

CONSUMER PROTECTION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2025 @ 9:30 am

PRESENT: Angel, David
Aronofsky, Jill (telephonically)
Cooley, Beverly (telephonically)
Daley, Herbert
Dunn, Shernette (via Teams)
Flynn, Michael
Millay, Ryan
Morguess, Joseph (telephonically)
Rubalcaba, Jenny
Tewari, Ram (telephonically)

ABSENT: Chavez, Rolando

ALSO PRESENT: Philip R. McChesney – CP Director
O’Geen, Joseph – Regulated Business Administrator
Custode, W. Gail – Regulated Enforcement Administrator
Navas, Javier – Assistant County Attorney
McCrary, Doug – Regulated Business Supervisor
Camila Franco – Board Clerk
Carlos Cabieses – Board Clerk

Michael Flynn, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Board Clerk, Carlos Cabieses, conducted the roll call, and a quorum was established. Mr. Flynn thanked Herb Daley, vice chair, for covering for him at the last board meeting.

Panel sign-up sheets and attendance were distributed among members.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

RESIGNATION AND NEW MEMBERS

No new appointments and no resignations.

Mr. Flynn requested a Motion to approve the Board meeting minutes from March 15, 2025. Mr. Millay made the motion, and Ms. Jenny Rubalcaba seconded it.

ANNOUNCEMENT

None

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT/DIVISION’S REPORT

Quarterly Reports

Mr. O'Geen announced that the number of complaints has remained the same as in the last quarter. He added that the Division had a couple of suspensions and revocations and that the money returned to consumers from complaints was \$1,000 less than in the last quarter. The report from the 2nd Quarter of FY 2025 of the Broward County Consumer Protection Program was distributed among members.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

County Attorney Javier Navas announced that there have been some changes to the Broward County Code of Ordinances and deferred this to Philip R. McChesney, CP Director.

Mr. McChesney welcomed and thanked the Board members for their service. He reiterated that there have been changes to the Code, specifically to 22½, and these changes are as follows:

- 1) A definition for "domicile" has been added to mirror HB377.
- 2) That all taximeters need to be soft meters. Meaning a tablet or similar device with a touchscreen.
- 3) That a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is no longer needed for a luxury sedan permit. They will be issued in the same manner as luxury limousines/transport vans.
- 4) That taxis must accept payment in cash or by credit card. If not able to process the credit card, the passenger must be permitted to exit the taxi without paying.
- 5) Taxi companies with 10 or more vehicles can submit a color scheme for approval. Nine or fewer companies must use a color scheme designated by the Division. Those who have nine or fewer and add or change a vehicle will have to change that vehicle to the Division's designated color scheme.
- 6) One of the significant changes will affect the role of the Board. The old 22½ required the Board to oversee the hack denials; however, this has shifted to the hearing officers to handle these cases. Mr. McChesney added that the Division had faced some challenges in getting enough board members to attend these hearings. With this change, this will take a little burden off the Board.

Mr. Navas mentioned that the Board has two attendance requirements to meet, one of which is the Board meetings that occur quarterly. These board meetings are mandatory, and board members

cannot miss two consecutive unexcused meetings unless there is a compelling reason to do so, such as jury duty, hospitalization of a board member, or hospitalization of a family member, and other reasons established in the Code. The other one is the hearing meetings, in which the board members are required to participate in at least four hearings per year. The Division has struggled numerous times to secure enough board members to attend.

Mr. Flynn said he wanted to make sure he understood correctly and asked if the Board had been able to hear hack denials, revocations, suspensions, and other issues, and now this will be shifted to the hearing officers?

Mr. Navas replied that it was correct.

Mr. Flynn asked if the hearing officers have specific knowledge, training, or training for these types of cases.

Mr. Navas responded that the county attorney's office has advised them of these changes and provided them with a copy of the Code so they can become familiar with the exclusionary cases and other issues.

There were questions and answers following Mr. Navas's information on these changes. A lengthy discussion was had. A question-and-answer session followed.

Board member, Mr. Morguess, asked if the Division could provide a copy of these amendments to the Board.

Mr. Navas said that a copy of this will be provided to the Board.

Finally, Mr. Flynn praised the work of Mr. Doug McCrary and his team do for the consumers, and the way his team handles these cases is remarkable.

NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS:

None

With no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Cabieses
Board Clerk