Committee Staff

Jeffrey Campagna, *Committee Counsel*

Pearl Moore, *Ethics Counsel*

Francesca DellaVecchia, *Director of Investigations*

Alycia Vasell*, Compliance Investigator*

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**



**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

**Jason A. Otaño, General Counsel**

**COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE**

**COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS**

**Hon. Keith Powers, Chairperson**

**May 25, 2023**

City Hall Chambers

New York, NY

**Preconsidered M. 150-2023** Communication from the Mayor - Submitting the name of

**Paul Bader** to the Council for its advice and consent regarding his appointment as a member of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, pursuant to Sections 31 and 2301 of the City Charter.

**Preconsidered M. 151-2023** Communication from the Mayor - Submitting the name of

**Thomas Sorrentino** to the Council for its advice and consent regarding his appointment as a member of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, pursuant to Sections 31 and 2301 of the City Charter.

**Preconsidered M. 149-2023** Communication from the Mayor - Submitting the name of

**Kenneth Chan** to the Council for its advice and consent regarding his appointment as a member of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, pursuant to Sections 31 and 2301 of the City Charter.

**Preconsidered M.\_152-2023** Communication from the Mayor - Submitting the name of

**Sarah Kaufman** to the Council for its advice and consent regarding her appointment as a member of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, pursuant to Sections 31 and 2301 of the City Charter.

**Topic I: New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission – (Candidates for appointment by the Mayor upon the advice and consent of the Council)**

* **Paul Bader [Preconsidered M-150]**
* **Thomas Sorrentino [Preconsidered M-151]**
* **Kenneth Chan [Preconsidered M-149]**
* **Sarah Kaufman [Preconsidered M-152]**

The TLC was created pursuant to Local Law 12 of 1971 in Chapter 65 of the Charter. Section 2300 of the *Charter* provides that there shall be a TLC, which shall have the purpose of further developing and improving the taxi and limousine service in the City. The purpose of the TLC shall also remain consistent with the promotion and protection of the public comfort and convenience, adopting and establishing an overall public transportation policy governing taxi, coach, limousine, and wheelchair accessible van services, as it relates to the overall public transportation network of the City. The TLC shall also be responsible for establishing certain rates, standards, and criteria for the licensing of vehicles, drivers, chauffeurs, owners, and operators engaged in such services. The TLC also authorizes individuals who wish to operate commuter van services within the City.

The TLC consists of nine members appointed by the Mayor, all subject to the advice and consent of the Council. Five of said members must be a resident from each of the five boroughs of the City, and are recommended for appointment by a majority vote of the Council Members from the respective borough. TLC members are appointed for seven year terms, and can serve until the appointment and qualification of a successor. Vacancies, other than those that occur due to an expiration of a term, shall be filled for the unexpired term. The mayor may remove any such member for cause, upon stated charges.

The mayor designates one TLC member to act as the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer. The Chairperson shall have be in-charge of the organization of his/her office, and possesses the authority to employ, assign, and superintend the duties of such officers and employees, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of Chapter 65 of the *Charter*. The *Charter* provides that the Chairperson shall devote his/her full time to this position and as such, the Chair will receive compensation that is set by the Mayor. The Chair currently receives an annual salary of $243,171.00. The other TLC members are not entitled to compensation.

 Pursuant to the *Charter*, all TLC proceedings and all documents and records in its possession, shall be public records. Furthermore, the TLC is required to make an annual report to the Council, on or before the second Monday of January, of every year, concerning information that consists of the following; complaints received by the commission from the public, including, but is not limited to, complaints of overcharging, as well as enforcement actions undertaken by the commission, whether the enforcement action was dismissed or settled, or if a penalty was imposed by the commission on the subject of the enforcement action. The information regarding enforcement actions shall also include, but is not limited to; enforcement action relating to illegal street hails, unlicensed vehicles, overcharging, and toll lane infractions.

If Mr. Bader, a resident of the borough of Queens, is appointed as a member of the TLC by the Mayor, he will serve the remainder of a seven-year term that will expire on January 31, 2029. Pursuant to Section 2301 of the Charter, Mr. Bader’s nomination was recommended by a majority vote of the Council Members representing the borough of Queens.

If Mr. Sorrentino, a resident of the borough of Brooklyn, is appointed as a member of the TLC by the Mayor, he will serve the remainder of a seven-year term that will expire on January 31, 2029. Pursuant to Section 2301 of the Charter, Mr. Sorrentino’s nomination was recommended by a majority vote of the Council Members representing the borough of Brooklyn.

If Mr. Chan, a resident of the borough of Brooklyn, is appointed as a member of the TLC by the Mayor, he will serve the remainder of a seven-year term that will expire on January 31, 2024.

If Ms. Kaufman, a resident of the borough of Manhattan, is appointed as a member of the TLC by the Mayor, she will serve the remainder of a seven-year term that will expire on January 31, 2026.

A hearing was held on these nominations on May 8, 2023.