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

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

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

MR. BARNWELL: I do not think it's our
responsibility to approve everything that comes in here;
likewise, it is not our responsibility to disapprove
everything that comes in here. But there are certain
things that are appropriate and certain things that are
not appropriate for the public, and that's our job is to look at the appropriateness of this.

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

(General laughter.)

MR. WALKER: And why would you buy it?

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

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

(No response.)

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

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

MR. VANDERGRIFF: And all those opposed.
(A show of hands: Barnwell, Johnson, Rodriguez and Walker.)

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

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

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

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

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

Under the chairman reports, we really don't have much here in this big long, legally correct listing of things, but I do want to point out -- and the vice
chair may want to say something -- that we do have an
advisory committee meeting on September 6 on the
continuing effort on Senate Bill 529. I believe that's on
September 6.

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

MR. VANDERGRIFF: Thank you very much.

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

And then I think we still have, now coming at
the end here, 6.B which is under the executive director
reports, and I believe at this point we have the two that
are still from the Projects and Operations Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I've been working with the Texas Correctional
Industries from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
on space planning and modular reconfiguration for Building
5 at Camp Hubbard to make sure that when we do move our
folks around, we're taking every opportunity to capitalize on operational efficiencies and align functional program areas. We're hoping that we can have everybody relocated before the end of the calendar year. Our goal is to have staff relocated by the end of October.

MR. VANDERGRIFF: Any questions from the board?

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

MR. VANDERGRIFF: May I finish on facilities first?

MR. WALKER: I thought we were.

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

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

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CERTIFICATE

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
(Date)

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