

## **Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission**

January 15, 2008

7:30PM Conference 9110  
Government Center  
12000 Government Center Pkwy.  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Adams, Bahhur,  
Fee, Hargraves, Hine, Kirk, Mrowka,  
Nguyen, Robinson, Sullivan

Absent:

Commissioners: Douskalis, MacDonald

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 7:31 PM by Chairman Fee.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the December 18, 2008, meeting were approved.

### **Report of the Chairman**

Chairman Fee informed the CPC that he received a memo from Chairman Connolly concerning Hybrid Taxicabs with a request for the exploration of incentives, including additional certificates, and to encourage the increased use of hybrid vehicles by taxicab companies. Staff will address this issue.

### **Report of the Director**

Director Liberman had no matters to report.

### **Commission Matters**

Commissioner Bahhur had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Kirk had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Nguyen asked about the Green Plan to become more efficient. Staff responded to his questions.

Commissioner Hine informed the CPC that he had taken a new position with the Department of Energy and could provide a point of contact for the alternative fuel issue.

Commissioner Robinson had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Sullivan mentioned his quest to compare Cox to Verizon services.

Commissioner Hargraves expressed concerns with a church member being evicted from Shadowood Condominiums. Staff will review the documents.

Commissioner Mrowka had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Adams passed out research information on Hybrids and is recommending that the taxicab fleets convert 20% of their fleet from gas to Hybrid/alternative fuel starting in 2008.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Temporary Fuel Surcharge Public Hearing**

Staff recommended a One Dollar Taxicab Fuel Surcharge from February 1, 2008 until October 31, 2008. Steve Sinclair provided documentation and a detailed explanation to support the surcharge.

Denis Paddeu, Department of Transportation, and the "Seniors-on-the-Go" program, was comfortable with the \$1.00 surcharge that staff was recommending.

Public Hearing was closed at 8:22PM.

Commissioner Kirk made the motion to support staff recommendation for a One Dollar Taxicab Fuel Surcharge from February 1, 2008, until October 31, 2008. Commissioner Hargraves seconded the motion.

Commissioner Nguyen questioned why the taxicab companies were not present to discuss the surcharge and any additional issues the commissioners might have.

Chairman Fee requested a recall on the original motion. Commissioners voted unanimously for the recall.

Motion to support staff recommendation for a One Dollar Taxicab Fuel Surcharge from February 1, 2008, until October 31, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

## **2. Annual Elections**

The nominating committee announced commissioners interested in holding positions: John Fee for President, Rip Sullivan for Vice President, and Cynthia Robinson for Secretary. Commissioner Kirk made the motion that all the nominees be elected by unanimous vote. No objections were made.

## **3. Ad Hoc Committee Report on Hybrid/Alternative Fuel**

Commissioner Adams spoke about issues concerning Hybrid/Alternative Fuel Vehicles. Commissioner Sullivan asked staff about scheduling of this issue.

Director Liberman assured the Commissioners that staff will research this issue and gathering data for discussion with the CPC and Chairman Connolly.

A discussion ensued on the reliability of the vehicles, pollution, and the possibility of a presentation on alternative fuel issues.

Commissioner Adams made a motion that the CPC recommend the BOS require taxicab companies operating in Fairfax County to convert 18 percent of their fleet each year to alternative fuel vehicles beginning in calendar year 2008 and request a modification of Fairfax County Code to reflect this. Commissioner Kirk seconded the motion.

A discussion ensued on the legal ramifications of socially regulating an industry, finding ways to provide incentives i.e. different rate schedule, and inviting the taxicab companies to attend the next meeting to discuss alternative fuel vehicles.

Chairman Fee suggested the CPC suspend the motion for 60 days.

Commissioner Kirk asked that all taxicab operators of alternative fuel vehicles be advised and requested to attend and present evidence on what they have going on and what they recommend because a motion will follow this presentation.

Chairman Fee will invite the taxicab operators.

## **4. Annual Calendar**

Commissioner Nguyen expressed interest in having the telecom industry and the energy industry speak to the commission. Chairman Fee suggested April for the cable companies to attend.

Commissioner Hine would like staff to come and talk about any outreach efforts pertaining to the CPC to improve awareness to the general public of Fairfax County on the value and the benefit of the CPC meetings.

Commissioner Nguyen mentioned the possibility of having an e-newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05PM