



ARLINGTON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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November 13, 2012

Ms. Mary Hynes, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: 2012 Taxicab Certificate Allocation

Dear Chair Hynes:

I am writing to express the views of the Transportation Commission concerning the County Manager's recommendation regarding the 2012 taxicab certificate allocation proposal. The Commission heard a presentation from staff and comments from various cab companies, applicants and drivers.

The Transportation Commission heard this item at our meeting on Thursday, November 1. Present and voting at this meeting were Commissioners: Ortiz, Slatt, Gearhart, Lynott and Grant. Please note that the Commission lacked a quorum.

The Transportation Commission, by a vote of 5-0, approved a motion to recommend that the County Board should add a total of 45 new certificates to be allocated as follows:

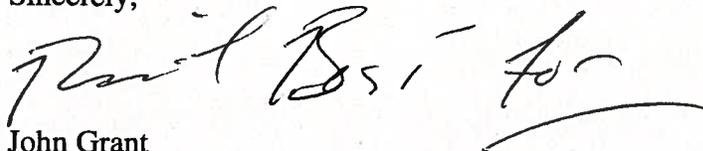
- 10 standard vehicles to Friendly Cab
- 20 standard vehicles to EnviroCAB
- 5 accessible vehicles to Blue Top
- 10 accessible vehicles to Red Top

While the Commission is recommending the addition of a number new certificates that is similar to that recommended by the County Manager, the Commission does not share the Manager's view that it would be appropriate at this time to add a new company that provides all-electric taxicabs. The Commission received considerable testimony from speakers on the issue of electric taxicabs (mostly in opposition) and engaged in considerable discussion with staff on the feasibility of including such vehicles in the Arlington fleet. Our concerns with all-electric taxicabs at this time include (1) the very limited experience in using all-electric taxicabs in other communities; (2) information about enviroCAB's experience with one such vehicle to date (enviroCAB does not consider it suitable for regular taxicab service); (3) concerns about the ability of such taxicabs to provide a full range of services, including to reach points outside of Arlington, such as Dulles Airport; (4) concern that we lack a sufficient number of recharging stations, including at apartment buildings where taxicab drivers generally keep their vehicles when not in use and would be expected to recharge batteries overnight; and (5) current battery technology, which generally requires slow overnight recharging and which precludes frequent rapid recharging during the day (rapid recharging shortens battery life).

Several Commissioners encouraged the current operating Arlington taxicab companies to continue or begin experimenting with all-electric vehicles, and expressed the hope that the rapidly evolving technology will make such taxicabs feasible in the near future.

I would be glad to answer any questions (703-338-6476).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Grant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Grant
Chairman