

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2014, 7:30 P.M.
301 KING STREET, 2nd FLOOR
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

M I N U T E S

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Jay Johnson, Vice Chair, William Schuyler, James Lewis, Elizabeth Jones, and Randy Cole

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Beekman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Garbacz, Division Chief, Traffic, Faye Dastgheib, Principal Planner.

1. Announcement of deferrals and withdrawals: There were no deferrals or withdrawals.
2. Approval of the October 28, 2014, Traffic and Parking Board meeting minutes: Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cole, to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2014, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES:** Bob Garbacz updated the board on the loading zone being installed for SUP2014-00003, Bastille Restaurant. Mr. Schuyler commented that staff should try and standardize the hours for loading zones.

PUBLIC HEARING:

4. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to remove one parking space at 1023 North Royal Street immediately to the south of the garage exit.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: Mrs. W. Neil Johnson and Mr. Nathaniel Est spoke in support of the request.

DISCUSSION: Bob Garbacz presented the item to the Board.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schuyler, to approve staff's recommendation to remove one space at 1023 North Royal Street immediately to the south of the garage exit. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **ISSUE:** Consideration of a request to allow temporary on-street parking along Mount Vernon Avenue between the Four Mile Bridge and 4109 Mount Vernon Avenue during the weekends

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: No one from the public spoke on this item.

DISCUSSION: Faye Dastgheib presented the item to the Board.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Schuyler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cole, to approve staff's recommendation to allow temporary on-street parking along the east side of Mount Vernon Avenue between the Four Mile Bridge and 4109 Mount Vernon Avenue during the weekends. The motion carried unanimously.

6. **ISSUE:** Consideration of the Biennial review and public hearing on conditions within the Alexandria taxicab industry.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

1. Daniel Berhane opposed eliminating fees for animals and items placed in the trunk.
2. Kyle Summers supported Yellow Cab's request for ten new authorizations, 5 ADA cabs and 5 all electric cabs.
3. Ken Aggrey supported all of staff's recommendations
4. Daniel Woldegiorgis supported the ban on smoking and cell phones. He opposed the elimination of fees charged for animals and items placed in the trunk.
5. Bernardo Romeue opposed eliminating fees for animals and items placed in the trunk.
6. Mujahid Ahmad supported GoGreen's request for 30 new authorizations, eliminating the two-way radio requirement and prohibiting driver's using the phone while transporting passengers. He was opposed to eliminating the fee for luggage.
7. Kenneth Bynum supported the ban on smoking and cell phone use. He was opposed to eliminating the two-way radio, the fees charged for items placed in the trunk and animals
8. Abas Ali Abu Sayed supported the ban of smoking and cell phone use. He was opposed to eliminating the luggage charge.
9. Abdul Karim supported King Cab's request for 15 additional authorizations, the ban on smoking and the ban of cell phone use except in the case of emergencies. He was opposed to eliminating the luggage charge and the two-way radio requirement.
10. Chand Dodhy supported the ban on smoking and the ban against cell phone use except in emergencies. He was opposed to eliminating the fees charged for luggage and animals as well as adding any new authorizations.

DISCUSSION: Bob Garbacz presented this item to the Board.

BOARD ACTION: No action was required on this item.

7. **ISSUE:** Consideration of recommendations on the renewal of existing certificates of public convenience and necessity.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: See Issue 6 above

DISCUSSION: Bob Garbacz presented this item to the Board. The Board expressed concern over the large numbers of cabs in the City but was also cognizant of the need to provide better service to the disabled community. The Board inquired about a company's ability to reassign regular authorizations to ADA vehicles when those authorizations become vacant. This was determined not realistic because the individual cabs are owned by the drivers who would lose the value of the authorization when leaving the industry.

The need was identified for staff to collect metrics on the usage of the City's current ADA cabs

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Schuyler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones to: 1) renew all of the existing certificates at their present number; 2) approve five (5) new ADA only authorizations for Alexandria Yellow Cab; and, 3) request that staff start tracking the usage of the City's ADA cabs. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **ISSUE:** Consideration of Staff recommendations on the proposed changes to Part II, Title 9, Chapter 12 of the City Code.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: See Issue 6 above

DISCUSSION: Bob Garbacz presented this item to the Board.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cole, to:

1. Remove the requirement for two-way radios in section 9-12-81(k) of the City Code and replace it with a requirement for wireless dispatch equipment
2. Prohibit smoking in the cabs
3. Prohibit talking on the phone while transporting passengers except for a limited duration emergency situations.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. **ISSUE:** Consideration of Staff recommendations on the proposed taxicab fare rate change.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY: See Issue 6 above

DISCUSSION: Bob Garbacz presented this item to the Board.

BOARD ACTION: Mr. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cole, to:

1. Reject staff's recommendations to eliminate the fees charged for animals and for items placed in the taxicab trunk;
2. Direct staff to work with the industry to incorporate better technology; and,
3. Provide clear criteria on the requirements to justify additional authorizations for certificate holders.

The motion carried unanimously.