

TAXIS

- **Administrative:**

Staff/Volunteers:

In August we continued to enjoy the generous volunteer time of Jenny Chang and Chadwick Lee, who helped us catch up on filing and lost and found processing, helped at the customer service window, and continued the project of cataloging the ages and driver permit seniority of all San Francisco taxi drivers. They are also conducting an inventory check to ensure that all medallion holder files and color scheme files are in the office.

Bond Yee also kindly loaned us the assistance of clerk Donna Figone until the Division can get through the hiring process and fill its current vacancies.

Driver database:

With the help of FIT, TAS hopes to implement the new driver database in September. Once that database is on-line, SFMTA will no longer need to rely upon the Treasurer/Tax Collector to issue driver permits. **It will be the first time that San Francisco taxi driver information has been available in an electronic format**, complete with the ability to view disciplinary and medallion history.

Waiting List Clean-Up:

Also a first in San Francisco taxi history, TAS has the taxi medallion waiting list in an electronic format (an Excel Spreadsheet that was manually entered by Bridget Badasow- thank you Bridget!!) Staff is in the process of updating the individual addresses of each taxi driver on the list to ensure that we have the most up to date contact information for all 3200 names on the list.

In reviewing the medallion holder and applicant files, staff discovered **an 11-year old child on the taxi medallion waiting list**. We will be sending her a notice that she regrettably does not meet the qualifications to stay on the list. How much longer will it be before we discover someone's pet on the list?

Taxi Detail Transition

The Police Department's Taxi Detail, which was formerly within the SFPD Permits division, has officially been transferred to the Traffic Company as part of the SFPD force that is assigned to work with the SFMTA. Administrative functions formerly performed by the Taxi Detail are being absorbed into the SFMTA. Accordingly, the taxi industry was notified that as of Sept. 1, all window transactions related to the taxi industry will be handled at the 1 South Van Ness window, and all SFPD driver training will be conducted at the 1 South Van Ness Atrium. No taxi driver should ever have to go to Hall of Justice going forward except for specific law enforcement purposes (e.g. getting fingerprinted).

In order to give staff and the Taxi Detail time to implement this change, the SFPD's new driver training classes will not be held during the month of September.

- **Taxi Regulations:**

The previous goal of publishing regulations in September is postponed indefinitely. TAS will be conducting intensive Town Hall meetings in the first two weeks of September to continue discussing regulatory issues with the industry. TAS would like to publish a regulations booklet as soon as possible, but wants to make sure that the industry has time to digest the new regulations and respond with suggestions for changes.

- **Prop K Reform:**

Staff is developing a recommendation which we hope to be able to share in the month of September.

• **DMV Drivers' License Check:**

This process is largely complete except that the final round of Driver Permit revocations has not yet been sent out, as there is not adequate staff to monitor the returned mail and customer service window response to the mailing. However, the remaining revocations are drivers who are already suspended, so there is no safety impact from the delay.

Staff will commence developing a background check procedure for driver files that have been identified as suspect during the recent manual inventory of driver files.

• **Pending Enforcement Cases:**

There are a number of significant medallion revocation cases that were originally scheduled to be heard in August, but that have been continued indefinitely until we can hire an Enforcement and Legal Affairs Manager to prosecute those cases. We expect to receive significant penalty revenue from medallion revocations in the most egregious factual cases. This will encourage other scofflaw medallion holders to turn in their medallions without putting us through lengthy appeals when they become the subject of our enforcement efforts. We hope to initiate large-scale revocation actions for blatant abusers as soon as we can hire Enforcement and Legal Affairs staff to handle the cases.

• **Illegal Operators:**

Security and Enforcement and TAS met to begin enforcement planning. It was agreed that the Traffic Company would begin illegal vehicle enforcement through enforcement of an existing SFPD Department Bulletin that sets forth procedures for arrest of illegal taxicabs. Limousine enforcement will commence pending a planning effort by SED and TAS at such time as TAS has Enforcement and Legal Affairs staff again.

• **Operations and Permits:**

Fifteen additional offers were sent out to taxi drivers on the taxi medallion waiting list. Four medallions were issued in August to the next taxi drivers on the waiting list who completed the medallion application process.

Applications

| Type of Application: | Number of Applications Received: |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| New Driver | 0 |
| Waiting List | 0 |
| Taxi Medallion | 6 |
| Ramp Medallion | 0 |
| Color Scheme Change | 0 |

Permits Issued

| | |
|----------------|----|
| New Driver | 62 |
| Taxi Medallion | 4 |
| Ramp Medallion | 0 |
| Color Scheme | 0 |
| Dispatch | 0 |

Other

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Number of Lost Medallions Reported | 0 |
| Temporary Medallions Issued | 0 |
| Temporary Permanent Medallions Issued | 0 |