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 1
 2 CITY OF MILWAUKEE
 3 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
 4 * * * * *
 5
 6 In the Matter of: PUBLIC PASSENGER VEHICLE DRIVER RENEWAL
 7 APPLICATION (EXPIRES 10/31/09)
 8 SPECIAL LETTER - JAGGI GHOTRA
 9 * * * * *
 10 COMMITTEE MEMBERS
 11 ALD. ROBERT DONOVAN - Chair
 12 ALD. ROBERT PUENTE - Vice Chair
 13 ALD. JOE DAVIS
 14 ALD. TERRY WITKOWSKI
 15 ALD. JAMES WITKOWIAK
 16
 17 LICENSING DIVISION by RICHARD PFAFF
 18 POLICE DEPARTMENT by SEARGENT PAUL MacGILLIS
 19 OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY by ATTORNEY BRUCE SCHRIMPF
 20
 21 Proceedings had and testimony given in
 22 the above-entitled matter, before the PUBLIC SAFETY
 23 COMMITTEE HEARING OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE, on 1st
 24 day of October, 2009.
 25 * * * * *

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 1 was there no action taken at the last meeting?
 2 MR. PAFF: The action taken at the last
 3 meeting had to do with a Taxicab Permit. The
 4 ability to operate that permit requires a
 5 driver's license, is that one that was held in
 6 committee. The recommendation for non-renewal on
 7 the permit for the vehicle has not yet gone to
 8 Council, and that's -- that's why he's --
 9 wishes to withdraw before it goes to Council to
 10 be non-renewed.
 11 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: And the PPV
 12 license is not in question, whatsoever?
 13 MR. PAFF: It is. It was held. We --
 14 The committee heard testimony on the driver's
 15 license part of it. But held it over until
 16 today.
 17 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: Thank you.
 18 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Very good. So
 19 that's what we're taking up at this point, is the
 20 driver -- Public Passenger driver's license.
 21 MR. PAFF: Correct. In addition, also,
 22 a decision of whether or not to accept the
 23 withdrawal of the permit for the vehicle.
 24 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Okay. Very good.
 25 Any comments?

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 1 P R O C E E D I N G S
 2 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Jaggi Ghotra. This
 3 is a Public Passenger Vehicle Driver renewal
 4 application.
 5 MR. PAFF: Mr. Chair, the --
 6 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Go ahead, Mr. Paff.
 7 MR. PAFF: The applicant has -- The
 8 committee at last meeting voted to --
 9 recommended to non-renew his taxicab permit and
 10 held his Public Passenger Vehicle Driver's
 11 license in committee. Since that time, the
 12 applicant has submitted a request to withdraw his
 13 permit for the taxicab. We're here on that
 14 matter, because the committee can either deny
 15 the withdrawal, and then the non-renewal would
 16 stand. And, also, they have to take action yet --
 17 The committee has to take action yet on the
 18 driver's license, which I said, is held in
 19 committee. So it's two -- two separate issues.
 20 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Very good.
 21 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: Mr. Chairman.
 22 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Alderman Witkowski.
 23 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: Just for
 24 clarification, Mr. Paff. The action taken at the
 25 last meeting was with regard to which license, or

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 1 MR. BOBOT: Well, good morning --
 2 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Good morning.
 3 MR. BOBOT: -- Alderman Donovan.
 4 Attorney Vincent Bobot appears on behalf of Mr.
 5 Ghotra, who is also here.
 6 Prior to this, or during this being
 7 called, I submitted a written explanation that
 8 Mr. Ghotra gave to somebody and had them type
 9 out, because over the last hearing, if you can
 10 recall, was a little frantic on what happened.
 11 Mr. Ghotra has done some thinking since the last
 12 hearing until now, and his decision to withdraw
 13 the taxicab renewal permit is off of a -- a
 14 decision that he's made after the hearing and
 15 talking with me. And he made a decision to do
 16 that, because this -- He feels that this forum
 17 may not be the proper place to air his grievances
 18 that he has with his employer that appeared last
 19 time, if you recall. And that is detailed in
 20 writing.
 21 Also, in a public passenger vehicle,
 22 the explanation for any objection was lodged
 23 against him, that's his explanation here of what
 24 happened, because there was some concern about
 25 whether or not he was being truthful. We do have

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1 an interpreter here for Mr. Ghotra. I will tell
 2 you, Mr. Ghotra estimates his ability to
 3 understand English between 60 to 70 percent.
 4 That's why we have an interpreter. He just
 5 doesn't have 100 percent understanding of every
 6 word that's being said.
 7 I ask you to renew his Public Passenger
 8 Vehicle driver's license. He has a clear driving
 9 record. He has no prior arrests. And he does
 10 have his explanation of the -- the complaints
 11 that were lodged against him for you to read and
 12 review. Thank you.
 13 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: Mr. Chairman.
 14 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: We've got Alderman
 15 Witkowski.
 16 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: Is the transcript
 17 from the last meeting relevant to this license
 18 and can it be made part of the record? For
 19 the --
 20 MR. SCHRIMPF: This is -- Mr.
 21 Chairman, this is -- really is in the nature of
 22 a continued hearing, because part of it was held.
 23 So I -- I don't think Mr. Bobot or I would have
 24 any problems with, the committee certainly is
 25 entitled to -- to consider the -- the testimony

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1 here to testify? Come on forward.
 2 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Please state your
 3 -- Yeah, go ahead.
 4 (Whereupon the witness was sworn.)
 5 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: If you would please
 6 identify yourself.
 7 THE WITNESS: My name is Justice
 8 Khalsa. I'm the General Manager of the Yellow
 9 Cab Cooperative.
 10 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: We got testimony the
 11 last time.
 12 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Correct, but --
 13 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Are you going to go
 14 cover the same old stuff?
 15 THE WITNESS: I'm not interested, but
 16 if you wish, I can.
 17 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: No. No, that's not
 18 -- That's not --
 19 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman.
 20 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Do we have -- Go
 21 ahead.
 22 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, if I
 23 may, because I was not at the last meeting. But
 24 based upon the transcripts, all the discrepancy
 25 that you testified at the last committee meeting

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1 previously received.
 2 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: Do we need a
 3 motion to do that?
 4 MR. SCHRIMPF: No. It's part of the
 5 record already. This is a continued hearing.
 6 MR. BOBOT: And I just want to just add
 7 to that, I -- I did pick up a copy of the
 8 transcript yesterday. There was a little delay
 9 in printing it. An explanation was there was
 10 some situation, a computer thing, and I picked up
 11 a copy of the transcript. Because there are
 12 several things in there, if this isn't granted,
 13 that I would want to point out for you. Given
 14 the time of the transcript, and the information
 15 was provided at that hearing with me not having
 16 an ability to go and research some of the things
 17 that happened. But I think if you read his --
 18 his -- his story of what took place, that would
 19 take that under account, as well. But I did pick
 20 up the transcript yesterday. I just haven't had
 21 time to, you know, do a detailed analysis of it.
 22 It was provided to me yesterday afternoon.
 23 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Very good. Any
 24 other questions or comments by committee members.
 25 Are there any other witnesses, anybody

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1 for my deference, are they true?
 2 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
 3 ALDERMAN DAVIS: Thank you. That's all
 4 I needed to know.
 5 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Thank you. And,
 6 sir, if you want to give a statement.
 7 (Whereupon the witness was sworn.)
 8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir. I just have to
 9 make a statement.
 10 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: State your name,
 11 please.
 12 THE WITNESS: My name is Habreet Singh.
 13 My address is 3824 South 16th Street. And I just
 14 have to make a statement against my ex-employer,
 15 Yellow Cab and Justice Khalsa, that he is not
 16 really, you know, a great person which can, you
 17 know, be a good employer. And even he
 18 disconnects and he do all that stuff, you know,
 19 so.
 20 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Okay. Thank you.
 21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 22 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: With that, anybody
 23 else care to?
 24 THE WITNESS: Could I -- It's very
 25 important that we, if you wish to hear 30 seconds

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 1 for that.
 2 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Sure, I'll give you
 3 an opportunity to rebut that.
 4 THE WITNESS: 30 seconds to a minute at
 5 the most. I understand the importance of time
 6 here. Habreet Singh, who just testified here,
 7 trying to call me, whatever. I might not be the
 8 greatest person, because I have to take tough
 9 action sometimes against the wrong being in the -
 10 - in the Yellow Cab.
 11 And Habreet Singh is currently a Yellow
 12 Cab of Franklin owner and driver-operator. He
 13 was let go by Yellow Cab Cooperative for a
 14 serious offense, but we didn't forward it to the
 15 City of Milwaukee, because he was already gone by
 16 then. We took him out of the system, I did. He
 17 harassed a lady, who happened to be a dancer at
 18 the gentlemen's club on Highway 100, Silk. And
 19 he picked her up, the customer. She filed a
 20 complaint with our system in the office.
 21 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Mr. Chairman.
 22 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Go ahead, Alderman.
 23 ALDERMAN PUENTE: This isn't about Mr.
 24 Singh.
 25 THE WITNESS: Yeah. It's no

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 1 very much. With that, questions, comments by
 2 committee members? If not, is there a motion?
 3 MR. BOBOT: Chairman Donovan.
 4 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Oh, I'm sorry.
 5 MR. BOBOT: I just have one - - one
 6 question.
 7 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Yes.
 8 MR. BOBOT: This is the statement from
 9 Mr. Ghotra. For you to accept it, should he be
 10 sworn that this is the truth, the whole truth and
 11 nothing but the truth, as far as his statement
 12 concerning the allegations against him?
 13 MR. SCHRIMPF: If you are offering the
 14 statement - -
 15 MR. BOBOT: Yes.
 16 MR. SCHRIMPF: - - if the committee
 17 accepts the statement, I don't know that it has
 18 to be sworn. It probably should be.
 19 MR. BOBOT: I can - - I could read the
 20 statement to you, but I - - He wanted to type it
 21 out. We wanted to give you time to deliberate
 22 over it. He spent a great deal of time, because
 23 he wanted an opportunity to address the
 24 allegations against him. Because he does have a
 25 clear record. So, I - - I just brought that to

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 1 credibility is what I'm saying.
 2 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: We got it.
 3 ALDERMAN PUENTE: We got the
 4 understanding, but this does not have to do with
 5 Mr. Singh.
 6 THE WITNESS: I understand.
 7 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Thank you.
 8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 9 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Okay. Any other
 10 questions or comments by committee members? Is
 11 there some other testimony? If you're going to
 12 attack this man, I don't want to hear it, you
 13 know. Back and forth, yeah. Okay. If you can
 14 keep your testimony to the applicant. Okay.
 15 Please.
 16 (Whereupon the witness was sworn.)
 17 THE WITNESS: My name is Herminder
 18 Singh. 7201 West Edgemont Avenue, Greenfield,
 19 Wisconsin.
 20 Mr. Jaggi Singh Ghotra, I know him more
 21 than 30 years, because he is my relative, too.
 22 He has an English problem. This is only matter
 23 concerning this all issues. So besides that, he
 24 is very good guy.
 25 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Okay. Thank you

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 1 your attention.
 2 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Alderman Puente
 3 would move that the committee accept this
 4 statement, and hearing no objections, so ordered.
 5 This will be part of the permanent record.
 6 ALDERMAN PUENTE: Mr. Chair, I would
 7 move that we allow the applicant to withdraw his
 8 application for the Taxi Permit, which is before
 9 us at this time.
 10 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: There is a motion
 11 that the applicant be allowed to withdraw renewal
 12 of the Taxi Permit. Are there any objections to
 13 that motion?
 14 ALDERMAN DAVIS: I'll object.
 15 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Hear - - Hearing one
 16 objection, so ordered. And regarding the - - Any
 17 other motion regarding the Vehicle Driver Renewal
 18 Application?
 19 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: Mr. Chairman.
 20 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Alderman Witkowski.
 21 ALDERMAN WITKOWSKI: I would move
 22 denial of the renewal application, based on
 23 testimony at these meetings.
 24 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: With that, Alderman
 25 Witkowski would move denial of the renewal

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1 application for the Public Passenger Vehicle
 2 Driver license. Are there any objections to that
 3 motion?
 4 ALDERMAN PUENTE: I'll object.
 5 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Hearing one
 6 objection - -
 7 ALDERMAN WITKOWIAK: I'll object, also,
 8 Mr. Chairman.
 9 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Hearing two
 10 objections, so ordered.
 11 MR. SCHRIMPF: Okay. The committee is
 12 going to be doing findings of fact and
 13 conclusions of law, recommending non-renewal of
 14 the PPV. You will receive a copy of that. You
 15 will have an opportunity to submit written
 16 objections to that. If so, they must be received
 17 by 4:45 p.m. October 8th, 2009. If you submit
 18 written objections, then you'll also have the
 19 ability to appear before the Milwaukee Common
 20 Council on October 13th, 2009 at approximately
 21 nine a.m. in the Council Chambers of this
 22 building. And I assume, Mr. Bobot, you will
 23 accept service on behalf of your client.
 24 MR. BOBOT: Yes. Mr. Schrimpf, what
 25 does that do then as a result of today's action

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 3 STATE OF WISCONSIN)
 4)
 5 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)
 6
 7 I, JEAN M. BARINA, of Milwaukee Reporters
 8 Associated, Inc., 5124 West Blue Mound Road,
 9 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208, certify that the foregoing
 10 proceedings is a full and complete transcript of the
 11 Public Passenger Vehicle driver's license for Jaggi
 12 Ghotra taken in the foregoing proceedings.
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 19 JEAN M. BARINA
 20 Court Reporter
 21
 22 Dated this day of October, 2009.
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1 concerning the matter with the Taxicab Permit.
 2 Does that make that moot?
 3 MR. SCHRIMPF: No.
 4 MR. PAFF: Are you asking whether the
 5 non-renewal, the recommendation of non-renewal
 6 permit is moot?
 7 MR. BOBOT: Yes.
 8 MR. PAFF: Yes. In that the change of
 9 ownership to the new owner, I think it's Armajit
 10 Singh, that that would be granted.
 11 MR. BOBOT: So that that makes that
 12 moot. So then now we're just dealing with the
 13 non-renewal of the Public Passenger Vehicle
 14 Driver license.
 15 MR. PAFF: Right.
 16 MR. BOBOT: I just needed a
 17 clarification on that. Thank you.
 18 CHAIRMAN DONOVAN: Thank you all.
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