

Transportation Commission Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Robert Ward called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Robert Ward, Amos Meyers, Liz Hultman-Salfen, Doug Espejo,
Benjamin Watai, John Fernandez, Billie Keawekane, Duane Hosaka

Absent and excused: Myles Miyasato

Introduction of New Commissioner: Duane Hosaka will be representing District #2-Hilo.

A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Espejo moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Fernandez seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

STATEMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Fernandez moved to approve the minutes of September 29, 2008, Commissioner Espejo seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Hermingildo Rafaol was not present at the last meeting and his application was deferred. Mr. Rafaol was not present at this meeting also, and Ms. Alcover stated that he had called the transit office yesterday and told her he would not attend the meeting, and he is no longer interested in applying for a certificate.

Commissioner Espejo moved to rescind Mr. Rafaol's application, seconded by Commissioner Fernandez. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Applications for New Certificates of Public Convenience

1. Remedios Labiano, dba Maile Taxi applied for one certificate. Ms. Labiano was not present, however, she submitted a letter naming her brother, Winston Labiano, as her representative. Mr. Labiano explained that she had received approval of certificates previously, but due to insurance issues, she did not submit her paperwork in time, and they

were now up for revocation. Due to economic reasons, she is only applying for one certificate.

Motion to approved by Commissioner Fernandez, second by Commissioner Espejo. Motion carried.

2. Pedro & Norma Dela Rosa, dba Josiah Taxi, applied for one certificate. Commissioner Ward noted that they were not present and asked counsel if they can defer the application until the end of the meeting. Mr. Brillhante stated the commissioners can if they made a motion and it was approved.

Commissioner Ward moved to defer the application to the end of the meeting, Commissioner Espejo seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

3. Victor A. Quiros applied for one certificate. Commissioner Ward noted that Mr. Quiros was not present.

Commissioner Ward motion to defer the application to the end of the meeting, Commissioner Espejo seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

4. Robert W. Brigoli applied for one certificate. Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Brigoli is present and participates as a shared-ride provider. Mr. Brigoli was asked by the commissioners why he felt the need for another taxicab. Mr. Brigoli explained that he services senior citizens and he currently has to refer them to another taxi company because he is too busy.

Commissioner Meyers moved to approve the certificate, Commissioner Fernandez seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

B. Hearing on Revocation of the following Certificates of Public Convenience

1. CH009, CH022, CH249 – Golden Taxi. Mr. Brown stated Jonathan Isidro is present and wishes to retain CH009. Mr. Brown stated that his office received complaints that Golden Taxi was running illegally. Ms. Alcover called Mr. Isidro regarding the complaints, who stated he was picking up his mother from work. Ms. Alcover reminded Mr. Isidro he cannot operate his car with a dome on, and Mr. Isidiro said he would remove it.

After receiving another call, Mr. Brown stated he had an investigation conducted. He received a written report that Golden Taxi was observed on several occasions parked outside of Hugo's Restaurant. On one occasion, Mr. Isidro was observed speaking to two Caucasian females, with leis around their necks, coming out of Huggo's. After briefly speaking to them, opened his door and the females got in. Mr. Isidro stated they were his friends.

Commissioner Meyers asked Mr. Isidro if it was your mother or friends, why wasn't the dome removed since he did not receive his certificates. Mr. Isidro stated that he cannot

remove the dome because it is bolted on. Commissioner Ward asked if it could be covered. Mr. Isidro said no.

Commissioner Fernandez moved to revoke all three certificates CH009, CH022, and CH249, and stated that Mr. Isidro can reapply for a new certificate if he chooses to do so. Commissioner Keawekane seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

2. CH 047, CH066 – Paradise Taxi & Tours. Mr. Brown stated that he received a letter from Paradise Taxi asking that CH047 and CH066 be revoked as Mr. Hollister no longer wishes to operate the taxis.

Commissioner Fernandez moved to revoke certificates CH047 and CH066, Commissioner Espejo seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

3. CH072, CH220 – Air Taxi & Tours. Commissioner Ward noted that no one is present from Air Taxi & Tours. Ms. Alcover stated they were notified that due to non-submittal of paperwork, their certificates were up for revocation.

Commissioner Keawekane moved to revoke certificates CH072 and CH220, Commissioner Fernandez seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

4. CH087 – Mel’s Taxi. Commissioner Ward noted that no one is present for Mel’s Taxi. Ms. Alcover explained that Mr. Carlos was notified that due to non-submittal of paperwork, CH087 will be placed on the agenda for revocation.

Commissioner Espejo moved to revoke certificate CH087, Commissioner Fernandez seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

5. CH145, CH193, CH195 – Al’s Taxi. Commissioner Ward noted that no one is present representing Al’s Taxi. Ms. Alcover stated Al’s Taxi was notified that due to non-submittal of paperwork, CH145, CH193 and CH195 will be placed on the agenda for revocation.

Commissioner Fernandez moved to revoke certificates CH145, CH193, and CH195, Commissioner Keawekane seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

6. CH208 – B-Lee-Jo’s Taxi. Commissioner Ward noted that no one is present from B-Lee-Jo’s Taxi. Ms. Alcover stated B-Lee-Jo’s Taxi was notified that due to non-submittal of paperwork, CH208 will be placed on the agenda for revocation.

Commissioner Meyers moved to revoke certificate CH208, Commissioner Espejo seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

7. CH333 – Saplan Taxi. Commissioner Ward noted that no one is present from Saplan Taxi. Ms. Alcover stated that she received a letter from Mr. Saplan asking that CH333 be revoked as he no longer wishes to operate the taxi.

Commissioner Espejo moved to revoke certificate CH333, Commissioner Fernandez seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

8. CH352 – Hilo Harry’s Taxi. Commissioner Ward noted that no one is present to Represent Hilo Harry’s Taxi. Ms. Alcover stated Hilo Harry’s Taxi was notified that due to non-submittal of paperwork, CH352 will be placed on the agenda for revocation

Commissioner Espejo moved to revoke certificate CH352, Commissioner Fernandez seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meyers to address the two applications that were deferred earlier, Commissioner Keawekane seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

A. Pedro & Norma Dela Rosa dba Josiah Taxi – Commissioner Fernandez moved to deny a certificate to Pedro & Normal Dela Rosa, Commissioner Meyers seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

B. Victor Quiros – Commissioner Meyers moved to defer the application to the next meeting, Commissioner Keawekane seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

TAXI INVESTIGATIONS

The transit office received complaints again Robert Portus and his father in regards to Cruzn’ Taxi flat rating. Vic Vierra, our taxi investigator, will be submitting a written report and a cd, confirming the flat rating by the two. There is a new harbor master for the State as Ian Birnie has retired.

TRANSIT ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Brown reported that additional bus routes on the Intra Hilo, Intra Kona, Pahoa/Hilo, Kau/South Kohala, and Hilo/Waimea bus schedules will be implemented on February 17, 2009. Along with the additional bus routes addition, Saturday service will be added to our existing bus routes. The Mass Transit office will also be manned six (6) days a week. On February 9, 2009, bid will open for five (5) - 49 passenger coach buses, and Transit also plans to buy an additional four (4) – 33 passenger buses.

Vehicle Location Systems will be installed in all our buses this year. The location system will enable us to locate where the buses are and what time they passed at any given point, and will allow us to text messages to the buses.

The transit office will also receive 20 satellite phones within 20 days. Should there be a major emergency and phone lines are not working, these phones will be activated. Phones will be on loan to Civil Defense, Fire, Police and Public Works, in addition to transit.

SSFM has a contract to develop bus stops and shelters at various locations around the island. We will be holding public meetings to get public input on where they feel bus stops and shelters should be in their areas.

The official website for Hele-On will commence on February 17, 2009. The website address will be Heleonbus.org The website will include our bus schedules, maps, and other information regarding the Hele-On buses.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be in March with the date to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Ward at 12:03 p.m.