

VEHICLE FOR HIRE BOARD

April 25, 2024

4252 Groves Rd
Columbus, OH 43232

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cathy Collins at 9:39 A.M.

The roll call of Board Members showed nine (9) members present, five (5) members absent, and one (1) currently vacant. A quorum was met.

A motion was made by Niyah Walters to dispense the reading of the minutes and to approve all old minutes that hadn't been approved. Obinna Nwokike 2nd the motion. Jennifer Atkinson abstained.

APPLICATION FOR NEW PEDICAB/QUADRICYCLE OWNER LICENSES

One (1) license issued

APPLICATION FOR NEW TAXICAB OWNER LICENSES

None

APPLICATION FOR VEHICLE TRANSFER OF TAXICAB OWNER LICENSES

Eleven (11) vehicle licenses transferred

APPLICATION FOR OWNER TRANSFER OF TAXICAB OWNER LICENSES

One (1) owner license transferred

APPLICATION FOR VEHICLE TRANSFER OF LIVERY OWNER LICENSES

Three (3) vehicle licenses transferred

APPLICATION FOR NEW LIVERY OWNER LICENSES

Thirteen (13) owner licenses issued

OLD BUSINESS

- Gave pledge of ethical conduct/oath of office to board members who were not present at or not current board members for the January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Introduced of new board members Lt. Steve Carr & Tafere Tayachew.
- Reiterated attendance requirements per CCC 585.13.
- Stated that mid-year inspections will start May 13th to 16th and May 20th to 23rd at Berliner Park.

- Gave update that Michael Mintz from the Curb Mobility platform (GPS Meters) did a public records request for all current 2024 licensed owners and drivers.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Board Member Tafere Tayachew wanted to make a record on behalf of taxi owners their request to lower the vehicle age for new vehicles and for owner renewals. Linda Bickerstaff noted 2014 City of Columbus court case with Uber where public safety was cited as the reason to limit the age of taxi & livery vehicles. She also noted a case from Cincinnati that it was reasonable for a municipality to regulate vehicles for hire on public streets. Jennifer Atkinson gave reasons for why newer vehicles are usually safer than older vehicles.
- Mr. Ebrahim Ulu wanted to discuss the vehicle age of new owner liveries. License officer Scott Allen cited the VFH Rules & Regulations Chapter 4.1.1 stated the allowed new livery owner vehicles can only be 6 years old or newer.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jason Biundo and was second Jennifer Atkinson. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.