

October 18, 2011

Deputy Director Malachi Hull
Department of Safety & Permits
Taxicab and For Hire Vehicle Bureau
1300 Perdido St.
Rm 7E05
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Mr. Hull:

On behalf of the board of directors and membership of the French Quarter Business Association, we would like to thank you for your initiative and professionalism throughout the current reform of the taxi cab and for hire system.

The top priorities from our membership are the following:

- Cleanliness & uniformity of the vehicles
- Drivers fluent in spoken and written English
- Knowledge of the city (French Quarter streets by block and notable historical monuments, such as the St. Louis Cathedral, Jackson Square, the French Market, notable hotels, restaurants & museums)
- Credit Card & GPS capability
- Some form of "radio" dispatch
- Use of cabs, situated at cab stands (movement when a fare is needed, example of restaurant patrons near hotel can stands, currently drivers will not leave the cab stand for a non-hotel guest fare)
- Short Fares (the French quarter is small, however there is a continuous need for "short" fares that are not being taken, to which our members are very glad the pedi-cabs are out and about)

We understand that this reform is not poised as a quick fix, but a step in the right direction. After attending a number of the meetings it seems paramount that inspections, not only at inspection stations, but also random field inspections are of the utmost importance for "cleaning" up the current vehicles and verifying driver compliance.

Thank you and your office for being diligent and dedicated to this reform. Please continue to keep our association connected and informed with your process.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Thomas
FQBA President

Annie L. Flettrich
Executive Director

CC: Cm. Kristin Gisleson Palmer
MaryBeth Guarisco, NOMCVB

The Voice of Business in the French Quarter

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