

Agenda: Item 6

Consideration of Retiring Medallion #666 from Taxi Fleet
[DISCUSSION and ACTION]



CITY AND COUNTY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

TAXI COMMISSION
MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM

COMMISSIONERS TELEPHONE (415) 554-7737
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HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Commissioners
From: Jordanna Thigpen
Date: 7/17/7
Re: Cab # 666

Cab # 666 has been an ongoing situation for the Commission. The current medallion holder for Cab # 666 has experienced some issues in his life. Past medallion holders for Cab # 666 have also experienced issues. A few years ago, the cab burned to a crisp on Good Friday at California and Franklin, and the only thing remaining after the fire were the numbers 666, visible in the rubble.

It took quite a long time to assign Cab # 666. The current medallion holder even had it blessed at Mission Dolores shortly after taking possession, to no apparent avail. For personal privacy reasons, this medallion holder would prefer not to speak about the specific problems but they are of great severity.

The number 666 has been associated with evil and with Satan for hundreds of years. The number first appears in Verse 18 of the Revelation of St. John the Divine.¹ Revelation describes Armageddon and offers the number 666 as a method of recognizing the followers of "the beast," or evil. According to Revelation they will have the "mark of the beast," or 666, on their foreheads or right hands.

Because of the phonetic sounds in the Chinese language, and the similarity of pronouncing the number 666 and the words "things going smoothly," the number 666 is considered very lucky in the Chinese culture.

Regardless, in Western culture the numbers are considered evil and many people, including members of the public and other drivers and medallion holders, have reacted negatively to this vehicle number over the years.

The Commission should retire Cab # 666 as soon as possible and replace it with medallion # 1307.

¹ Representations of divinity or truth cannot be verified.

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HEIDI MACHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 24, 2007

At the meeting of the Taxicab Commission on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 the following resolution(s) and finding(s) were adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-XXX
PERMANENT RETIREMENT OF MEDALLION NUMBER 666 AND ISSUANCE OF
MEDALLION NUMBER 1307 AS REPLACEMENT:

WHEREAS, many problems have been associated with Medallion Number 666 over the course of the past thirty years in the San Francisco taxi industry; and

WHEREAS, Medallion Number 666 is no longer acceptable as a medallion number; and

WHEREAS, the Medallion Number 666 is currently in use and the current medallion holder will continue medallion ownership

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Medallion Number 666 is permanently retired and Medallion Number 1307 is issued as a replacement number.

AYES:
ABSENT: 0

NOES:
RECUSED: 0

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Machen
Executive Director