

At this time the committee heard from long time taxi driver Joseph Russell who stated he, like other drivers, was not getting any so-called package work and supported the idea of changing the taxi stand at the Charles Hotel. Furthermore he suggested that much confusion and controversy exists regarding radio equip taxis and urged the committee to consider the possibility of the city operating a radio system to which each participating taxi operator would donate a certain fee each year.

At this time the committee heard from James McDavitt, Chairman of the License Commission, stating that the commission would soon be looking into these complaints and would hope that a comprehensive policy relative to the taxi industry could be prepared by April 30, 1985.

The hearing was adjourned at 5:20 PM.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Daniel J. Clinton
Chairman

At this time Councillor Alfred Vellucci questioned both the type of equipment used by Deacon Transportation Inc. in Boston as well as in Cambridge and whether or not this bus would compete with the taxi industry.

Mr. Lenthall responded by stating that the Boston tour is done with double-decker buses, but Cambridge would only have trolley buses. He further stated there would be no competition with the taxi industry, since the tour is defined and it would not be stopping to pick up passengers.

Vice Mayor Alfred LaRosa stated he agreed that a firm schedule for the tour buses should be established and questioned what the fee would be for such a tour. Mr. Lenthall responded by stating he believed the fee in Boston was \$6.00 or \$7.00 but did not know what it would be in Cambridge.

At this time the committee heard from Robert Caraginski who stated he was a taxi driver and wanted the committee to know that in Boston, some taxi stands had to be shortened by two spaces to accommodate the tour buses and he did not want to see that happen in Cambridge.

The Committee took no further action on this petition and at this time requested that Arthur Santoro come forward. Mr. Santoro explained he wrote to the City Council regarding concerns he and other taxi drivers have had recently regarding the so-called package delivery cabs being utilized as carriers. He further stated that this service intrudes on the real taxi industry.

He further stated that some consideration should be given to establishing a taxi stand in the Fresh Pond area since currently none exists. Furthermore he stated some consideration also be given to change the taxi stand at the Charles Hotel. He believes it is too small and should be across the street rather directly in front of the hotel.

Mr. Santoro further raised such issues as vans being hired by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company for use in carrying people to and from property located at 219 Vassar Street, Cambridge. Formerly he stated that taxis were used for this purpose. He also discussed briefly issues regarding the operator of Bell Cab Company and the fact that the issue of cab leasing should be solved.

At this time Mayor Francis H. Duehay stated he too had been receiving complaints from people indicating that some drivers did not seem to know the streets and locations of Cambridge and that some taxi drivers were not willing to provide elderly discounts as previously agreed.

The Mayor requested that the License Commission and the Traffic Director meet to review these complaints and suggestions. He further suggested that possibly an I.D. card for elderly Cambridge residents be issued to clarify the problem of who may be entitled to the elderly discounts.

City of Cambridge

In City Council October 21, 1985

The Committee on Transportation and Parking conducted a public hearing on Monday, October 7, 1985 beginning at 4:00 PM in the City Council Chamber, City Hall.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss a petition by Deacon Transportation Inc. of South Boston, Massachusetts for a license to operate motor vehicles for the carriage of passengers for hire over certain public ways of Cambridge, as well as to discuss a communication by Arthur Santoro of Somerville, Inc. relative to various problems within the taxi industry.

At this time the Committee heard from Thomas Lenthall, 34 Blanchard Road, Cambridge, who stated he was representing Deacon Transportation Inc. and outlined the company's desire to operate a "trolley" tour bus through and around historic sites of Cambridge. He stated that Deacon Transportation Inc. currently operates a similar tour service in the City of Boston. He stated that although the Boston tour is done with double-decker buses, the Cambridge tour will be done solely with trolley cars.

Responding to questions by Councillor Daniel Clinton regarding the length of time being requested and the number of these trips, Mr. Lenthall stated the request is for a year-round service, as needed but did not know how many trips per day would be taken.

Mayor Francis Duehay also raised concern regarding the number of trips per day. He further stated that although he really believed the concept of a historic tour of Cambridge is a good one, the City should have control in terms of being able to limit or expand if necessary the number of trips, the route, etc. He stated the City Council should not give a blanket approval to any carrier.

At this time George Teso, Director of Traffic and Parking, stated he had reviewed the petition and although he too believes the idea is a good one, the tour service should be considered in conjunction with an overall review of transportation modes throughout the square.

At this time Mayor Duehay moved that the Traffic Department and the City Solicitor prepare a procedure for monitoring any such tour bus operation which would allow for either the reduction or expansion of the service.

20. 5-965

REPORT

Committee on Transportation

Re: petition of Deacon Transportation, Inc.
for a license to operate motor vehicles for
hire over certain public ways & on a comm.
from Arthur Santoro of Somerville, Inc. on
various problems within the taxi industry.

*Copy sent to the City Manager +
License Commission 10/23/85 mlh*

In City Council,

October 21, 1985

10/21/85

*Placed on File
Copies to the
City Manager and
License Commission per
Report*