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 25, 2018
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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
ERNEST CHRAPPAAH, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

JUANDA MIXON, SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL
MONIQUE BOCOCK, ESQ., GENERAL COUNSEL
CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Good morning. I would like to call this meeting to order. Today is Tuesday, September 25, 2018. We're at 2235 Shannon Place S.E., the hearing room, Suite 2032.

Our first order of business is a moment of silence for those who have departed.

Thank you. Good morning. Thank you all for coming out in this rainy weather. There are not many of us today so you will find that this meeting might move a little quicker than normal.

We have one item on our agenda today. Because we have a different set of rules from when we were commissioned, we can be sort of be innovative when we have to. What I'm going to do at this time is simply ask our director to sort of give us an overview for the record of what our intentions were.

We met yesterday. We all came to a consensus on this issue. Then right after we do
that, we'll go right into the public comment period. If there are any other issues that come up, we'll deal with them then. Thank you.

DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Thank you Chairperson Jolly.

Good morning everyone. Over the last couple of years the District has been forward thinking when it comes to ensuring that the residents and visitors have access to not only safe and affordable but also assessable transportation options.

In particular, the District has implemented the law requiring companies to dedicate a portion of the fleets to wheelchair accessible vehicles also called WAVs. It was on a graduated schedule going from six percent to 12 percent. At the end of this calendar year it will be 20 percent so that is the mandate we've implemented through our regulations.

At the same time, we've also been doing research on the department's perspective around the demand and supply for accessible
transportation and our wheelchair accessible
vehicles.

Our research has been consistent with
some of the reports that fleet owners have
transmitted across to us in that a large portion
of the vehicles that it dedicated as wheelchair
accessible vehicles have been sitting idle.

If you go to seven fleets sometimes it
is 50 percent non-utilization ratio. You go to
other fleets and it can be 60 and sometimes 20 so
it varies. The net of all of that is the total
supply of wheelchair accessible vehicles from the
taxi industry far exceeds the demand for those
vehicles.

If you discount occasional time
periods where there is a surge in demand because
of alternative transit trips or specialty things.
As we are looking ahead to the end of the year, a
few questions have come up consistently. One is
does the city really need all those wheelchair
accessible vehicles sitting idle and not being
utilized.
What are some of the options to increase utilization of existing vehicles, particularly the WAVs, and does it make sense to delay the implementation of the 20 percent not only to provide relief to the particular companies who have made our investments northwards of about $30,000 to $35,000 per vehicle.

But also to ensure that the vehicles that are currently being used have higher utilization rates. There's no silver bullet to resolve these complex issues. One of the things that we've considered, and we are working through the appropriate channels and the Department's perspective, is to advocate for legislative change to the law.

That will either push back the implementation date or provide some alternative legislative solutions. The idea has not translated into a law yet because that has to go through the executive branch and ultimately the legislative branch. At the same time we are also
looking at different channels to provide some relief to taxi cab owners.

One of the things we talked about during the executive session of the For-Hire Vehicle Advisory Council members yesterday was not holding up the renewal of operating authority for a company that is currently in compliance with the 12 percent and has shown substantial progress towards meeting the 20 percent goal but may come up short on December 31st when it's time to renew the operating authority.

Put simply, if you demonstrate substantial progress with the 12 percent, at the end of the year when the 20 percent kicks in where you've not met that threshold, we will not automatically deny your application.

We'll look at other factors for renewing your operating authority and make a decision from there. That is the administrative relief that we are putting in place for companies while we wait for the outcome of the legislative solution. Concurrent with that idea, in FY 19
we'll be looking to make grant investments in the
delivery of transportation services for under-
served communities.

We'll put a priority on the
utilization of wheelchair accessible vehicles and
also removing some of the barriers around
technology and dispatch that sometimes presents a
challenge to drivers because they don't want to
have to pay dispatch fees to receive wheelchair
accessible vehicle requests.

Those are the solutions that we have
for the short-term while we look for a longer-
term solution. At the end of the day today the
District has over 271 wheelchair accessible
vehicles which represents one of the highest
ratios in terms of per capita of vehicles in a
jurisdiction of our size.

We are very proud of the achievements
that the District has made when it comes to
accessible transportation but a lot more needs to
be done. We are hopeful that we can work with
the stakeholders to get an optimum solution.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Thank you. At this time we'll go into our public comment session.

SECRETARY MIXON: Currently we did not have anybody sign up to speak but since we have time, Chair Jolly, would you like me to call from the floor?

CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Yes.

SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. Is there anybody present who would like to comment today on the 20 percent fleet? All right. Any other relevant issue? Just raise your hand.

CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: All right. Thank you very much. I'll just end on this note. We do appreciate and we always expect public comment. There are days like today when because of weather and a lot of other issues people can't make the meeting today, but what the Director presented is our consensus based on our executive session yesterday.

We are still open for comment at later
dates. As it comes into me, I will get it to the Director and to the appropriate people on his staff. With that being said, this is a very short meeting. On that note, we will adjourn. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:26 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Council Meeting

Before: DC DFHV

Date: 09-25-18

Place: Washington, DC

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Court Reporter