

**PRIVATE FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF REVIEW
MINUTES – May 9, 2007**

A. Call to Order: 1:39 p.m. by Chairman Yamasaki.

B. Roll Call / Sign-In

- 1. Roll Call:** Abma P; Corona P; Elmore P;
Huddleston A; Miles P; Miller P; Ochoa P;
Putman P; Yamasaki P.

Darcy Thornes attended as the Port's designee in Dawn Huddleston's absence.

- 2. Others / Audience:** The list of other attendees is available from the Revenue Bureau.

C. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as distributed.

D. Approval of Previous Minutes: The minutes of the April 11 meeting were approved as distributed.

Jon Putman suggested taking roll call votes. There were no objections to the change. Chairman Yamasaki responded that the minutes will now reflect how each Board member votes on a motion.

E. Supervisor's Report:

Chairman Yamasaki reported that Judy Ritt is no longer filling the Private for Hire Transportation Supervisor position. The position is currently vacant.

F. Old Business

1. Fuel Surcharge Increase

Chairman Yamasaki reported that at the last Board meeting a motion was passed to allow taxi companies a fuel surcharge increase to 20 cents per mile if gas prices went above \$3.00 per gallon. Since gas prices are now above the \$3.00 mark the Board must come up with a process to put the surcharge increase in place. Steve Entler, Radio Cab, reported that when the original fuel surcharge was passed each company notified the Private for Hire Transportation Supervisor in writing that they were going to take advantage of the increase. Decals were then ordered to notify the passengers of the fuel surcharge subsequent to the changing of the taxi meters. Chairman Yamasaki responded that the meters could be recalibrated to reflect the surcharge increase at this time but that they all need to be recertified by a certain date.

Raye added that the Company Standing Committee attempted to address the fuel surcharge issue for Shuttle companies. Without a representative from the Shuttle industry the Committee wasn't able to come up with a calculation for Shuttles at this time.

Chairman Yamasaki will send out a notice to the taxi companies notifying them of the fuel

surcharge increase. The notice will outline the taxi company's requirements if they would like to take advantage of the surcharge as well as a time frame which all taxi meters must be recertified.

In response to a question, what happens if gas prices fall below \$3.00 a gallon, City Attorney Shane Abma responded that the Board needs to have an index. If the price falls below \$3.00 per gallon then the Board will revisit the surcharge. It will be the City's responsibility to monitor gas prices and to report to the Board. Chairman Yamasaki would like to come up with a review process that the Board can follow to monitor fuel prices.

G. Standing Committee Reports

1. Company

Raye reported that the Company Standing Committee reviewed the fuel surcharge and revitalized the PACA agreement. While reviewing the code, the Company Standing Committee noted that section 16.40.110 says that the Private for Hire Transportation Board of Review does set the annual renewal fees for driver permits. The committee would like to bring forward a recommendation that would change both taxi and LPT drivers permit fees to \$65. That would be a slight increase for taxi permits from \$60 to \$65 and a slight decrease for LPT permits from \$70 to \$65. This would result in an increase in the general fund since there are more taxi drivers while the safety fund would remain the same. The proposed permit fee recommendation would be broken down as follows:

	General Fund	Safety Fund	Total Permit Fee
Taxi Permit	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$65.00
LPT Permit	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$65.00

Butch Miller added that the Driver Standing Committee supports the recommendation.

Raye made a motion to notify the industry and take public testimony regarding the Boards intent to make both taxi and LPT driver permits \$65.00. Butch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Raye announced that the Company Standing Committee has two vacant positions. The committee needs a representative from the Shuttle and Executive Sedan industries.

2. Driver

Butch Miller reported that the Driver Standing Committee talked about driver standards and he will bring that to the next Board meeting.

Butch reported that Vancouver has an ordinance that prohibits providers from paying or tipping business establishments for exclusive rights to provide service. Butch feels that the City of Portland should be in line with the Vancouver ordinance. Chairman Yamasaki responded that she will have City Attorney, Shane Abma look over it to make sure the language is clear.

H. New Business

1. Limo Regulations

Al Ochoa reported that limousines are the only for-hire transportation in the City of Portland that are not regulated. The limousine industry is exempt from DOT regulations as well. He feels that when a passenger rents a vehicle they assume that certain safety standards exist. The City and the Board does have the authority to regulate the limousine industry. Al distributed information to the Board regarding this subject to be discussed at the next Board meeting. Chairman Yamasaki responded that we will need to check with City Council to insure that they will support this recommendation.

I. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.