



# Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report

## City of Newton In City Council

**Monday, December 9, 2019**

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Lipof, Noel, Cote, Downs, Auchincloss and Grossman

Absent: Councilor Markiewicz

City Staff: Captain Paul Anastasia, Newton Police Department

Others Present: Dhanraj Mahase, Mahase Livery Services, LLC.

**#402-19      Requesting renewal of bus license for Lasell University**  
VPNE Parking Solutions, LLC, requesting **biennial renewal of one (1) bus license** for Lasell University.

**Action:      Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**Note:**      Captain Anastasia, Newton Police Department joined the Committee for discussion on this item. He stated that this bus license request is for a biennial renewal. The Police Department has received no complaints and supports a biennial renewal. A Councilor noted that VPNE Parking Solutions, LLC is in the process of reviewing hybrid vehicles possibly for purchase.

Without discussion, Councilor Downs made a motion to approve this biennial bus license request. Council members agreed 7-0.

**#403-19      Requesting new public auto license**  
Michael Gimmelfarb, 274 Dedham Street, Newton, MA 02461 requesting **one (1) new public auto license** for American Truck & Equipment, LLC.

**Action:      Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**Note:**      Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 were discussed together. Please refer to the discussion under docket #410-19.

Councilor Cote made a motion to approve this new public auto license request. Council members agreed 7-0.

**#404-19      Requesting new public auto license**  
DHANRAJ MAHASE, 275 Grove Street, 2-400, Newton, MA 02466 requesting **one (1) new public auto license** for Mahase Livery Services, LLC.

**Action:      Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**Note:**      Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 were discussed together. Please refer to the discussion under docket #410-19.

Councilor Cote made a motion to approve this new public auto license request. Council members agreed 7-0.

**#405-19 Requesting renewal of public auto license**

DHANRAJ MAHASE, 275 Grove Street, 2-400, Newton, MA 02466 requesting **renewal of one (1) public auto license** for Mahase Livery Services, LLC.

**ACTION: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**NOTE:** Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 were discussed together. Please refer to the discussion under docket #410-19.

Councilor Cote made a motion to approve this renewal public auto license request. Council members agreed 7-0.

**#406-19 Requesting renewal of public auto license**

DONALD LAPLANTE, 395 Lexington Street, Apt. 3, Auburndale, MA 02466 requesting **renewal of one (1) public auto license** for Don's Car Service.

**ACTION: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**NOTE:** Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 were discussed together. Please refer to the discussion under docket #410-19.

Councilor Cote made a motion to approve this renewal public auto license request. Council members agreed 7-0.

**#407-19 Requesting renewals of taxi licenses**

MICHAEL ANTONELIS, 224 Calvary Street, Waltham, MA 02453, requesting **renewal of thirty-seven (37) taxi licenses** for Veterans Taxi of Newton, LLC.

**ACTION: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**NOTE:** Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 were discussed together. Please refer to the discussion under docket #410-19.

Captain Anastasia, Newton Police Department joined the Committee for discussion on this item. He stated that Veterans Taxi is renewing thirty-seven licenses and will return one medallion plate. Last year, Veterans Taxi renewed thirty-eight licenses.

Councilor Noel made a motion to approve this renewal taxi licenses request. Council members agreed 7-0.

**#408-19 Requesting renewals of taxi licenses**

GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459, requesting **renewal of one (1) taxi license** for HOLDEN'S TAXI, INC. MEDALLION #60

**ACTION: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**NOTE:** Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 were discussed together. Please refer to the discussion under docket #410-19.

Councilor Lipof made a motion to approve this renewal taxi license request. Committee members agreed 7-0.

**#409-19 Requesting renewals of taxi licenses**

GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459, requesting **renewal of two (2) taxi licenses** for NEWTONVILLE CAB CO, INC.

**ACTION: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**NOTE:** Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 were discussed together. Please refer to the discussion under docket #410-19.

Councilor Lipof made a motion to approve this renewal taxi licenses request. Committee members agreed 7-0.

**#410-19 Requesting renewals of taxi licenses**

GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459, requesting **renewal of one (1) taxi license** for NEWTON TAXI CO.

**ACTION: Public Safety & Transportation Approved 7-0**

**NOTE:** Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 were discussed together.

Captain Anastasia, Newton Police Department joined the Committee for discussion on this item. He stated that Newton Taxi is renewing one license. Last year, Newton Taxi renewed two licenses.

Councilor Noel made a motion to approve this renewal taxi license request. Committee members agreed 7-0.

**Docket items #403-19 through #410-19 Discussion**

Captain Anastasia, Newton Police Department joined the Committee for discussion on docket items #403-19 through #410-19.

Captain Anastasia stated that each company passed their vehicle inspection. All inspections have been completed. The Police Department has received no complaints regarding the companies or drivers. This year, taxi medallions have decreased, and public autos have increased.

**Committee questions and concerns:**

- A Committee member stated that this year, City Council approved the adoption of the Climate Action Plan. In discussion, reducing carbon emissions from transportation, private transportation and housing were discussed. The Committee member asked if moving forward, can the City request companies purchase lower carbon or all electric vehicles? Chair Ciccone stated that he would prefer

the companies be present to discuss this request prior to this Committee discussing. He then suggested docketing an item for discussion and request companies attend the meeting for a discussion. Mr. Mahase addressed concerns over electric vehicles. He stated that electric vehicles are a step in the right direction and that it is necessary for technology to progress in order to make vehicles reliable.

- It was asked if it is the City or State who control the maximum age a vehicle is allowed for hire? Captain Anastasia answered that per City Ordinance no vehicle shall be approved for use as a taxicab, public auto or van in the City when the vehicle is ten years old or older. The vehicle age is checked when the Police Department conducts their annual inspection.
- A Committee member asked if the number of taxi licenses and public auto licenses have increased or decreased in the past ten years? Captain Anastasia did not have this information available. He then stated that this year, the City is down two taxis, public autos are up two and that Yellow Cab went out of service. This year, there have been no new requests for taxi medallions, only public autos. The Police Department has no regulations over Lyft and Uber vehicles. Dedicated taxi stands are no longer available in the City.

At approximately 6:45 p.m., Councilor Downs motioned to adjourn. Committee members agreed 7-0.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair**