted on the TLC website on November 30th and sent to the Commissioners on that date. Any questions?

(No response.)

MR. WILSON: All in favor?

(Unanimous silent indication.)

MR. WILSON: Okay, that's the agenda.
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very brief meeting, but I do want to note
one anniversary, a very important
anniversary. Our Commissioner Elias Arout
and his wife celebrated 60 years of
marriage.

(Applause.)

CHAIR JOSHI: Congratulations.

COMMISSIONER AROUT: Thank you.

CHAIR JOSHI: And with that brings our
meeting to a close. Happy holidays
everyone.

COMMISSIONER AROUT: May I? I just
like to ask anyone in the audience that
has a base who lives in Staten Island?

(No response.)

COMMISSIONER AROUT: None, right?

Well, that's okay. Well we're building a
new building for the TLC where operators
and Licensing, and so forth and so on were
in the halfway stage now. I hope by the
end of December we'll have a building
there where the laws that we have will be
taken care of. I make -- I go there every
two or three weeks to see what's
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happening. Everything's coming along, but I'm not too happy about it, but it's being made. So I hope by the end of this month we will have a base on Staten Island where the drivers that live on Staten Island will work on Staten Island and it will be much help for those that want to do some transfers and so forth and so on, it will be done on Staten Island.

So hopefully by January 1st it'll be an operation. Thank you.

CHAIR JOSHI: Thank you. And we'll, of course, post and put out an industry notice as soon as that Staten Island facility is open, and we are working quickly to get there.

So thank you everybody, and have a great year. And this ends today's meeting at 10:40.

(Time noted: 10:40 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEW YORK )

COUNTY OF QUEENS ) ss.: 

I, NICOLE ELLIS, a Notary Public for and within the State of New York, do hereby certify:

I reported the proceedings in the within-entitled matter, and that the within transcript is a true record of such proceedings.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties in this matter by blood or by marriage and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of December 2015.

NICOLE ELLIS