

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2015
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Paul Berlant, Executive Officer and Jeff Rawles, Taxicab Regulation Program Manager
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM D: Taxicab Regulation Program Update

Recommendation

Accept this update regarding the Marin County Taxi Regulation Program

Inventory Update

On Friday afternoon April 24th, staff received communication that “On The Move Transportation” had advised Marin Transit that On The Move Transportation would closing its doors at 6:00 p.m. that night and they would not be available to perform their contracted “catch a ride” services. On The Move has historically been Marin County’s largest taxicab company with 20 vehicles, 60 drivers and operated as Radio Cab, Belaire Cab and Yellow Cab. On The Move had just renewed its Marin General Services Authority permits and paid its fees last month. On The Move’s sudden closure has created quite a lot of confusion in the local taxi business. Many of the remaining taxi companies have been swamped picking up the additional business. Many are in the process of adding new vehicles and many On The Move drivers are in the process of switching companies. As a result, the following taxicab inventory numbers are a little skewed and it will take a few months to determine how Marin County’s taxi inventory finally settles.

Staff has spoken with the manager of On The Move and she indicated that she intends to start a new company and take on some of the existing vehicles from On The Move and, at a minimum, focus on the disabled van portion of the business. However, she stated that it would be at least one month before she could be in a position to start that business. In the interim, all calls to On The Move have been forward to Northbay Coop Taxi. Prior to On The Move’s closure, Northbay, which has a 24-hour dispatch, was the second largest taxi company. Northbay reports they are receiving many calls for rides.

In addition to the above, two small companies recently quit the business, and one new company has paid its fees and should be permitted and start business in the next few weeks. The current taxi regulation inventory is as follows:

Drivers 172 (179 in March-includes 60 from On The Move)

Companies 25 (27 in March)

Vehicles 102 (106 in March-included 20 permitted from On The Move)

Staff met with Sausalito Police, a Sausalito Council member and taxi operators in March as Sausalito grapples with crowding at its taxi stand during tourist season. No conclusions were reached, but moving auto traffic and tourists is an issue Sausalito is working on and taxicabs are a factor.

With On The Move closing its doors and the SMART train coming to San Rafael, the San Rafael Transit Hub could start experiencing heightened traffic concerns. Golden Gate Transit owns the existing taxi lane at the transit center and Golden Gate Transit has not allowed any of the new taxi companies to use it. Golden Gate Transit has only allowed several of the older taxi companies in Marin to use the taxi pickup lane. On The Move has played a major role in covering the transit center and from anecdotal reports, many taxis not allowed by Golden Gate Transit are circling the transit center, particularly late at night.