

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 12, 2009

TO: MGSA Board of Directors

FROM: Paul Berlant, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM D: TAXICAB REGULATION PROGRAM UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF PERMIT FEES

Recommendation: Receive this update and review the current and proposed fee structures and adopt a resolution increasing permit fees for taxicab vehicles.

Update: As of the end of October, we have issued permits to 11 taxicab companies using 16 “brand” names, 83 vehicles and 146 drivers. A list of permitted taxicab companies and drivers has been posted on the MGSA web site and is kept current.

As reported in September, Jeff Rawles and I have placed considerable emphasis on enforcement issues. On September 18, 2009, I issued our first Compliance Order under the revised Taxicab Regulations. The alleged violations related to allowing drivers to operate company taxicabs without having Driver Permits. The company was given until the end of September to bring all of their drivers in to compliance with regulations and agree to comply in the future. The company responded in a timely fashion, with about a dozen drivers submitting applications for permits (although we have no way to verify this, we believe several of the new drivers signed up as a result of the compliance order).

We continue to work with local police. On October 28th, Jeff Rawles and I attended a Marin County Traffic Court hearing for a citation issued to a Novato taxi driver. The hearing was postponed in order to hear a pre-trial motion by Novato Taxi as well as consolidate hearings on all nine citations issued by the Novato Police to Novato Taxi Company drivers. The pre-trial motion will be heard on December 17, 2009, after which the consolidated trial hearing will be scheduled, should the pre-trial motion be denied. Novato Taxi is going to provide legal defense for all the drivers.

Regulations: As of the end of October, six of the seven MGSA members that needed to adopt resolutions confirming our latest amended Regulations have done so. The Compliance Order referenced above used the new Section G approved by the Board at the May 2009 meeting.

Fees: The Board amended taxi regulation permit fees last November. Attached is the Board’s Resolution 2008-04 reflecting your action. The Board created a two-tiered system based on

when a taxi company initiated its permit application process, with the cutoff date for the “old” being November 13, 2008. New applications filed after that date have been charged the higher rate for company and vehicle fees (three taxicab companies and three vehicles). Driver fees were not changed. The rationale for assessing costs still focuses on vehicles, since the number of vehicles determines the number of driver permits, which in turn is where most MGSA costs are incurred.

Attached is a worksheet reflecting the current fee structure, using the current number of taxi companies, drivers and vehicles, and a proposed incremental increase of \$200 for each of the next three years for vehicles owned by “old” companies. The worksheet uses annualized fees for permits that are good for multiple (five) years. Under the incremental fee increases, revenues will approximate costs in 2012, assuming other revenue assumptions do not change. Should the Board wish to implement this increase, a draft resolution is attached showing the rates used in the worksheet. The permit fee increases would become effective December 1 of 2009, and on December 1 of 2010 and 2011. I recommend that we look at the fee structure each year over this period to track revenues versus costs.

This memorandum and worksheet have been sent to all taxicab companies in our roster.

Attachments

- MGSA Resolution 2008-04, amending fees in November 2008
- Fee Revenue Worksheet
- Draft resolution amending fees