

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

February 19, 2008

7:30PM Conference Rooms 9/10
Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Adams, Bahhur,
Douskalis, Fee, Hine, Kirk, Mrowka

Absent:

Commissioners: Hargraves, MacDonald,
Nguyen, Roark, Robinson, Sullivan

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable Communication and Consumer
Protection
Steve Sinclair, Chief
Utilities Branch
Susan C. Jones, Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
David Reidenbach, Chief
Regulatory and Licensing Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the January 15, 2008, meeting was approved.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee informed the CPC that the \$1.00 Taxicab Fuel Charge was passed by the BOS.

Chairman Fee reminded commissioners of the upcoming training on Virginia Freedom of Information Act on Saturday, March 22, from 8:30am to 12:00 pm at the Government Center, Conference Rooms 9 and 10.

Chairman Fee provided the commissioners with a copy of the *Digital TV Shift May Aid Cable Companies* newspaper article. Director Liberman responded with plans to provide educational information to consumers on this topic.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman introduced Rebecca Makely, Fiscal Manager, DCCCP, and Henri Stein-McCartney, CSII, Regulatory and Licensing Branch.

Director Liberman reminded the CPC that National Consumer Protection Week occurs March 2-8. Staff will man a booth with a display board and tips sheets each day at the Government Center.

Director Liberman let the CPC know that the South County Outreach Program has expanded to every Wednesday.

Director Liberman reminded CPC that the "Length of Service" awards will occur on Friday, February 21, 2008.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Adams had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Bahhur had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Kirk had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Hine had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Mrowka had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Douskalis spoke of the interest rate on his Bank of America card without notification on why the increase occurred. Commissioner Douskalis would like to invite Bank of America to come speak to the commission. Staff will look for a speaker with the Bureau of Financial Institutions, State Corporation Commission.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Hacker Fee Charges

Dave Reidenbach, Chief, Regulatory and Licensing Branch (RLB) informed the CPC that the Department of Management and Budget asked RLB to review the fees for renewal and application of a Hacker's license. The proposed increase in fees will become effective on July 1, 2008.

2. Green Taxicab

Commissioner Adams provided an overview of what the subcommittee for Hybrid and Alternative Fuel vehicles would like to see happen in the taxicab industry.

Charlie King, Murphy Brothers and Yellow Cab of Fairfax, and Ken Aggrey, General Manager for Fairfax White Top Cab Company, brought forth their observations and concerns with Hybrid/Alternative Fuel vehicles and the limited amount of data to analyze the efficiency and cost of the vehicle as well as the repair costs to the company and the individual owners. Both were willing to continue to look at this issue in support of the environment.

A discussion ensued on the lifespan and mileage of a taxicab vehicle, durability of the vehicle, customer satisfaction survey, and developing incentives for drivers and companies to convert to alternative fuel vehicles. Staff will continue to research and update the commission their findings.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17PM.