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# City of Bethel, Alaska

## Public Safety & Transportation Commission

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November 12, 2002

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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### CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Transportation Commission was held on November 12, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the city hall conference room, Bethel, Alaska.

Chairperson John Hastie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the commission, the following were present:

John Hastie	Jim Blake
Tae Hwa Chung	Michael Cho
Tom Fazzini	Brad Kehoe

Ex-Officio members present were the following:

Howard H. Morris, Chief of Police and Taxi Inspector  
Andrew Steele, Taxi Technician  
Nicole Williams, Recorder

### PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Mr. Soo Yong Lee addressed the Commission inquiring when the taxi cab permit closed and believes that City Cab # 55 was issued a permit after this closure.

Mr. P.T. Choe stated his opinion that if permit issued after the closure is good for one, then it should be good for all.

Tae Hwa Chung stated that since the last meeting on October 7, 2002, he has received much criticism and blame from members of the cab industry for the topic of trip sheets being brought up at the last meeting, citations being issued by police officers, and rumors that he believes were created by Michael Cho.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Kehoe	To approve the regular agenda.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Chung	

Commission Member's Comments to be moved under Chief's Comments  
Under New Business added – AC parking lot taxi stand  
Under New Business added – Kilbuck school flashing safety light

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Kehoe	To approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 7, 2002
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Chung	

<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by unanimous vote.
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## CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Howard Morris addressed the fuel truck issue stating that the city attorney had clarified that the public parking lot at the airport is state property and the state bears the responsibility.

On the headlight issue, a proposal for a new city ordinance that would require all commercial vehicles to run their headlights while operating is in the process of being submitted to Council.

Trip Sheets being kept by cab drivers are necessary.

Regarding the City Cab #55 issue, there is no doubt that the permits were frozen in 1997. There is no doubt that Mr. Chung did receive his permit in 1998. It is unknown as to how this permit came to be, whether it was done in error, by honest mistake or fraudulently. All permits were reviewed in 2000 including Mr. Chung's. The city attorney has recommended that given the facts that Mr. Chung has been a good permit holder and has had no problems or violations what so ever, there will be no investigation by the Police Department of him because there is no evidence that warrants one.

## COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Cho expressed his feelings stating that right is right and wrong is wrong referring to the City Cab #55 debate. It was impossible to obtain a permit in 1998 after the freeze in 1997 and he feels that everyone should have a permit.

Brad Kehoe briefly spoke on Carl Berger's public transit idea that should be presented to the Commission at the next meeting. He also discussed the traffic problem in the Trailer Court. Vehicles, in particular some cab companies, are exceeding the 10 mph speed limit. Being private property, if the speed limit is not abided by, the manager of the Trailer Court can request that individuals not enter the premises and cabs would have to pick up and drop off their fares at the edge of the Trailer Court.

Commenting on the permit issue, Mr. Kehoe feels that this is not an issue that the Public Safety & Transportation Commission should be dealing with, but rather it be left to the Police Department and the city attorney.

Tom Fazzini also mentioned the problem of vehicles speeding in city sub.

John Hastie finds it disheartening to hear of the conflict among the industry as well as two of the members of this commission, regarding the permits. This is not a forum to display opinions on this permit issue and would like to see it cease this evening. He encourages that all parties get along.

## TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS REPORT

Nothing to report at this time.

## TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN'S REPORT

Taxi Technician, Andrew Steele, reported the following:

- Complaints/incidents concerning taxicabs in the AC store parking lot.
- Temporary permits granted to two taxis for one month so that faulty speedometers may be replaced.

- Amendment made by City attorney to the Vehicle For Hire ordinance 5.40.020.
- Paperwork has been supplied to cab owners for renewal application for 2003.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Trip sheet significance**

Discussion ensued.

Brad Kehoe would like a full briefing on this issue before the Commission further addresses or discusses this to recapture the original intent of trip sheets.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. AC parking lot taxi stand**

John Hastie not pleased with the "free for all" taking place in this parking lot. Taxi cabs are not using the taxi lane that was created for them to resolve some of the chaos in this parking lot.

Discussion ensued. Chief Morris will contact David Hicks, manager of the AC store and try to help resolve this,

**B. Kilbuck School Safety Flashing Light**

It has been brought to Mr. Hastie's attention that the battery operated flashing lights have to be manually turned on and off. These lights have not worked since the beginning of the school year. Mr. Hastie suggested having the lights wired with automatic timers to get them in working order.

Chief Morris will speak with the director of Public Works on this matter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MOVED BY:</b>	Kehoe	To adjourn the meeting.
<b>SECONDED BY:</b>	Chung	

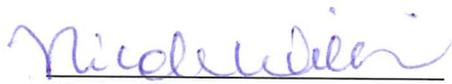
<b>VOTE ON MOTION</b>	Motion carried by a unanimous vote.
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With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm, November 12, 2002.

Approved this 2 day of December, 2002.

  
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 John Hastie, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
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 Nicole Williams, Recorder