

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD
MONDAY, JULY 28, 2008, 7:30 P.M.
301 KING STREET, 2ND FLOOR
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Converse West Chairman, Jay Johnson, Amy Slack, Randy Cole, Kevin Posey, Gregory Cota

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Ruggiero

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Culpepper, Deputy Director, Transportation & Environmental Service; Bob Garbacz, Division Chief, Transportation; Ravi Raut, Transportation Studies Engineer, Transportation; Leroy Baker, Traffic Survey Technician, Transportation; Christopher Spera, Assistant City Attorney; Sgt. Gregg Shields, Alexandria Police Department; City Attorney Office; Monte Rosson, Hack Inspector, Alexandria Police Department; Richard Garcia, Hack Inspector, Alexandria Police Department

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals.
2. Approval of the minutes from the June 23 , 2008, Traffic and Parking Board meeting. Ms. Slack made a motion, seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes of the June 23 , 2008, Traffic and Parking Board minutes with changes. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with changes.
3. **STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES:**
4. Review and comments on the report from the Council Committee on Boards and Commissions.

PUBLIC HEARING:

5. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to remove the NO PARKING 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. SCHOOL DAYS restrictions in the 400 block of Green Street between South Royal Street and South Pitt Street on the south side of the street and reserve the parking in this section for St Mary's School faculty members from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 pm school days.

BOARD ACTION: Ms. June Zauber and Mr. R. Alan McCurry spoke against the

request. Mr. Johnson a motion, seconded by Mr. Cole to approve staff recommendation to remove existing NO PARKING 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. SCHOOL DAYS. The Board voted unanimously to approve staff recommendation.

TAXICAB HEARING:

ISSUE - Consideration of applications filed by Q & Z, Inc. (Silver Cab Company) and GoGreen Cab, Inc. (GoGreen Cab) for issuance of certificates of public convenience and necessity to begin operation as new taxicab companies in Alexandria.

Because speakers would address remarks to both applications, the testimony was heard and then the Board acted on each company's application separately. Following a staff summary of the applications and presentations by the applicants, Messrs Abdul Nassir and Mujahid Ahmad for Silver Cab and GoGreen Cab, respectively, the Board received the following summarized testimony during the public hearing:

1. Mr. James Smalley, representing Alexandria Yellow Cab, spoke in opposition of the approval of these new certificates citing questions regarding enforcement of hybrid vehicles and the ability of new companies to purchase dispatch systems.
2. Mr. Scott Surovell, representing White Top Cab, spoke in opposition of approval of these new certificates stating that: no attempt was made to meet criteria outlined in City Code; the City Manager's 2007 report made no recommendation for new companies; applicants made no showing of unmet needs for taxicab service; the sole justification for new companies is apparent closing of two companies, neither being officially closed; no financial ability necessary to develop dispatch systems, making airport only service; my client believes that Silver Cab is owned by VIP; and approval of these certificates would only compound current problems. On behalf of client, rejection of applications was recommended.
3. Mr. Chand Dodhy, president of United Taxicab Operator Association, opposed the approval of new certificates. He stated that, after reviewing the applications, nothing convinced him that these new companies could do a better job than is already being done by the existing companies in Alexandria.
4. Mr. Abdul Karim, owner of King Cab, opposes approval of new certificates because 1) there are enough cabs and cab companies, 2) service would be decreased due to driver transfer, and 3) Union Cab, approved last year with 200 cabs, is struggling. There are not enough people in Alexandria to support more. On behalf of King Cab Company, Mr. Karim asked the Board to please reject these applications.
5. Mr. A. Latif, owner of White Top Cab, stated that applicants didn't show need for more cabs and Alexandria cannot be compared with Arlington. Q&Z shares offices with VIP, a company which has, for the past 20 years, been unsuccessful. Mr. Latif recommended rejection of approval of certificates.

6. Mr. Randy Stephens, an Alexandria cab owner-operator, is opposed to new companies unless they are created as cooperative companies like Union, to provide profiteering and allow drivers to share in profits.
7. Mr. Said Alemi, cab driver, does not support new authorizations because there is not enough business in the City but he does support creation of new companies who offer low stand dues.
8. Mr. Josh Henson, thinks there are too many unanswered questions for this to pass. He's not opposed to it but wonders how approval can be granted with these unanswered questions. Opposes approval unless serious questions can be answered.

The Board considered the application of **Q&Z, Inc.** After receiving clarification of certain points of interest from staff and the applicant, Board members variously expressed concern with regard to this applicant's business and financial plans, the ability of the applicant to effectively manage the company and its affiliated owner-operators, and the possible relationship between the proposed company and VIP Cab Company that is currently under final probation review and facing possible disciplinary action.

Mr. Cota made a motion to deny application, seconded by Ms. Slack. The Board voted 3-3 and the motion did not carry. Mr. Cota made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Mr. Posey. The Board voted 3-3 and the motion did not carry. Following guidance from staff counsel and additional discussion, Ms Slack made a motion to approve staff recommendation and deny recommending approval of the application to the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson. The board voted 5-1 to deny staff recommendation to approve the application.

The Board considered the application of **GoGreen, Inc.**, and on a five to one vote, the Board recommended that:

1. The application of GoGreen Cab, Inc. be approved with the requirement that all affiliated vehicle authorizations be acquired through transfers of current taxicab owner-operators resulting from either pending disciplinary actions by the City or the annual owner transfer process;
2. The City adopt specific requirements for hybrid taxicab vehicles and provide incentives for their use generally consistent with those proposed by staff; and
3. The City adopt specific requirements for an Alexandria-regulated taxicab company to qualify and advertise itself as "environmentally friendly," hybrid vehicle fleet, or similar terms.

8. ISSUE:

Recommendation by the Hack Inspector's Office that Achagzai Shoukat's public driver's permit (#363) be revoke for violation of City Code Section: 9-12-60(a)(11) Doing any act or failing to do any act or omission jeopardizes the health, safety or welfare of the public.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board recommend to the City Manager that Achagzai Shoukat's public driver's permit (#363) be revoke for violation of City Code Section: 9-12-60(a)(11)

Doing any act or failing to do any act or omission jeopardizes the health, safety or welfare of the public.

9. ISSUE:

Recommendation by the Hack Inspector's Office that Achagzai Shoukat's public driver's permit (#363) be suspended for 6 day for violation of City Code Sections: 9-12-60 (a)(13) Rude or discourteous conduct towards a passenger; 9-12-57 (l) Refusal to carry passenger(s); 9-12-60 (a)(8) Failure to serve public adequately.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board recommend to the City Manager that Achagzai Shoukat's public driver's permit (#363) be suspended for 6 day for violation of City Code Sections: 9-12-60 (a)(13) Rude or discourteous conduct towards a passenger; 9-12-57 (l) Refusal to carry passenger(s); 9-12-60 (a)(8) Failure to serve public adequately.

BOARD ACTION: Christopher Spera, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office represented the City of Alexandria. Mr. Achagzai Shoukat was represented by S. Howard Woodson, III, Esq. Mr. Shoukat alson spoke on his on behave. Mr. Randy Stephen spoke the behave of Mr. Shoukat. Mr. Teshome Workagegnehu driver for Union Cab Company, the complainant gave a account of the incident. Mr. Cole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Slack to revoke Mr. Shoukat public driver permit. The board vote unanimously to revoke Mr. Skoukat public driver pemit.

NOTE: The City of Alexandria complies with the terms of ADA. An individual with a disability who wishes to request an accommodation may contact the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-838-4411 or TTY/TTD 703-838-5056. Please provide at least 7 calendar days advance notice. Amplified sound devices are available from the sound technician in the City Council Chamber.

NEXT TRAFFIC & PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING SEPTEMBER 29, 2008.