

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

April 16, 2019

7:30 PM
Government Center, Conference 8
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Callender, Fee,
Javed, Kirk, Kratovil, Lynch, Roark

Absent:

Commissioners: Gulakowski, Hargraves, Hine,
Omeish, Rosier

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Consumer Services Division
Carl Newcomb, Manager
Regulation and Licensing Branch
Heidi Baggett, Administrative Assistant IV
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes for the March 19, 2019, meeting were approved without objection.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman stated the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the budget on April 9, 10, and 11, 2019. There were approximately 120 speakers whom provided testimony. On April 26, 2019, the Budget Committee is scheduled to meet followed by a Board of Supervisors meeting on the Budget Mark-Up on April 30, 2019.

Director Liberman spoke briefly on long range planning, the Taxicab Biennial Determination process and timeline, and the annual Commissioner photo, which will be held at the June 18, 2019, Consumer Protection Commission meeting.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Kirk had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Javed had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Callender followed up on last month's matter about Falcon Cab advertising their services on Twitter. He previously provided information to Director Makely and shared with the Commission the advertisement he spoke about.

A discussion ensued on the criteria of a legal taxicab as the company in the advertisement was not licensed to operate in Fairfax County. The Consumer Services Division provides a website that shows the four taxicab companies authorized to operate in Fairfax County and a table of the approved meter rates.

Commissioner Lynch had no matters to bring the Commission.

Commissioner Kratovil had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Fee had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Old Business

There was no old business before the Commission.

New Business

- 1. Taxicab Biennial Determination.** Director Makely provided Commission with an overview of the process which allows taxicab companies to apply for additional taxicab certificates. Staff will prepare a report for the CPC with a recommendation of the appropriate number of taxicab certificates. The Staff Report will be presented to the CPC at the May 21, 2019, meeting after which the CPC will vote on the recommendation to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors (BOS.) The BOS will consider and vote on the item at the June 25, 2019, BOS meeting.
- 2. Application of King Cab Company, Inc.** Director Makely informed the Commission that King Cab Company, Inc. had filed an application requesting approval of the sale of L&Z Transportation, Inc. d/b/a White Top Cab of Fairfax. Director Makely provided Commission with an overview of the process. Staff will prepare a report for the CPC with a recommendation to approve/not approve the sale following a Public Hearing. Commissioner Kirk made a motion to advertise a Public Hearing on May 21, 2019, on the application of King Cab Company, Inc. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Callender and the motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Regulation and Licensing 101.** Carl Newcomb, Regulation and Licensing Branch, presented an overview of the office, types of complaints; permits, investigations and findings.

A discussion ensued with questions about businesses going out of business for long lengths of time, long-term garage sales, types of exempt charitable organizations, door-to-door solicitors presenting as a charitable organization, and panhandlers. Commissioner Fee stated he would like to see panhandlers regulated.

Commissioner Kirk made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kratovil seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.