

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

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FOR-HIRE VEHICLE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

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The Council met in Suite 2032, 2235
Shannon Place, S.E., Washington, D.C., at 10:00
a.m., Linwood Jolly, Chairperson, presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LINWOOD JOLLY, Chairperson
DAVID DO, Director
JEFFERY SCHAEFFER, Commissioner
DOTTI LOVE WADE, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

CHAU TRAN, SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL
NAKEASHA SANDERS-SMALL, ESQ., GENERAL COUNSEL

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 10:09 a.m.

3 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Good morning. The
4 time is 10:09. The date is September 17th. We
5 are in 2235 Shannon Place Southeast and I would
6 like to call this meeting to order. On our
7 agenda is a moment of silence for those who are
8 not here.

9 (Pause.)

10 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Thank you. Good
11 morning and thank you everybody for coming out
12 this morning. We are going to move right down
13 this agenda rather quickly. So we will start by
14 introducing our director --

15 DIRECTOR DO: All right.

16 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Who's got some
17 great updates for us.

18 DIRECTOR DO: Great, well thank you so
19 much, Linwood. And thank you the rest of the
20 Council for being here this morning. I
21 appreciate it. So we have a few updates. The
22 first one on the agenda is the Digital Taxicab

1 Solution. And we have finalized our five
2 providers this new fiscal year. And it's going
3 to be Capitol Cab, DC VIP, Grand Cab, UVC, and
4 Yellow. We also have an option for payment
5 technology provider, which is going to be
6 provided by Flywheel. Big news within this is
7 that the DFHV meter will be sunseting as of
8 SEPTEMBER 30th, and we will be working at the
9 account managers and DFHV will be working to
10 transition all taxi operators who are still
11 lingering in the process by the end of this month
12 onto a new -- not the DFHV meter because it is
13 going to be sunsetted -- but a new meter with one
14 of the DTS providers. And we will be reaching
15 out to remind them.

16 After three years, we have began
17 hearing OAH cases again. So I just want to thank
18 everyone involved in this process, including our
19 Enforcement and our legal team. This wasn't an
20 easy endeavor, but with the help of OAH the DMV
21 and our department, we have succeeded in now
22 hearing cases. There are going to be 35

1 scheduled per day. And so we have about a 1200-
2 ticket backlog. It will be completed, I hope,
3 within the next couple of months. And we will
4 then start on the 2019 tickets. So we are at a
5 good start. Anything to add, Nakeasha?

6 (No audible response.)

7 DIRECTOR DO: All right. The DFHV
8 grants -- so I also want to thank my grant team.
9 Excuse me, I am so sorry.

10 MEMBER WADE: That's okay. I do have
11 a quick question regarding the -- the hearings.
12 These are tickets that have been protested?

13 DIRECTOR DO: Correct. So these are
14 tickets that -- that have been contested at OAH.
15 These go back as far as 2016. And there was, I
16 think, just a couple of disagreements between DMV
17 and OAH and now we've figured it out. The -- the
18 provider conduit is now on board and everything
19 should be -- everything is being processed and
20 going forward, so that's good news.

21 MEMBER WADE: Yes, absolutely. Okay,
22 thank you.

1 DIRECTOR DO: Sure. The next item --
2 and -- is our Grants team. I definitely want to
3 give them a lot of accolades because we have gone
4 from a \$7.3 million grant budget to \$11.3 million
5 budget this next year. It's -- it's not an easy
6 feat when you have the same amount of staff
7 members but you're expected to do more. So I
8 very much appreciate that.

9 I appreciate the mayor for continuing
10 the Transport DC funds of \$5.924 million. And I
11 also want to thank our partners, including the
12 Department of Child Family Services, the
13 Department of Aging and Community Living -- which
14 is the -- holds the MedExpress Program, will be
15 under DFHV -- the Department of Fire and
16 Emergency Services, and of course the Mayor's
17 Office on Veteran Affairs. The grant rewards
18 will be announced in the coming weeks. And we
19 are very excited to let the -- the awardees know
20 where they are in the new fiscal year. So I
21 appreciate, also, all the hard work of our
22 grantees. Without them, these grants would not

1 be possible. So thank you.

2 And then finally -- any questions on
3 that item?

4 MEMBER WADE: I always want to know a
5 little more information for the public's purpose.

6 DIRECTOR DO: Sure.

7 MEMBER WADE: I was wondering if you
8 could just identify a few of the types of grants.
9 And I know you said our partners, so can you just
10 --

11 DIRECTOR DO: Sure. So, our biggest
12 grant is the Transport DC Grant. And it provides
13 people who have disabilities with the ability to
14 traverse our city -- to go to doctors'
15 appointments, to go to grocery stores, to go to
16 other needs for their daily activities. And so
17 we're very excited about that. MedExpress is
18 also a program that -- that is similar to
19 Transport DC but provides medical transportation
20 for our senior community. So those are just two
21 of the programs. We also have the Fire and
22 Emergency Services, which is non-emergency

1 medical transportation, so that we can alleviate
2 the stress on our emergency responses and provide
3 additional transportations and infrastructure to
4 -- to our Fire and Emergency Services sector. So
5 there is a lot of grant programs that really help
6 the city overall. And it builds upon the needs
7 for our residents, and the needs of
8 transportations for everyone.

9 MEMBER WADE: Thank you.

10 DIRECTOR DO: Sure. All right. Any
11 other questions? Jeff, you want to add anything
12 --

13 MEMBER SCHAEFFER: No.

14 DIRECTOR DO: -- as a Transport DC
15 provider?

16 MEMBER SCHAEFFER: I think you covered
17 it all. It's for seniors and disabled. The
18 volume is quite extensive in that. The only
19 other true program for it is veterans where they
20 can ride the -- and the Child and Family Services
21 where we take kids who are in foster care to
22 schools in D.C.

1 DIRECTOR DO: So there's a lot of good
2 programs out there that DFHV runs. And so I am
3 very appreciative of not only our partners, but
4 the Mayor and the City Council for providing
5 those funds to make sure that they can continue.
6 And the last item on my agenda is -- is that we
7 have added a lot of new staff. So when I call
8 your name, you can raise your hand or stand up
9 real quick. We have Shalonda.

10 (Applause.)

11 DIRECTOR DO: She's our -- now our
12 supervisor for HR. We have Eileen Perry. Okay,
13 she's not here. But she's also our Human
14 Resource specialist. Charles Davis?

15 (Applause.)

16 DIRECTOR DO: He's our program
17 analyst. Sherita McMillian?

18 (Applause.)

19 DIRECTOR DO: Hello. She's helping
20 run this program today.

21 (Laughter.)

22 (Applause.)

1 DIRECTOR DO: Tyren Stover? There you
2 go.

3 (Applause.)

4 DIRECTOR DO: All the way in the back.
5 Dustin Williams? Not here. But he's our
6 machinist, and he's part of the Complaints team.
7 And Sebastian Duncan. He just started today.

8 (Applause.)

9 DIRECTOR DO: So welcome. So thank
10 you so much for joining our agency and working on
11 behalf of the District residents. I very much
12 appreciate that. I am going to turn it back to
13 Chairman Jolly.

14 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Well thank you.
15 And welcome to all the new members and colleagues
16 of the Department of For-Hire Vehicle. And
17 Director Do, congratulations for finding such
18 talented folks --

19 DIRECTOR DO: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: -- to join this
21 organization. At this point we're going to go to
22 action items. And our general counsel, Nakeasha

1 Sanders, will take a moment and handle some
2 administrative business.

3 GENERAL COUNSEL SANDERS-SMALL: Thank
4 you, Chairman. So in our executive session
5 yesterday the Council was reminded that we are
6 due to vote for -- to elect or reelect a new
7 chairman. And so that is the action item that we
8 need to do today. It needs to be conducted
9 pursuant to the Open Meetings Act here in an open
10 forum. And I wanted to raise that to the Council
11 so that you can decide how you want to proceed.
12 If you wish to conduct an election now with the
13 majority of the members present, that is
14 certainly within your rights to do so. So with
15 that, I turn it back over to you, Chairman.

16 (Simultaneous speaking.)

17 MEMBER WADE: Yes, well I would like
18 to nominate Chairman Jolly for reelection for
19 another term.

20 MEMBER SCHAEFFER: I second.

21 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Thank you, that's
22 great -- all in favor?

1 (Chorus of aye.)

2 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: None opposed?

3 (Laughter.)

4 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Let the Chair roll
5 on.

6 PARTICIPANT: Congratulations.

7 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: So everybody here,
10 particularly the new members of the Department of
11 For-Hire Vehicles, we represent the Advisory
12 Council. We're actually a larger organization.
13 You see a lot of names here. A lot of the
14 members aren't present. Some of the members are
15 changing out. Particularly the two
16 representatives from Tourism. Director Do is
17 working on that. We're working to identify new
18 members.

19 But basically, we do these quarterly
20 meetings. And our role is to advise the director
21 and his senior team on issues that we're hearing
22 out there in the industry. From time to time

1 you'll see a lot of members from the taxi, or the
2 TNC industry come in and they testify.

3 Previously, when we were Taxicab Commission, we
4 were much more formal. And we didn't have the
5 ability to have conversation back and forth. But
6 now that we're an advisory council we've shifted
7 that. And what you see, and what you'll see
8 going forward, is more interaction with the
9 industry that comes in and they talk about
10 issues. And I think the most compelling part of
11 what we do here is, you know, this is a forum
12 where you can talk directly, not only with the
13 advisory members that advise -- obviously, the
14 director and his staff -- but you also can talk
15 directly to the director.

16 And, you know, there was a time when
17 we used to have a lot of security in this room
18 when we had industry talking to folks. But that
19 has gone away. And Director Do has done a great
20 job of engaging with the industry in a public
21 forum and -- and answering questions about issues
22 that we see in the industry. So I just give you

1 that background so you see what we do.

2 We also are going to continue doing
3 some very interesting things. And Director Do
4 and Advisor Dotti Wade are about to co-chair
5 Department of For-Hire Vehicles in your wards.
6 So we've done one in Ward 4 about a year and a
7 half ago. We had about 75 people. We basically
8 took this meeting to Ward 4 and we had it at 6:30
9 in the evening to give residents a chance to come
10 out. And you would be amazed at the amount of
11 participation that we had. And the amount of
12 information that was conveyed to residents. They
13 hear about the Department of For-Hire Vehicles,
14 but the -- the majority of them, they remember
15 the Taxicab Commission. So we are going to go
16 into Ward 1, and hopefully some of you all will
17 be able to join us on that. And we haven't
18 scheduled a date yet, but as I said, Advisor Wade
19 and Director Do are co-hosts. I believe both of
20 you are Ward 1 residents, right?

21 MEMBER WADE: Absolutely.

22 DIRECTOR DO: I grew up to Ward 5.

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: You're in Ward 5?

3 Okay, you just moved. You snuck out of there.

4 DIRECTOR DO: I used to live in Ward

5 1. And actually, I used to live very near Dotti.

6 MEMBER WADE: He did.

7 (Laughter.)

8 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: So those are some
9 things you'll see. And then, we also want to do
10 something in Ward 7 and 8, and we possibly would
11 use this facility here. So, that's just a
12 commercial break on what we do and the value we
13 think we bring. And when we advise the director
14 and senior staff, we do it in this format here.
15 We have a court reporter here so there's a record
16 of what we discuss. And that is our way of
17 communicating. So that fulfills our mandate. So
18 we are in accordance to what we're supposed to be
19 doing for the District of Columbia. So at this
20 time, we'll move to public comment. Ms. Chau,
21 has anyone -- has anyone registered for public
22 comment?

1 SECRETARY TRAN: No, I haven't --

2 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: There are no
3 names? Okay, if there are no names. I see some
4 folks from the industry here. Are there -- is
5 there anyone that would like to comment on any of
6 the issues that you've heard today? There is
7 one. You -- feel free -- you can come up.

8 (Pause.)

9 MS. HODGES: Hello, my name is Doreen
10 Hodges. And it's spelled D-O-R-E-E-N as in
11 Nancy, H-O-D-G-E-S as in Sam. I am a Ward 8 and
12 also a business owner of an organization known as
13 Family Voices of the District of Columbia,
14 Incorporated. We do healthcare advocacy and
15 provide resources as support for families of
16 children with special healthcare needs or
17 disabilities between the ages of zero and 26
18 years of age.

19 I come to you today just at the --
20 following up on some things that I notice with
21 regards to the -- the Advisory Council, number
22 one. I see less, or no representation of people

1 with disabilities as members of your Advisory
2 Council, and would ask in your search of looking
3 for that, Director Do, that you possibly include
4 that and look at the ages of at least maybe 17 --
5 maybe as young as 14 years old, students with
6 disabilities and special healthcare needs up to,
7 you know, 26 or so within our organization. We
8 focus on those that have intellectual
9 disabilities and also physical disabilities.

10 But those that use the DC For-Hire in
11 the program that you speak of -- or the programs
12 that you spoke of today. So I would encourage
13 you to reach out to some of those youth. And
14 then also some of the adults itself -- their
15 families itself. Or individuals that are of age
16 that would love to participate. If you need
17 maybe some names or agencies, or so forth and so
18 on, how to -- to access some of those individuals
19 that have been trained by our organization on how
20 to participate in advisory councils, we are happy
21 to do so and provide those to you because we do
22 want a meeting with you also, too.

1 Another comment that we would like to
2 express today is looking at the -- the foster
3 care transportation -- or grant program that you
4 have, we have been doing a pilot project on --
5 just starting earlier this year -- kind of in the
6 latter part of the school year in 2019 and
7 continuing on now -- and looking at reducing the
8 amount of children that ride on the yellow school
9 bus, and using your organization -- excuse me,
10 using your agency and some of those providers
11 that are within -- or even new providers that are
12 trained and skilled and that have the same kind
13 of forte with regards to having a driver and a --
14 a trained attendant to work with the children on
15 that bus -- or on -- on the -- on the
16 transportation. We had about 50 children so far
17 that we have piloted with, with regards to
18 driving them in minivans -- also sedan cars.
19 Kind of reducing that minivan and kind of
20 creating that small environment for children to
21 develop social skills, build their self-esteem
22 with children that are in their schools and --

1 and develop friendships, even though they might
2 be in different wards of the city. But they kind
3 of fit some of the characteristics. We dig down
4 a little bit more in detail with regards to that.

5 And we're finding that children are
6 arriving on school on time. They're happy when
7 they get in. The stigma is slowly starting to
8 release off of them about being on the short bus,
9 or on yellow bus. They're meeting new people --
10 new adults, new families and so forth and so on.
11 And we would look -- well, we would ask and can
12 share more information with our data on that
13 about how possibly that can be something that
14 maybe your agency could speak to OSSE, DOT -- or
15 either the Deputy Mayor for -- the deputy of
16 Health and Human Services, Mr. Wayne Turnage, who
17 does the Medicaid which school is billed
18 underneath the Medicaid system as a funding
19 stream, to look at maybe piloting that -- maybe
20 continuing that and moving forward with that for
21 the new year. Because our children deserve
22 better. And they also deserve the opportunity to

1 be able to be integrated, or as they say
2 included, into the environment. And I am telling
3 you, Director Do, that if you have an
4 opportunity, we would extend that to you to
5 possibly ride with some of our children in this
6 quest that we're going forward on.

7 We use -- as the attendants, we not
8 only use trained individuals that might be
9 trained in behavior techniques since we have kids
10 that have behaviors and so forth and so on -- but
11 we also use those -- those youth that are now 18
12 years old that may have come out of the school
13 that are diagnosed with disabilities, whether it
14 is intellectual or developmental disabilities --
15 to be the attendants. So then that creates the
16 job force, also, for those individuals. And it
17 also works on -- it's kind of generated --

18 PARTICIPANT: You have 40 seconds
19 left.

20 MS. HODGES: Okay -- and it's also
21 generated off of their ISPs, IEPs. I thank you
22 for the opportunity to briefly share what -- the

1 ideas I had, and hope that you take my comments
2 serious. And I look forward to meeting with you
3 in the future.

4 DIRECTOR DO: Definitely.

5 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Why don't you hang
6 on for a minute, because we might have some
7 questions for you.

8 MS. HODGES: Oh.

9 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: We start with the
10 Director.

11 DIRECTOR DO: So this is a pilot
12 program through OSSE that you --

13 MS. HODGES: No, we did it on our own.
14 Our organization did it on our own with some
15 funding that we had achieved from other various
16 organizations and such. Something very small.
17 No more than like \$5,000 that we did it. And we
18 just recruited -- we did some Uber drivers. We
19 did some Lyft drivers. And then we used a
20 transportation company that is underneath --
21 subcontracted underneath the Medicaid
22 organization.

1 DIRECTOR DO: Okay, well, I would
2 definitely love to hear more, Ms. Hodges. I will
3 ask Chau to get your information so that we can
4 set up the meeting. On the other side, to -- I
5 would suggest bringing the people you represent
6 to some of our meetings -- the Transport DC Task
7 Force meeting and the ACC meetings that Jerry has
8 information on. And he will share with you at
9 the end of this meeting. And then -- then you
10 can -- we can also talk about how we can get some
11 of your -- some of your students, or the people
12 with disabilities that you serve -- onto our
13 council as a whole as well. But there is a lot
14 of opportunities to get your voice heard. And we
15 would definitely like to share and encourage you
16 to participate in those mediums.

17 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: I'll start with
18 Jeff?

19 MEMBER SCHAEFFER: Yes, I was going to
20 mention the Accessibility Advisory Committee as
21 well. There's a different group -- it is all of
22 the members -- or the majority of the members are

1 -- either -- either have a disability, or have --
2 drivers for people with disabilities. There's --
3 it's made up of transportation providers and
4 drivers that have been utilizing the -- the
5 grants who are trained in CPR and first-aid and
6 wheelchair certifications. But they're looking
7 for growth as well. So I can get you information
8 for that for the Accessibility Advisory
9 Committee. And some of those members could join.
10 And they'd welcome -- they're looking for a large
11 pool of people.

12 MS. HODGES: That's fine, no problem.

13 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Dotti --

14 MEMBER WADE: No, thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Thank you -- thank
16 you for coming.

17 MS. HODGES: Okay, thank you.

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 DIRECTOR DO: Thank you, Ms. Hodges.
20 We appreciate it.

21 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Is there anybody
22 else?

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(No audible response.)

CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: All right, well
the time is 10:30 and this meeting is adjourned.
Thank you for coming.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
went off the record at 10:30 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Council Meeting

Before: DC DFHV

Date: 09-17-19

Place: Washington, DC

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Court Reporter

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