

COMMUNITY PROTECTION & SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 26, 2016

A meeting of the Community Protection & Services Committee was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairperson Wiesner in Council Chambers, City Hall. **Roll Call:** Members Mr. Wiesner and Mr. Ireland were present.

Moved by Mr. Ireland, seconded by Mr. Wiesner to adopt the following agenda:

1. Roll call.
2. Adoption of agenda.
3. Public Hearing: Request from Nicole Warwick, 1 Anytime Ride, to Operate Taxicab in the City of Sturgeon Bay
4. Adjourn

Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

Nicole Warwick: 116 W. Redwood Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI

Ms. Warwick spoke on her intentions for starting a new taxicab company in the City of Sturgeon Bay. She states she has a passion for this, and has been doing it for the past 11 years. Ms. Warwick was employed by Door County Cab (DC Cab) until recently.

At this time there are two taxicab companies operating in the county. With Door to Door cab company having limited operating hours (8am-6pm), this leaves DC Cab with a monopoly from 6pm-8am. Ms. Warwick wants provide safe operating vehicles, good management and good workers to this community. She wants to bring a new level and would like to work with the Committee in setting standards and expectations for what a cab company should be.

Mr. Wiesner asked about Ms. Warwick's rate quotes, and if this was going to be her standard. She explained DC Cab is able to charge customers rates that are deemed high for the community; Ms. Warwick wants to operate her service with lower rates. She would like to make the worker rates lower for those going back and forth to work. She also works with Door Tran.

Ms. Warwick believes there is a need for another taxicab service because one company does not have the staff to keep up to the demand. By opening her taxicab company, she will be giving the community a choice in who they want to ride with.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Suzanne Bloch: 16 E. Spruce Court, Sturgeon Bay, WI

Ms. Bloch relies on taxicabs to take her to and from work; she has for the last 24 years and is very dependent on them. She has used all the companies. Ms. Bloch is a lifeguard at the YMCA, and needs to be there to open the pool at 4:30am. She needs to have a reliable taxicab

company so she can get to work on time. Ms. Bloch supports Nicole Warwick to open 1 Anytime Ride in Door County.

Ralph Hoffman: 11015 Cty. Y, Union, WI

Mr. Hoffman has driven taxi for one year for DC Cab. He cannot get to all the patrons who need rides in a timely matter because there are not enough vehicles. Mr. Hoffman stated the quality of the vehicles he has driven is poor. Mr. Hoffman believes that there should be better quality and service in this town. He supports Nicole Warwick and 1 Anytime Ride.

William Kamp: 3667 Cty. XC, Brussels, WI

Mr. Kamp supports another cab company coming in. He stated because of medication he is on, he takes a cab to and from work. Mr. Kamp pays \$80 to get to and from work with DC Cab; because of the hours of operation they were the only ones available. He says that is not feasible. He has a friend in the same situation. There's a conflict of not enough drivers and cabs on the road. Even though Ms. Warwick has been working to start her own company, she has always had DC Cab in her best interest. Mr. Kamp supports Nicole Warwick.

Rebecca Patza: 1832 Shiloh Road, Sturgeon Bay, WI

Ms. Patza worked at DC Cab for five month; she no longer works at DC Cab because of the way the vans run. On one occasion she was coming back from Green Bay and had a tire fall off her vehicle. A lug nut came off another van. Repairs do not get done. Ms. Warwick knows what to do; she keeps up on her things. Ms. Patza claims the vehicles smell like smoke; they won't with Ms. Warwick. Ms. Patza supports Nicole Warwick and would rather work for her.

Dawn Jacobi: 762 Georgia Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI

Ms. Jacobi claimed she gave her time for free to Mr. Heinke. She feels DC Cab is here for the money, not for the local community. She feels DC Cab rushes and only cares about the summer weather; and feels Ms. Warwick's company will be better all year round. She supports Nicole Warwick.

John Heinke: 215 Kings Way, Seymour, WI

Owner of DC Cab and 1 Awesome Cab. Mr. Heinke is not in support of Nicole Warwick and 1 Anytime Ride. In rebuttal, Mr. Heinke stated that 1 Awesome Cab/DC Cab, his company, started three years ago. His goal was to offer a service of a smoke free cab; still currently operates all smoke free cabs. Would like to address the issues/comments of previous speakers:

Initially, his rates were set high because they were based off Green Bay rates; as his taxicabs operate there as well. He brought the rates down to be comparable to the area; but he can still make a profit to stay in business. He competes against Door Tran who is subsidized by the government.

Mr. Heinke stated he came up to Door County with intentions of cleaning up and maintaining his taxicab vehicles. He came to set a standard. He claimed that Ms. Warwick, while managing the business, was instructed maintain the vehicles. He admitted his guilt in being an absentee

business owner, but he thought Ms. Warwick was doing what was needed. He had a daily maintenance schedule and checklist the drivers were to follow for safety.

Had to buy drivers “vapes” because they were upset they couldn’t smoke in the cabs. He thinks Ms. Warwick’s cabs will not be smoke free.

Ms. Warwick was instructed to hire drivers; but lost applicants because they witnessed her yell and scream at workers.

Ms. Warwick was also responsible for keeping the cabs clean. Car wash and vacuuming vehicles was supposed to happen daily; but she had excuses as to why they were not when he saw them dirty.

Mr. Heinke recently fired Ms. Warwick from his company. Since taking over dispatching the taxicabs, he stated he has not turned down anyone requesting rides. When people call, Mr. Heinke states his cabs are available.

He said the company has two cabs waiting to be put into rotation, but has not needed them.

Regarding Ms. Jacobi: she gave free rides until the company was licensed. He had to track her down when she took a cab out of town; and got it back with a broken tail light.

Mr. Heinke commented that those who are supporting Ms. Warwick don’t understand that she was their boss at DC Cab, and was responsible for what they are claiming was bad about the company.

A handout was then provided which he read out loud (see attached).

REBUTTAL

Mr. Wiesner stated that this is about opening a cab company; let’s keep personal issues out of it and keep things brief.

In regards to vehicle maintenance comments, Ms. Warwick stated she was instructed to not repair things. She said there was not money in the bank account as it was taken out and used to pay drivers in Green Bay and insurance.

Regarding smoking in the cabs: Ms. Warwick did address customers who wanted to smoke at told them it was not permitted. She did claim the workers were mad because they were not allowed cigarette breaks while on duty.

Ms. Warwick did give the phone number to those who made contact for service. Ms. Warwick did disconnect the company’s Charter box from her residence, as she was no longer employed. If the phones did have a problem over the weekend, she did pack up the cable boxes, modem

and other property with no malicious intent like she was stated to do. She would like Mr. Heinke to remove the items from her house.

Ms. Warwick does have a number of threatening text messages from Mr. Heinke to submit regarding his behavior after she was terminated.

Mr. Kamps once again spoke. He stated that on the day Ms. Warwick was fired, he witnessed a phone call between Ms. Warwick and Mr. Heinke; the reason Ms. Warwick was fired was because she terminated a cab driver that was putting his hands on female patrons. This driver is currently working for Mr. Heinke, even after he was fired by Ms. Warwick for his behavior. Also during this conversation Mr. Heinke fired Ms. Warwick because he heard she was starting her own company; Mr. Heinke told Ms. Warwick to pack her things as she was done. Lastly, Mr. Kamps wanted to make it known that the vehicle driven in Fish Creek is not properly maintained; one door does not open and it has an inoperable speedometer.

Ms. Jacobi once again spoke and said the county needs more drivers so it is not a monopoly with one cab company; there is a race to pick up patrons and it should not be that way.

Ms. Warwick made a final comment that each taxi vehicle is supposed to be registered and accounted for; Mr. Heinke's are not.

Mr. Heinke rebutted it was Ms. Warwick's job to register and account for the vehicles. Also, it is news to him regarding the vehicle in Fish Creek. Lastly, he believes Ms. Warwick is using his company to recruit and build her business.

A decision was made for the committee to close public hearing, and adjourn the meeting so members can review and discuss given testimony. The meeting will continue at another time for consideration of the 1 Anytime Ride to operate in the City of Sturgeon Bay.

Moved by Mr. Ireland, seconded by Mr. Wiesner to adjourn the meeting of the Community Protection Services Committee. All ayes. Carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Spude-Olson
Police Department
Administrative Office Manager