

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Chair), Yates, Cote, Johnson and Harney

Absent: Ald. Fuller, Lipof and Schwartz

City Staff: Officer Rocco Marini, Newton Police Department

#387-14 MICHAEL ANTONELIS, 224 Calvary Street, Waltham, MA 02453, requesting renewal of **four (4) public auto licenses, forty-nine (49) taxi licenses, and five (5) designated taxi stands** for Veterans Taxi of Newton, LLC. [09/29/14 @ 2:52 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting

#388-14 RICHARD E. JOHNSTON, 25 Border Street, West Newton, MA 02465 requesting renewal of **twenty (20) taxi licenses and two (2) designated taxi stands** for Newton Yellow Cab, Inc. [10/16/14 @ 1:45 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting

#389-14 GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459 requesting renewal of **three (3) taxi licenses and two (2) designated taxi stands** for Holden's Taxi Inc. [10/10/14 @ 4:44 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting

#390-14 GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459 requesting renewal of **two (2) taxi licenses** for Newtonville Cab Co. Inc. [10/10/14 @ 4:44 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting

#391-14 GEORGE MARRY, 50 Union Street, Newton Centre, MA 02459 requesting renewal of **three (3) taxi licenses** for Newton Taxi Co. [10/10/14 @ 4:44 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting

#392-14 MOHAMED SAIDI, 77 Cedar Street, Boston, MA 02119, requesting renewal of **one (1) taxi license** for Newton Luxury Cab. [09/30/14 @ 4:05 PM]

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting

#393-14 ANIS LAHIANI, 8201 Inwood Drive, Woburn, MA 01801, requesting renewal of **one (1) taxi license** for Newton Town Taxi. [10/03/14 @ 11:48 AM]

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting

- #394-14 AHCENE TOURI, 1359 Centre Street, Newton, MA 02459, requesting renewal of **one (1) taxi license** for Newton Metro Cab. [10/07/14 @ 3:58 PM]
ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting
- #395-14 YEKATERINA PORTNAYA, PO Box 42, 90 Oak Street, 4th floor, Newton, MA 02464 requesting renewal of **one (1) public auto license** for Beantown Carriage, LLC. [10/23/14 @ 1:11 PM]
ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting
- #396-14 DOROTHY W. DUNDAS, 15 Moreland Avenue, Newton Centre, MA 02459 requesting renewal of **one (1) public auto license** for Crystal Lake Express. [09/11/14 @ 2:10 PM]
ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting
- #397-14 JERALD ROBBINS, 253 Riverview Avenue, Newton, MA 02466, requesting renewal of **four (4) public auto licenses** for Weldon Group Inc. [10/10/14 @ 3:26 PM]
ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting
- #398-14 DONALD LaPLANTE, 395 Lexington Street, Auburndale, MA 02466, requesting renewal of **one (1) public auto license** for Don's Car Service. [09/24/14 @ 2:08 PM]
ACTION: APPROVED 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting
- #399-14 HAMDIL TLILI, 12 Appleton Street, Waltham, MA 02453, requesting renewal of **one (1) public auto license** for Newton Car Service. [09/11/14 @ 1:37 PM]
ACTION: APPROVED 5-0
- #400-14 MEDHI HAOUANI, 72 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA 02453, requesting renewal of **three (3) taxi licenses** for Newton Cab. [09/29/14 @ 1:16 PM]
ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Officer Marini joined the Committee for discussion on the above docket items. He reviewed with Committee members the taxi/public auto contact list dated October 23, 2014, attached to this report. He stated that these vehicles passed inspection in October and recommends approval of renewing these public autos and taxi medallions.

One company, (Zakaria Atrousse of Boston City Limousine, Inc. 9 Hazelwood Street, Malden, MA, public auto #15) returned his medallion. Officer Marini contacted interested parties on the waiting list and anticipates issuing public auto medallion #15 to Donald LaPlante of Don's Car Service (a second public auto medallion) when the required application and fee is paid. Mr. LaPlante has been on the waiting list for quite some time. Officer Marini has informed Mr. LaPlante that he has to complete the necessary application and pay the required fee of \$25 to the City Clerk.

In October, (David Newcomb of Newton Coach, Inc. 275 Grove Street, Suite 2-400, Auburndale, MA, public auto #16) returned his medallion due to relocating out of State. Officer Marini has contacted interested parties on the waiting list and is waiting to hear if anyone is interested.

Committee members asked if Newton residents have first priority when medallions are issued. Officer Marini answered no; medallions are issued on a first come first serve basis. Interested applicants shall visit the Traffic Bureau requesting they be added to the waiting list for taxis or public auto licenses.

The Police Department is currently working with the City's Law Department on updating the City Ordinances *Vehicles for Hire* section as they are quite old and consistency is necessary. It is also the department's intent to amend the ordinance to provide Newton residents priority on obtaining taxi or public auto medallions.

Committee members asked if the City had regulations or specified parking areas for Zip Cars. Officer Marini answered no; the City does not have an ordinance regarding Zip Cars. Chair Ciccone answered that the City will be providing, at no cost, reserved parking for Zip Cars in the Pearl Street municipal parking lot.

Committee members then asked if Uber transportation service was in Newton. Officer Marini stated yes; he has received many complaints from Newton transportation companies informing him that Uber is taking business away from them. He then said that the City of Boston taxi hackney companies have filed a class action lawsuit against Uber. Veterans Taxi of Newton, LLC and Newton Yellow Cab, Inc. both companies from Newton intend to also file a lawsuit. In Newton, the businesses carry a one million dollar insurance policy. Uber vehicles are not regulated and they are passenger vehicles. The company uses a smartphone application to connect passengers with drivers of vehicles for hire. Customers use the smartphone app to request rides and track their reserved vehicle's location. It is the intent when updating the City Ordinances to include regulations for Uber vehicles. Licensees in Newton are checked on CORI reports, Board of Probations (BOP) report and driver history.

The Committee voted in favor 4-0, Ald. Harney not voting to approve renewals #387-14 through #398-14. The Committee voted in favor 5-0, to approve renewals #399-14 through #400-14.

At approximately, 8:20 pm, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chairman

This list reflects current information regarding business address and business phone as of 10/23/14.

Taxi/Public Auto List

Annual taxi license/public auto inspections)

prepared by Officer Rocco Marini on 10/30/14

Docket #	Company and Business Address	Contact and Business Phone	Medallion	Pass/Fail
387-14	Veterans Taxi of Newton, LLC. 224 Calvary Street Waltham, MA 02453	Michael Antonellis 617-527-0300	Medallions 1-29,66-85(Total 49) PA 2,3,11,12 (Total 4)	PASS
388-14	Newton Yellow Cab, Inc. 25 Border Street Newton, MA 02465	Richard Johnston 617-332-7700	Medallions 30-49 (Total 20)	PASS
389-14	Holden's Taxi, Inc. 50 Union Street Newton, MA 02459	George Marry 617-244-2404	Medallions 59, 60, 61	PASS
390-14	Newtonville Cab Co., Inc. 50 Union St Newton, MA 02459	George Marry 617-244-2404	Medallions 54, 55	PASS
391-14	Newton Taxi Co. 50 Union Street Newton, MA 02459	George Marry 617-244-2404	Medallions 56,57,58	PASS
392-14	Newton Luxury Cab 77 Cedar Street Boston, MA 02119	Mohamed Saidi 617-293-4300	Medallion 65	PASS
393-14	Newton Town Taxi 8201 Inwood Drive Woburn, MA 01801	Anis Lahiani 617-244-7444	Medallion 53	PASS
394-14	Newton Metro Cab 1359 Centre Street Newton, MA 02459	Ahcene Touri 617-332-8294	Medallion 52	PASS
395-14	Beantown Carriage LLC PO Box 42 90 Oak Street, 4 th floor Newton, MA 02464	Yekaterina Portnaya 617-828-5646	PA 7	PASS

396-14	Crystal Lake Express 15 Moreland Avenue Newton, MA 02459	Dorothy Dundas 617-510-0336	PA 6	PASS
397-14	Weldon Group, Inc. 253 Riverview Avenue Newton MA 02466	Jerald Robbins 617-928-1888	PA 4,5,9,10	PASS
398-14	Don's Car Service 395 Lexington Street Auburndale, MA 02466	Donald LaPlante 617-962-4446	PA 14	PASS
399-14	Newton Car Service 12 Appleton Street Waltham, MA 02453	Hamdi Tlili 617-244-9044	PA 8	PASS
400-14	Newton Cab 72 Beaver Street Waltham, MA 02453	Medhi Haoulani 617-332-1322	Medallions 62, 63, 64	PASS