

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

BOARD MEETING

Thursday,
August 9, 2012

Room 1B.1
Building 150
200 East Riverside Drive
Austin, Texas

BOARD MEMBERS:

Victor Vandergriff, Chair
Laura Ryan, Vice Chair
Robert "Barney" Barnwell, III
Blake Ingram
Cheryl E. Johnson
Raymond Palacios (not present)
Victor Rodriguez
Marvin Rush
Johnny Walker

ON THE RECORD REPORTING
(512) 450-0342

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1 organization and been to their dinner before numerous
2 times. I do not have a sticker on the back of my car.
3 However, there's a huge contingency of people out there
4 with the perception that if I have that sticker on the
5 back of my car, I won't get a ticket, and I would hate to
6 see a license plate go out there with a DPS similar emblem
7 and Support State Troopers that would say -- I think
8 there's definitely opportunity that somebody is going to
9 promote that and say hey, you're supporting the troopers,
10 and the trooper on the roadside may say hey, this guy
11 gives money to the foundation that benefits police
12 officers or troopers.

13 MS. RYAN: Isn't that the issue of the trooper
14 association and their acknowledgment and training to make
15 sure that things like that don't happen and not something
16 we should worry about?

17 MR. WALKER: Wouldn't it be prudent on our part
18 if we could stem and stop something like that from
19 happening before it ever gets out there and becomes a
20 problem that we do that?

21 MR. BARNWELL: I do not think it's our
22 responsibility to approve everything that comes in here;
23 likewise, it is not our responsibility to disapprove
24 everything that comes in here. But there are certain
25 things that are appropriate and certain things that are

1 not appropriate for the public, and that's our job is to
2 look at the appropriateness of this.

3 Here we have a plate that appeals to the
4 interests of individuals to avoid a traffic ticket should
5 they be stopped for breaking a traffic law. I'd buy one
6 in a heartbeat.

7 (General laughter.)

8 MR. WALKER: And why would you buy it?

9 MR. BARNWELL: There's only one real reason why
10 I'd buy it because it's not that pretty and it doesn't
11 really go with my car, but I would buy one, and for that
12 reason I think that there has to be some realization here
13 and recognition that there are appropriate plates and
14 appropriate subject matter for plates, and there are
15 certain things that aren't. So in my opinion, this plate
16 does not rise to the level of being appropriate.

17 MR. VANDERGRIFF: Is there any other discussion
18 or questions on this plate?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. VANDERGRIFF: All those in favor of the
21 plate please raise your right hand in support of the
22 motion.

23 (A show of hands: Ingram, Rush, Ryan and
24 Vandergriff.)

25 MR. VANDERGRIFF: And all those opposed.

1 (A show of hands: Barnwell, Johnson, Rodriguez
2 and Walker.)

3 MR. VANDERGRIFF: We have a four-four tie on
4 this matter, so by virtue of that tie, then the plate is
5 not approved at this point.

6 MR. ELLISTON: Mr. Chairman, if I may. Just as
7 an informational item for the board members, our current
8 general issue plate that we released some time back is now
9 in the tax assessor-collector offices, is being issued at
10 a number of the counties across Texas today. I've seen a
11 couple of them around Austin. We're still getting real
12 high marks on that, the press is very impressed with it,
13 law enforcement and toll road officials are very happy
14 with that new plate. So just want to make sure you knew
15 that you may be seeing that on the roadways.

16 MR. VANDERGRIFF: Sometimes simple is better
17 and it's receiving great acceptance.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Just out of courtesy, I'd like
19 to recognize the fact that we have Colonel McCraw in the
20 audience, Mr. Chairman.

21 MR. VANDERGRIFF: I was about to do that, but
22 thank you for doing that as well.

23 Under the chairman reports, we really don't
24 have much here in this big long, legally correct listing
25 of things, but I do want to point out -- and the vice

1 chair may want to say something -- that we do have an
2 advisory committee meeting on September 6 on the
3 continuing effort on Senate Bill 529. I believe that's on
4 September 6.

5 MS. RYAN: Correct. The agenda has been sent
6 out, the committee was notified with all the information,
7 and Member Palacios and I will be co-chairing that, so
8 please be on lookout from a committee standpoint. We'll
9 also get some additional legwork out prior to that
10 meeting. Our goal at that advisory committee meeting is
11 to try to find consensus on the three items that we were
12 not able to find consensus through rulemaking, and if
13 appropriate, then the agency can move those things
14 forward, and if the committee cannot find something where
15 we can find consensus, then we'd have to leave it to the
16 industries to move forward. That's where we're at.

17 MR. VANDERGRIFF: Thank you very much.

18 I also want to note I think we'll have a pretty
19 good briefing with the board in September after six weeks
20 or so of outreach with the industries that we oversee with
21 respect to legislative items that are coming up, so we'll
22 start that process here in September and October by the
23 executive director and Mr. Kuntz.

24 And then I think we still have, now coming at
25 the end here, 6.B which is under the executive director

1 reports, and I believe at this point we have the two that
2 are still from the Projects and Operations Committee.

3 MR. WALKER: 6.B is the executive director's
4 report.

5 MR. VANDERGRIFF: Yes, but underneath that is
6 the IT and the facilities.

7 MR. WALKER: Ms. Heikkila, would you like to
8 give us the report on the building status, where we're
9 going?

10 MS. HEIKKILA: Certainly. For the record, my
11 name is Dawn Heikkila. I'm the chief operating officer
12 for the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

13 During the Projects and Operations Committee
14 meeting, one of the agenda items was a facilities update.

15 We are working with TxDOT. They have intentions of
16 allocating space on the Camp Hubbard campus to allow us to
17 move or relocate staff that's currently housed at the
18 Riverside location to Camp Hubbard. That would allow us
19 to consolidate staff at Camp Hubbard and Bull Creek which
20 will facilitate managing our staff and supporting our
21 staff.

22 I've been working with the Texas Correctional
23 Industries from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
24 on space planning and modular reconfiguration for Building
25 5 at Camp Hubbard to make sure that when we do move our

1 folks around, we're taking every opportunity to capitalize
2 on operational efficiencies and align functional program
3 areas. We're hoping that we can have everybody relocated
4 before the end of the calendar year. Our goal is to have
5 staff relocated by the end of October.

6 MR. VANDERGRIFF: Any questions from the board?

7 MR. WALKER: And there was only one other thing
8 from our Projects and Operations, which is the automation
9 project.

10 MR. VANDERGRIFF: May I finish on facilities
11 first?

12 MR. WALKER: I thought we were.

13 MR. VANDERGRIFF: I had one thing to make sure
14 the full board notes is that we still have to be
15 continuing thought process and discussion going forward
16 with respect to a long-term facility home for us because,
17 based on TxDOT's plans, still a decade out, but based on
18 their plans, there's really no room in the inn for us when
19 it comes down to it. So we will be working through the
20 executive director and her with the staff to push forward
21 on the planning for that as we go into the legislative
22 session. So more to come.

23 MR. WALKER: And the only other thing is the
24 automation and the IT technology project, and I know Dawn
25 can more eloquently address that than I could. So if

C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: TxDMV Board
LOCATION: Austin, Texas
DATE: August 9, 2012

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 242, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

08/16/2012

(Transcriber) (Date)

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