

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

+ + + + +

TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

+ + + + +

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 CHRAPPAH, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

JUANITA MIXON, SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL  
MONIQUE BOCK, ESQ., GENERAL COUNSEL

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

10:17 a.m.

1  
2  
3 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Good morning. I  
4 would like to call this meeting to order. Today  
5 is Tuesday, September 25, 2018. We're at 2235  
6 Shannon Place S.E., the hearing room, Suite 2032.

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

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

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

21 We met yesterday. We all came to a  
22 consensus on this issue. Then right after we do

1 that, we'll go right into the public comment  
2 period. If there are any other issues that come  
3 up, we'll deal with them then. Thank you.

4 DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Thank you  
5 Chairperson Jolly.

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

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

20 At the same time, we've also been  
21 doing research on the department's perspective  
22 around the demand and supply for accessible

1 transportation and our wheelchair accessible  
2 vehicles.

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

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

15 If you discount occasional time  
16 periods where there is a surge in demand because  
17 of alternative transit trips or specialty things.  
18 As we are looking ahead to the end of the year, a  
19 few questions have come up consistently. One is  
20 does the city really need all those wheelchair  
21 accessible vehicles sitting idle and not being  
22 utilized.

1           What are some of the options to  
2           increase utilization of existing vehicles,  
3           particularly the WAVs, and does it make sense to  
4           delay the implementation of the 20 percent not  
5           only to provide relief to the particular  
6           companies who have made our investments  
7           northwards of about \$30,000 to \$35,000 per  
8           vehicle.

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

17          That will either push back the  
18          implementation date or provide some alternative  
19          legislative solutions. The idea has not  
20          translated into a law yet because that has to go  
21          through the executive branch and ultimately the  
22          legislative branch. At the same time we are also

1 looking at different channels to provide some  
2 relief to taxi cab owners.

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

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

17 We'll look at other factors for  
18 renewing your operating authority and make a  
19 decision from there. That is the administrative  
20 relief that we are putting in place for companies  
21 while we wait for the outcome of the legislative  
22 solution. Concurrent with that idea, in FY 19

1 we'll be looking to make grant investments in the  
2 delivery of transportation services for under-  
3 served communities.

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

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

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

1 Thank you.

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

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

9 CHAIRPERSON JOLLY: Yes.

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

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

22 We are still open for comment at later

1        dates.  As it comes into me, I will get it to the  
2        Director and to the appropriate people on his  
3        staff.  With that being said, this is a very short  
4        meeting.  On that note, we will adjourn.  Thank  
5        you.

6                                (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
7        went off the record at 10:26 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: 09-25-18

Place: Washington, DC

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under  
my direction; further, that said transcript is a  
true and accurate record of the proceedings.



-----  
Court Reporter

**NEAL R. GROSS**

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