

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

Public Safety Committee

MEMBER

Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee

Finance & Personnel Committee

Steering & Rules Committee



ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

October 12, 2009

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Dear Members:

Re: Common Council File 090444

Attached are written objections to File 090444:

Non-Renewal, based on testimony at the committee hearing related to behavior toward the public and employees of Yellow Cab Co-op, of the public passenger vehicle license of Jaggi Ghotra.

This matter will be heard by the full Council at its October 13, 2009 meeting. Pursuant to City Ordinances, a roll call vote will be taken to confirm that all members have read the attached objections.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Donovan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Robert G. Donovan, Chair
Public Safety Committee

cc: All Council Members
City Attorney's Office
Common Council/City Clerk – License Division
CCF 090444

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(414) 430-1249
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Ronald D. Leonhardt
City of Milwaukee
Office of the City Clerk
200 East Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3570

CITY OF MILWAUKEE
09 OCT -8 AM 10:20
RONALD D. LEONHARDT
CITY CLERK

Re: Written Objections Concerning
Findings of Fact and Conclusions
of Law Recommending Non-Renewal of Public
Passenger Vehicle Driver's License
Held by Jaggi S. Ghotra

Dear Members of the Common Council:

The following is a list of written objections to the Public Safety Committee's Report and Recommendation for non-renewal of the public passenger vehicle driver's license held by my client, Jaggi S. Ghotra. My client is also requesting an opportunity to address the full Common Council regarding this matter.

Mr. Ghotra is asking the Common Council to overturn the committee's recommendation for non-renewal of his public passenger vehicle driver's license. Mr. Ghotra has no prior criminal record or any convictions for ordinance violations. Mr. Ghotra has had a clear driving record for the last five years. Mr. Ghotra has never been disciplined by the City of Milwaukee for any violations relating to his public passenger vehicle driver's license. In addition, at the committee hearing, Mr. Ghotra objects to the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

On September 16, 2009, the general manager of Yellow Cab Dispatch, Justice Khalsa, appeared and testified against Mr. Ghotra.

First, there was an allegation that Mr. Ghotra overcharged a passenger on a trip to Chicago. The passenger did not appear at the committee hearing. Mr. Khalsa then began testifying about an e-mail message received from the passenger concerning the incident. At that time, Vice-Chairman Alderman Robert Puente objected to Mr. Khalsa testifying to the contents of the e-mail message received because it was hearsay.

Second, Mr. Khalsa testified that Mr. Ghotra was rude to passengers and refused to accept credit card payments. Mr. Khalsa then testified that Yellow Cab Co-Op advertised that they accepted American Express credit card payments.

Not one single eyewitness appeared and testified to any rude behavior by Mr. Ghotra. Mr. Khalsa testified to several alleged incidents involving rude behavior by Mr. Ghotra from documents purporting to be business records. It is noteworthy that most of the documents were allegedly made by company dispatchers. Not one dispatcher appeared at the hearing to give testimony. Not one of the passengers involved in any of the few alleged incidents testified at the committee hearing. Mr. Ghotra vehemently denied any of those allegations.

Mr. Khalsa testified to Mr. Ghotra not accepting credit cards from passengers. Alderman Puente then questioned Mr. Khalsa about Mr. Ghotra's history of not accepting credit card payments. Specifically, Alderman Puente asked Mr. Khalsa, "Why does he do that? What explanation did he give you?" Mr. Khalsa's answer to Alderman Puente's question was, "That's his choice". Upon further questioning, Mr. Khalsa then testified that cab driver's had to take credit card payments. Mr. Ghotra testified to the fact that he did take credit card payments from passengers, but on many occasions the passenger/fare did not have any identification to verify their identity. During those situations, Mr. Ghotra testified that he offered to take the passenger to an ATM machine to pay the fare. It is also noteworthy that there is no city ordinance requiring cab drivers to accept credit card payments.

In Paragraph 5(B) of the Findings of Fact, it was noted that documentary evidence was presented to the Committee regarding complaints from customers and over charges by Mr. Ghotra. Not one eyewitness testified to any of those allegations. In fact, the documentary evidence was lacking in detail on the few incidents that were reported.

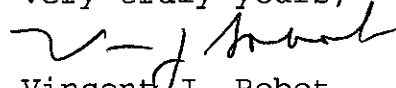
Mr. Khalsa also testified to an incident in which Mr. Ghotra allegedly threw a stone and milk carton at him. Mr. Ghotra vehemently denied that allegation. Mr. Khalsa did not report the incident to the Oak Creek Police Department until eight days after it had occurred. In fact, the Oak Creek Police Department did not even file a report regarding that incident. Mr. Khalsa cooperated with the police investigation and no citations were issued to him.

Finally, Richard Christiansen, a manager at American United Cab Company, testified at the hearing. Mr. Christiansen testified that Mr. Ghotra was rude to passengers and personnel of American United. Mr. Christiansen testified that his company had records regarding Mr. Ghotra's behavior. None of those records were produced at the hearing. No details or eyewitness testimony of any such behavior was presented at the hearing. A check with the Licensing Committee revealed no prior complaints of any such behavior had been reported to the City of Milwaukee by American

United. Mr. Christiansen further testified that Mr. Ghotra had threatened him and on one occasion spit at him. A check of Milwaukee Police Department records indicated no such report had ever been lodged with them.

In conclusion, Mr. Ghotra has held his public passenger vehicle driver's license for a significant period of time. A recommendation for non-renewal of his license is not warranted. We respectfully request that the Common Council allow Mr. Ghotra to renew his public passenger vehicle driver's license and not follow the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee.

Very truly yours,



Vincent J. Bobot
Attorney at Law
State Bar No. 1020732