

Notes from Transit and Parking Commission meeting of August 12, 2015

Mayoral Assistant Anne Monks discussed the item.

- Some ordinance changes were being considered in consultation with the conventional taxicab companies; and the intention would be that those changes (related to licensing), would also be the certification for taxicabs.
- The timeline for taxi certification program would depend on how long it took to work through the issues with the companies, to develop proposals that would make them more sustainable with the competition that had been mandated by the State.

Kemble said at its last meeting, the Economic Development Committee had suggested that the resolution be broken up into four different proposals, because the Taxicab Certification Program would be the easiest to do because the regs were already written. But the Living Wage and the Landlord Best Practices would probably be somewhat more contentious, and would need more work to figure out what level to aim them; i.e., whether it would be about marketing, City enforcement and/or oversight at different levels, etc. Monks said her understanding was that the Mayor's intention was to break them up.

Members discussed possible actions to take. Bergamini pointed out that the resolution said staff would be developing programs and sending reports to the Council, where acceptance of the reports would constitute approval of each program; and wondered if perhaps this would be the only time the TPC would be seeing this. Monks said that wouldn't apply to the Taxicab program, which would involve a new taxicab ordinance that would come back to the TPC. The implementation would be broken up; and she had understood that the Taxi Certification Program would be part of the new ordinance. Though she hadn't been part of a discussion that talked about how the other programs would be, she thought they would be separate in the ordinances rather than included in an omnibus certification ordinance. The City Attorney himself worked on the resolution.

ACA Adriana Peguero confirmed this, and said the resolution outlined that these certain areas would get a seal of approval to show they had met these higher standards from the City. This would require modification of ordinances as well. For taxicabs particularly, there wouldn't be licensing and then a separate level of certification. Once taxis were licensed, they would be certified. The taxi ordinances would need to be overhauled, to change the regs so taxis could compete with TNCs and to put a City seal on taxis that they were certified.

Monks added that they had taxi ordinances to say the City was trying to maintain good quality services and provide assurance to the customers. Our ordinances were doing that anyway, and this would not be a profoundly different concept. Certification would be a way of advertising that.

In further discussion, members said that the Certification Programs would formalize things and make them more visible to the public. By approving the resolution, the TPC would allow the work to be done, which would then come back to the Commission. A motion was made by Bigelow, seconded by Schmidt, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. The motion passed by voice vote/other.