

**Orange County Taxi Administration Program (OCTAP)**  
Safety Committee and Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2009

The October 1, 2009 regular meeting of the Orange County Taxi Administration Program (OCTAP) Joint meeting of the Safety Committee and Steering Committee was called to order at 12:00 noon at the OCTA main administration building, conference rooms 103/104, 600 S. Main Street, Orange, CA 92868.

**Safety and Steering Committee Representatives Present:**

City of Anaheim Steering Committee, Sandra Seaton  
City of Anaheim Safety Committee, Matt Letteriello  
City of Brea Safety and Steering Committee, Mark Kane  
City of Buena Park Safety Committee, Ben Hartley  
City of Buena Park Steering Committee, Eric Kimery  
City of Dana Point Safety Committee, Brian Miller  
City of Fullerton Safety Committee, Karen Lindsey  
City of Garden Grove Steering Committee, Pam Gillis  
City of Garden Grove Safety Committee, Jason Perkins  
City of Huntington Beach Safety and Steering Committee, Robert Barr  
City of Irvine Safety Committee, Scott Cronos  
City of Irvine Steering Committee, Dennis Maisano  
City of Laguna Beach Safety Committee, Robert Gifford  
City of Laguna Beach Steering Committee, Darin Lenyi  
City of Laguna Hills Safety and Steering Committee, David Harrington  
City of Laguna Woods Safety and Steering Committee, Douglas Reilly  
City of La Habra Safety Committee, Brian Miller  
City of La Habra Steering Committee, Dan Henderson  
City of Mission Viejo Steering Committee, Brett Canedy  
City of Orange Safety Committee, Ed Polliard  
City of Orange Steering Committee, Ken Adams  
City of Placentia Safety and Steering Committee, Andrew Dean  
City of Rancho Santa Margarita Safety and Steering Committee, Tim Africano  
City of San Juan Capistrano Safety and Steering Committee, Joseph Cope  
City of Yorba Linda Safety and Steering Committee, Mark Kane  
Large Taxi Cab Company Representative Steering Committee, William Gray  
Small Taxi Cab Company Representative Steering Committee, Mehdi Sarreshtedari

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**Others Present:**

Sue Zuhlke, OCTAP  
Patrick Sampson, OCTA  
Jo-Ann Gadia Bravo, OCTAP  
Richard Girard, OCTAP  
James Donich, OCTAP Legal Counsel  
Omar Sandoval, OCTAP Legal Counsel  
Sandra Morgan, OC Human Trafficking Task Force  
Robert Holden, John Wayne Airport  
MaryAnn Cazzell, Public  
Wojciech Szuba, Public  
John Williams, Coastal Taxi  
Alejandro Ramirez, Coastal Taxi  
Jay Shukr, South OC Yellow Cab  
Patrick Dreis, Happy Taxi  
James Crawford, Happy Taxi  
Sherry Kirakosian, Checker Cab  
George Kirakosian, Checker Cab  
Henry Mendur, Orange Taxi Cab  
Konstantinos Roditis, 24/7 Yellow Cab-24/7 Taxi Cab  
Tim Conlon, CABCO Yellow, Inc.  
Anthony Papsis, OCTA/OCSO  
Brandon Clyde, Fullerton Police Department

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Safety and Steering Committee Chairman Scott Crones presiding.

Chairman Crones called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

**Item 1. Public Comments**

Patrick Dreis, Happy Taxi, spoke concerning the current status of A Taxi Cab's Business Permit.

**Item 2. Presentation from the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force Regarding Modern Day Slavery**

Sandra Morgan, Administrator from the Human Trafficking Task Force, gave an informational video and PowerPoint presentation to the Safety and Steering Committees.

**Item 3. Approval of Minutes – July 2, 2009 Combined Safety & Steering Committee Meeting**

A motion was made by Doug Reilly, Laguna Woods, and seconded by Dan Henderson, La Habra, to approve the minutes for the July 2, 2009 Combined Safety & Steering Committee Meeting. The OCTAP Steering Committee unanimously approved the July 2, 2009 minutes.

**Item 4. Election of New Taxicab Representatives to the Committee - Ballot Validation/Count**

Scott Crones, Steering Committee Chairman, validated, opened and counted all the ballots received to elect the new Small and Large Taxicab Company Representatives to the OCTAP Steering Committee for the 2010-2012 terms. The results are as follows:

**Small Taxicab Company:**

Due to a three-way tie (two votes each) between Medhi Sarreshtedari, Affordable Taxi, Patrick Dreis, Happy Taxi, and Anthony Matin, Pier Yellow Cab, the Primary and Alternate Small Taxicab Company Representatives had to be chosen by draw, as outlined in the OCTAP Policies and Procedures, as follows:

*“The Steering Committee shall unseal, validate, and count all returned ballots. Nominees receiving the largest number of votes shall be deemed elected whether or not they receive a majority of the votes cast. In case of a tie vote, the Steering Committee shall determine the winner by draw between the nominees who received an equal number of votes on the ballot.”*

Medhi Sarreshtedari and Patrick Dreis drew a concealed number (1, 2, or 3) from a pouch (Anthony Matin was not present and will be given the number remaining in the pouch after the other two nominees have drawn). Scott Crones, Steering Committee Chairman, then drew a corresponding concealed number (1, 2, or 3) from a pouch.

As a result of the draw, Medhi Sarreshtedari, Affordable Taxi, was re-elected as the Primary Small Taxicab Company Steering Committee Representative and Anthony Matin, Pier Yellow Cab, was elected as the Alternate Representative.

**Large Taxicab Company:**

Due to a result of a two-way tie (two votes each) between Tim Conlon, California Yellow Cab (CABCO Yellow, Inc.) and Konstantinos Roditis, 24/7 Yellow Cab-24/7 Taxi Cab, the Primary Large Taxicab Company Representative had to be chosen by draw, as outlined in the OCTAP Policies and Procedures, as follows:

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*“The Steering Committee shall unseal, validate, and count all returned ballots. Nominees receiving the largest number of votes shall be deemed elected whether or not they receive a majority of the votes cast. In case of a tie vote, the Steering Committee shall determine the winner by draw between the nominees who received an equal number of votes on the ballot.”*

Konstantinos Roditis and Tim Conlon drew a concealed number (1 or 2) from a pouch. Scott Crones, Steering Committee Chairman, then drew a corresponding concealed number (1 or 2) from a pouch.

As a result of the draw, Tim Conlon, California Yellow Cab (CABCO Yellow, Inc.), was elected as the Primary Large Taxicab Company Steering Committee Representative and Konstantinos Roditis, 24/7 Yellow Cab-24/7 Taxi Cab, was elected as the Alternate Representative.

All Large and Small Taxicab Company Steering Committee Representatives will begin their term on January 1, 2010.

**Item 5. Safety and Steering Committee Chair’s Report**

Scott Crones, Steering Committee Chairman, spoke concerning the 2010 Appeals Hearings Sign-up Sheet. The sign-up sheet was passed around to all committee members.

**Item 6. Committee Representatives Report**

Nothing to report at this time.

**Item 7. OCTAP Staff Report**

Current OCTAP Statistics

25 Permitted Taxicab Companies  
826 Permitted Vehicles  
1258 Permitted Drivers

OCTAP Closures:

The OCTAP Office was closed on Friday, July 3, 2009 for the Independence Day Holiday and Monday, September 7, 2009 for the Labor Day Holiday.

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Renewed OCTAP Business Permits:

The following companies renewed their OCTAP Business Permit since the last meeting:

- July 27, 2009 – Orange Taxi Cab
- August 3, 2009 – Saigon Taxi
- August 20, 2009 – Checker Cab Co.
- September 30, 2009 – Long Beach Yellow Cab
  
- No New OCTAP Business Permits were issued since the July 2, 2009 meeting.
  
- No Business Permits were suspended, revoked, or reinstated since the July 2, 2009 meeting.

Law Enforcement Training:

OCTAP continues to offer law enforcement training in the enforcement of the OCTAP Regulations, in each respective area of jurisdiction. OCTAP Staff can train officers on site and will provide all materials necessary.

Appeals Hearings

Appeals Hearings were held on July 9, August 13, and September 10, 2009. Appeals Hearings are held monthly and offer due process to drivers and companies for which OCTAP has taken administrative action to deny, revoke, or suspend a company or driver permit. OCTAP would like to encourage all committee members to sign up for the 2010 appeals hearings.

OCTAP Sub-Committee – Minimum Standards For New Taxicab Companies

On September 18, 2009, OCTAP hosted a meeting for the Minimum Size for New Taxicab Companies Sub-Committee. This was the fourth meeting since the Steering Committee formed the Sub-Committee on January 25, 2007, to explore the feasibility of requiring new taxicab companies to meet minimum fleet size (in taxicabs). Those in attendance were:

Scott Crones, City of Irvine  
P. Sue Zuhlke, OCTAP  
Jo-Ann Gadia Bravo, OCTAP  
Richard Girard, OCTAP  
Humberto Ramirez, Coastal Taxi

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Konstantinos Roditis, 24/7 Yellow Cab-24/7 Taxi Cab  
Tim Conlon, California Yellow Cab (CABCO Yellow, Inc.)  
Patrick Dreis, Happy Taxi  
Larry Slagle, Yellow Cab of Greater Orange County

The result of the meeting was to recommend revisions to the OCTAP Regulations for minimum service standards. Proposed revisions to be discussed under Item 8 of today's agenda.

**Item 8. Steering Committee will discuss and consider approval of proposed revisions to the OCTAP Regulations for “Minimum Size for New Taxicab Companies” sub-committee requisite requirements (minimum service standards). If approved, these revisions will be forwarded and included under Item 9 of this agenda.**

The meeting of the Orange County Taxi Administration Program (OCTAP) Minimum Size For New Taxicab Companies Sub-Committee was held on September 18, 2009 at 10:30 am. The decision of the sub-committee was to make recommendations to the Steering Committee on October 1, 2009 that the following service standards for all taxicab companies be approved and implemented:

1. Each Operator shall maintain and provide year-round, 24 hour live human response dispatched telephone service.
2. Each Operator shall provide 24-hour taxicab service.
3. Each operator shall have a principle place of business from which it conducts its activities as a taxicab operator, including the dispatch of taxicabs required above, and related activities (not required from a single location. Multiple locations for other activities such as storage, maintenance/repairs, etc. are allowed).
4. Each applicant and driver shall provide electronic processing of credit cards as a payment option to customers.
5. Each taxicab operator shall maintain the ability to provide OCTAP, upon request, the following order and dispatch record information for each service request:
  - Taxicab Operator responding;
  - Location of pickup request;
  - Identification of order taker;

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- Date and time order placed, printed with time machine and/or computer dispatch system;
  - Time delay quoted if any;
  - Identification of taxicab dispatched (the operator must also, through a separate record, be able to identify the name of the driver for the taxicab); and
  - Time of dispatch, printed with time machine and/or computer dispatch system.
6. Each taxicab operator shall keep order and dispatch records readily available to OCTAP for at least 90 days.
  7. Each taxicab operator shall have a written lost and found policy.
  8. Each taxicab operator shall have a policy in place to receive complaints from customers. The complaint policy must contain the mechanism for receiving complaints, investigation, and final resolution of complaints, as well as corrective actions. All complaints must be responded to in an expedient, responsible, and professional manner.

The minutes from the September 18, 2009 Sub-committee Meeting, which contains all favorable and opposing views, was made available to all that attended the October 1, 2009 meeting.

A motion was made by Doug Reilly, Laguna Woods, to approve moving the recommended sub-committee revisions to Item 9 of this agenda, with the stipulation that Item 2 above (“Each Operator shall provide 24 hour taxicab service”) be removed for consideration from the recommended revision package. The motion was seconded by Dan Henderson, La Habra. After a vote, the Steering Committee unanimously approved to include the sub-committee revisions for consideration under Item 9 of the Agenda.

### **Item 9. Steering Committee will consider approval of proposed revisions to the OCTAP Regulations**

James Donich, OCTAP Legal Counsel, stated to the committees that the proposed revisions are due to an extensive review and update of the Regulations requiring the Regulations to be sent to all member agencies for city counsel approval. Mr. Donich stated that many of the changes made over the years have brought to light the need for all member agencies to begin “fresh”; as well as adopt substantive revisions which are being proposed under this agenda item. Substantive changes to the OCTAP Regulations require approval by each member agency. These revisions to the OCTAP Regulations include those sub-committee revisions (Minimum Size for New Taxicab Companies) forwarded under Item 8 of the Agenda.

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A motion was made by Doug Reilly, Laguna Woods, to approve the proposed revisions to the OCTAP Regulations. The motion was seconded by Dan Henderson, La Habra and declared passed by those present to approve the proposed revisions to the OCTAP Regulations. William Gray, Large Taxicab Steering Committee Representative, Voted in opposition to the motion.

**Item 10. Discussion on Safety of Disabled Passengers in Wheelchair Vans. This topic was initiated and will be presented by William Gray, Large Taxicab Company Steering Committee Representative (A White and Yellow Cab, Inc.)**

William Gray, Large Taxicab Representative, spoke concerning the need for minimum training criteria (wheelchair passenger restraint and securement) for drivers who operate wheelchair accessible vehicles. Mr. Gray requested that OCTAP research the matter or establish minimum standards for the inspection of wheelchair vehicles that come to OCTAP for annual inspections.

Rich Girard, OCTAP, spoke concerning training criteria that was researched as requested by the Steering Committee. The research concluded that training for wheelchair restraint systems may be difficult to implement due to the fact that training is specific to the equipment installed in a vehicle and is usually fee based. Due to this, no specific or basic training criteria could be printed for distribution to the committee members. Mr. Gray spoke concerning the City of San Francisco which does require this type of training.

As a closing statement, Mr. Gray reiterated his desire to see a simple inventory of a lap and safety belt system, as well as a four point restraint system, be added to the OCTAP inspection form/criteria. No further discussion ensued and the committee took no further action.

**Item 11. Reports On Other Matters**

Nothing to report at this time.

Officer Ken Adams, City of Orange/Steering Committee Vice-Chairman, concluded the meeting in the place of Officer Scott Crones, who had to leave early.

**Item 12. Adjournment**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the OCTAP Joint Meeting of the Steering and Safety Committee will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 12:00 pm at the OCTA Main Building, 600 South Main Street (Conference Rooms 103/104), Orange, CA 92868.