



City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 2, 2013

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD YOUNG, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE TAXICAB INDUSTRY

City Code Section 9-12-31 requires a biennial review of the Alexandria taxicab industry, considering the economic condition of the industry, the adequacy of the public service rendered, and whether changes to the regulation of the industry are necessary or desirable, including changes in the number of taxicabs authorized by each certificate of public convenience and necessity (hereinafter "certificate").

Conducted jointly by the Traffic and Parking Board and the City Manager, the 2012 review was based on information provided by the taxicab companies, owners and drivers, Hack Office records, field observations of taxicab operations throughout the City, and testimony provided during the Traffic and Parking Board hearing on November 26, 2012. This memorandum presents the final determinations resulting from the biennial review and, in combination with the attached Traffic and Parking Board documents, constitutes the record of the 2012 biennial review.

City Manager's Final Determinations

The following determinations have been made in the 2012 biennial review:

1. Renew 17 of the 17 existing individual certificates of public convenience and necessity (the so called "grandfathered" certificates referenced in City Code Section 9-12-35) as requested by the certificate holders;
2. Renew the certificates of public convenience and necessity for Alexandria Yellow Cab, Union Cab, White Top Cab, King Cab, VIP Cab and GoGreen Cab at their present number of authorized taxicabs;
3. Allow the Traffic and Parking Board to approve transferring retired grandfathered certificates to the parent company when a grandfathered certificate holder elects to retire.
4. Enact the proposed taxi fare changes.

Discussion

After giving full consideration to the staff reports, the testimony offered at the hearings and the Board recommendations I have made the following determinations:

Renewals of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity: Following a public hearing on November 26, 2012, the Board recommended renewal of all certificates of public convenience for which renewal applications were filed. I concur with these recommendations as follows:

1. Renew the 17 individual (“grandfathered”) certificates of public convenience and necessity for which renewal applications were filed.
2. Renew the certificate of public convenience and necessity for Alexandria Yellow Cab at the current number of 283. Yellow Cab requested an additional seven authorizations to replace potential retiring grandfather certificate holders. I am recommending against granting these new authorizations because none of the grandfathered certificate holders are retiring in 2013. I do not believe there is a need to replace these retiring certificates because Yellow Cab did not indicate they were having trouble servicing their present call volume.
3. Renew the certificate of public convenience and necessity for Alexandria Union Cab at the current 224 cabs.
4. Renew the certificate of public convenience and necessity for White Top Cab at the current 107 cabs. White Top requested an additional eight authorizations. I am recommending against granting these new authorizations because White Top Cab’s dispatch rate is only 2.0 trips per day per driver indicating they are not generating enough business to expand.
5. Renew the certificate of public convenience and necessity for King Cab at the current 52 cabs. King Cab requested an additional 15 authorizations. I am recommending against granting these new authorizations because King Cab’s dispatch rate is only 1.4 trips per day per driver indicating they are not generating enough business to expand.
6. Renew the certificate of public convenience and necessity for VIP Cab at the current 62 cabs. VIP Cab requested an additional 13 authorizations. I am recommending against granting these new authorizations because VIP Cab’s dispatch rate is only 1.5 trips per day per driver indicating they are not generating enough business to expand.
7. Renew the certificate of public convenience and necessity for GoGreen Cab at the current 20 cabs.

Retiring Grandfathered Certificates: Allow the Traffic and Parking Board to approve transferring retired grandfathered certificates to the parent company when a grandfathered certificate holder elects to retire.

Taxi Fare Adjustments: Following a public hearing on November 26, 2012, the Traffic and Parking Board recommended simplifying the taxi fare structure by combining the

suite case and truck charges and removing the charge for animals and grocery bags. The Board also recommended increasing the drop fee from \$2.75 to \$3.00, increasing the mileage from \$2.04 per mile to \$2.16 per mile and increasing the waiting fee from \$22.50 per hour to \$25.00 per hour. The cost of living has increased nearly 10 percent since the last fare adjustment and the current \$0.75 per trip fuel surcharge will terminate when these new fares are enacted. I concur with these recommendations as shown in the chart below:

Proposed Fares

	Current Fares	Proposed Fares
Drop	\$2.75	\$3.00
Mileage	\$2.04/mile	\$2.16
Waiting	\$22.50/hour	\$25.00/hour
Passengers	\$1.25	\$1.25
Suite case	\$0.50	Subsumed by Luggage Handling Fee
Trunk	\$2.00	Subsumed by Luggage Handling Fee
Grocery Bags	\$0.33/bag	Eliminated
Animals	\$1.00	Eliminated
Snow	\$5.00	\$5.00
Luggage Handling Fee	---	\$0.50/bag Max \$5.00

Tenants and Workers Proposal: Last summer Tenants and Workers United contacted the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council concerning a proposal to lift the prohibition against drivers transferring into noncompliant companies. Staff will make this proposal an agenda item for the Traffic and Parking Board in the first quarter of 2013.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have concerning this year's industry review.

cc: Chairman and Members of the Traffic and Parking Board
 Chief Earl Cook, Chief of Police, Alexandria Police Department
 Joe Seskey, Sergeant, Alexandria Police Department
 Monte Rossen, Hack Inspector, Hack Inspector's Office
 Chris Spera, Deputy Attorney, City Attorney's Office
 Richard J. Baier, P.E., LEED AP, T&ES