

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 12, 2011
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Paul Berlant, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM: E: Taxicab Regulation Program Update

Recommendation Accept this update report. No action is requested.

Program Update There currently are 15 permitted companies using 17 names. These companies include a new company that spun off from On The Move Transportation (OTM). OTM was using four names and is now using three. There are currently 76 permitted vehicles, which is a reduction of 10 vehicles from this time last year. The larger companies seem to be reducing their fleet while some of the new companies are adding to their fleet.

There are currently 162 permitted drivers for all companies. The number of drivers fluctuates as new drivers sign up and permitted drivers quit and/or discontinue participating in the anti-drug and alcohol program. Recently, Mr. Rawles issued permits to two drivers who successfully completed a substance abuse program upon the recommendation of a substance abuse professional (SAP). Upon completion of the program they waited the required six-month period to reapply and are now permitted taxi drivers.

Within the past month six driver applicants have failed either the drug/alcohol test or background check. The majority, but not all, of the recently failed applicants tested positive for marijuana. These applicants had ten days to appeal the denial. As of the date of preparation of this report, no appeals are pending.

Mr. Rawles also recently met with the board of the Sausalito Tourist Bureau. The members complained that there were not enough taxi's in Marin and expressed the need for better taxi service. This opinion is the opposite of most taxi company owners who frequently complain we allow too many companies.