

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 12, 2016
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Jeff Rawles, Taxicab Regulation Program Manager
SUBJECT: Taxicab Regulation Program Update

Recommendation

Accept this update regarding the Marin Taxi Regulation Program. No action is requested.

Update

The current inventory is as follows:

- 🚗 Drivers 135 (137 in March)
- 🚗 Companies 30 (29 in March)
- 🚗 Vehicles 96 (113 in March)

Since March 2016, one company has not renewed while two new companies have started business in Marin. The driver count is down by two, but two new driver applications are currently pending clearance of their required background and drug test before their permit will be issued. The vehicle count is down significantly. However, as previously reported several vehicles from the now defunct On the Move Transportation Company were sold to other companies because they had valid taxicab permits that expired in March 2016. Because taxicabs are always being exchanged and upgraded as they wear out, it was anticipated that many of these older taxicabs were purchased and continued in operation solely for the value of the permit. Overall there is a sense of more activity as spring and tourist season start and companies and vehicles continue to rotate.

Staff has had recent communication with Sausalito Police Department as they prepare for their annual tourist influx and the regulation and role of taxicab transportation in that city. This is ongoing communication and it is anticipated that more activity will follow. Because of staff's experience and knowledge getting acquainted with Sausalito's taxi issues, MGSA staff met with San Rafael's planning staff to discuss their preparation at the San Rafael Transit Center as the existing taxi lane will disappear when the San Rafael to Larkspur phase gets developed. It was a productive meeting and San Rafael is well aware of the issue and is working on some problematic space issues. Staff is reporting these issues to your Board to keep you informed of these municipality specific issues because the facility will have growing taxi needs and limited space for the vehicles to operate with no simple solutions. Historically, MGSA's Taxi Regulation Program has existed to keep its members within State Law by providing a required level of public safety in the form of background checks, drugs testing and insurance certification.