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MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 13, 2017
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Jeff Rawles, Taxicab Regulation Program Manager
SUBJECT: Taxicab Regulation Written Program Update

Recommendation

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

Update

The current inventory is as follows:

- 🚗 Drivers 114 (111 in May)
- 🚗 Companies 26 (25 in May)
- 🚗 Vehicles 89 (87 in May)

As noted above, the inventory of Marin's taxi industry experienced a slight increase from May of this year. On a seasonal basis, it is not surprising to see a slight uptick. However, because of the antidotal information regarding competition from Transportation Network Companies (TNC), it is interesting to note the continued resilience of taxis.

Staff recently responded to a telephone contact from Aaron Reed and Associates who stated they are doing legislative advocate work for the Taxi Paratransit Association of California to help the taxi industry better compete with TNCs. A little research indicated their primary California clients were larger taxicab companies in San Francisco, Orange County and Palm Springs. None of Marin's taxi companies are members or participating in this legislative effort. For staff, it was interesting to learn this lobbying activity was occurring. The person staff spoke

with indicated they had heard positive comments regarding Marin's regulation program. It seems like the lobbying project was in the exploratory phase. They seemed pleased to learn Marin's regulation program was administered through a JPA and that we did not set rates for Marin permitted companies. Their clients support continued background checks and drug testing which are among the primary regulations we enforce. But the fact we do not limit the number of companies was a little puzzling to the person staff talked with, as their goal is to help their clients limit competition.