

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 8, 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 115 (135 in May)
- 🚗 Companies 27 (30 in May)
- 🚗 Vehicles 93 (96 in May)

Staff's impression of the current taxi business landscape is that there are fewer companies starting new businesses. The established companies continue to survive and a few are growing. Several of the stronger companies continue to upgrade their fleet and buy new vehicles.

Competition from Uber and similar entities continue to impact the local taxi industry by not just taking business, but also by taking drivers who previously might have driven a taxi. As noted above, the permitted company and driver counts are down 10-15 % since May, while the vehicle count is down only 3%. This data seems to confirm staff's impression that the existing core of Marin's taxi industry continues its operations, but some consolidation of operations is occurring. Of particular note is the County's only wheelchair accessible company has closed their doors. Lack of this type of service has been an ongoing issue for several years now and Marin Transit is engaged and well aware of the issue.

Taxicab Regulation Program Update

Agenda Item D

The taxis in Sausalito continue to be an ongoing part of that City's transportation solution while also being a headache for the Sausalito Police Department (e.g. keeping them orderly). Staff and the Sausalito Police have regular communication and have ongoing discussions. The Town is not hesitant to cite drivers who don't follow various laws and regulations. MGSA staff recently issued a compliance order to a permitted taxi company.

Staff and Sausalito Police have discussed possibly adding signage near the ferry terminal to directing tourists toward the taxi stand may keep the more aggressive cab drivers in their cars and not out pursuing customers. Staff will be contacting Golden Gate Transit to seek their input and support for the signage.