

In Re Commission Hearing NYC - Taxi & Limousine Commission
January 11, 2023

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NEW YORK CITY
TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
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January 11, 2023
10:04 a.m.

Held Remotely
via Zoom

B E F O R E:
SHERRYL ELUTO, General Counsel

Board of Commissioners:
CHAIR DAVID DO
ELISA VELASQUEZ
BILL AGUADO
THOMAS SORRENTINO
KENNETH MITCHELL

Julia M. Speros
Court Reporter

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PROCEEDINGS

MS. SCOTT: Good morning. Today's Public Hearing is about to begin.

This hearing is being conducted remotely, via Zoom, and is being simulcasted to the TLC's website, live stream, and Facebook accounts. All persons wishing to testify were asked to sign-up in advance of the hearing.

All registered speakers are joining the meeting via Zoom. If you're speaking today, your audio and video were automatically muted.

When your name is called, the moderator will activate your account and you will have control of your camera and microphone. When ready, please state your name and affiliation, and then proceed with your testimony.

Public testimony will be limited to three minutes per speaker. Any additional comments may be submitted in writing to the Commission. When your testimony is complete, your audio and video will be muted by the moderator.

1 A special note for our registered
2 speakers:

3 Please ensure that your display name
4 in the Zoom meeting matches the name
5 that you used when you signed up to
6 speak. This will enable the moderator
7 to confirm that you are present in the
8 meeting.

9 Closed captioning is available for
10 today's meeting. Consecutive
11 interpretation is also available.
12 During the sign-up process, individuals
13 were asked if they require language
14 assistance. A Spanish interpreter and a
15 Chinese Mandarin interpreter have been
16 made available.

17 If you are using an interpreter,
18 when your name is called, please speak
19 and the interpreter will repeat your
20 testimony in English.

21 Thank you for your attention.
22 Please hold until we are ready to begin.

23 We will repeat this message in
24 Spanish and Chinese Mandarin.

25 Spanish Interpreter, please go

1 ahead.

2 (Message repeated in Spanish.)

3 MS. SCOTT: Thank you, Spanish
4 Interpreter.

5 Chinese Mandarin Interpreter, please
6 go ahead.

7 (Message repeated in Chinese
8 Mandarin.)

9 MS. SCOTT: Thank you to our Chinese
10 Mandarin interpreter.

11 I will now yield the floor to our
12 Commissioner and Chair, David Do.

13 Chair Do: Great. Well, good
14 morning, everyone and I want to first
15 thank our fellow Commissioners for
16 joining us this morning, including
17 Commissioner Mitchell, Commissioner
18 Aguado, Commissioner Sorrentino, and
19 Commissioner Velasquez.

20 I also want to thank our TLC team
21 members who make this public run very
22 smoothly and they're also listening in
23 and taking ample notes for us to review
24 in a little bit.

25 Before we officially begin, I also

1 want to thank Commissioner Kest for
2 serving on this Commission since 2018.
3 Recently, he has moved into a sabbatical
4 and so he has left a strong commitment
5 to this industry and a strong legacy
6 within the TLC.

7 So, I thank him for his service.

8 Next, I want to talk a little bit
9 about the lawsuit that has recently
10 transpired, and I want to reassure our
11 Uber and Lyft drivers that despite last
12 week's court ruling blocking the new
13 minimum pay standard, we're continuing
14 our efforts to enact this important
15 standard.

16 And when the judge released his
17 written ruling yesterday, it made clear
18 that this was just a technical delay and
19 not a defeat, and we're considering all
20 of our options and will be deciding our
21 next steps soon and we'll let the
22 community know very soon. The question
23 is not if we will continue to push and
24 fight this, but how we do it.

25 And so now I would like to take the

1 opportunity to go into the purpose of
2 this meeting today, is to listen to you
3 -- all of you at our two public
4 hearings.

5 The first public hearing will be on
6 the proposed amendment on our Medallion
7 Relief Program rules.

8 The rule is to change the
9 eligibility of the Medallion Relief
10 Program so that medallions (sic) with
11 six or fewer medallions can participate
12 in the program. The current rule lays
13 out that five or fewer can participate.

14 And before we get into that, I also
15 want to give everyone an update on the
16 MRP+ program.

17 We have refinanced over 1,700 loans
18 and forgiven over \$300,000,040 worth of
19 debt. Medallion owners can still
20 participate in this program and the
21 deadline to sign-up with the ODRC is
22 next week, January 17th. And to
23 participate, please email
24 driversupport@tlc.nyc.gov. Again,
25 that's drivers --

1 driversupport@tlc.nyc.gov.

2 You can also reach out to the
3 owner-driver resource center through
4 phone at 718-391-5511. Again, that's
5 718-391-5511 or email
6 driversupport@tlc.nyc.gov.

7 The second public hearing is on the
8 rule to issue up to 1,000 new for-hire
9 vehicle licenses to battery electric
10 vehicles only.

11 Up to 400 will be available on a
12 first come, first served basis to anyone
13 who meets the license criteria. So,
14 that's anyone -- all right -- and -- and
15 then there is 600 that will be
16 restricted to individual drivers.

17 These individual non-transferable
18 licenses will provide drivers leasing
19 their vehicles an opportunity to own
20 their vehicles.

21 Today, it is a public hearing to
22 hear from all of you, but we will not be
23 voting on these two rules today. The
24 soonest that these rules could be
25 adopted by the Commission is at the next

1 scheduled meeting on January 25th.

2 If and when the electric vehicle
3 license rules is passed, we will release
4 an industry notice detailing the
5 application process for these licenses.
6 We will also publicize the process
7 through social media and our website.

8 If you're considering a purchase of
9 an EV as a result of the pending rule,
10 please, please, please -- this is very
11 important -- wait until the TLC
12 announces the application process. Do
13 not buy your vehicle yet.

14 And at this point, I'll now hand it
15 over to our general counsel, Sherryl
16 Eluto, to become the first public
17 hearing on the proposed changes to the
18 MRP+ program.

19 Sherryl.

20 MS. ELUTO: Good morning. When I
21 call your name, you can un-mute your
22 microphone and begin your testimony.

23 Each speaker will be allotted three
24 minutes to speak. The time limit will
25 be strictly enforced. A 30 second

1 warning will be provided and then you
2 will need to conclude your testimony
3 when your time limit is up.

4 The video of this hearing and copies
5 of all written comments will be provided
6 to the Commissioners prior to the vote
7 on these rules at the next Commission
8 meeting.

9 And with that, we will begin our
10 public hearing and I will call on our
11 first speaker.

12 First speaker is Mohammed Tajol
13 Islam.

14 SPEAKER: Hi. Good morning. My
15 name is MD Islam. I'm owner of
16 (indiscernible) LLC. My medallion is
17 (indiscernible).

18 I bought this medallion in 2014 for
19 \$807,000. So, I protect two lines from
20 (indiscernible) -- and that's from
21 Barcelona -- (indiscernible).

22 My loan, (indiscernible), \$567,000
23 right now and Barcelona, 138,000. And
24 right now, (indiscernible) is not
25 allowing me for -- to do the MRP because

1 I have a second loan.

2 I'm a driver-owner. I'm driving for
3 27 years. These (indiscernible) were
4 created for drivers like me. If you're
5 allowing up to six medallions for
6 businessmen, please make some rule for
7 two loans.

8 This is a lot -- there is a lot of
9 drivers like me that are with two loans.
10 Since you are able to take care of owner
11 with up to six medallions, I'm kindly
12 asking you to include driver-owner like
13 me that have two loans.

14 That's all I have to say. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. ELUTO: All right. Thank you
17 for your comments.

18 Our next speaker is Shamay Albachafi
19 (phonetic).

20 (No response.)

21 MS. SCOTT: Actually, our next
22 speaker will be Peter Mazer.

23 MS. ELUTO: Okay. Mr. Mazer.

24 SPEAKER: I'm here.

25 Okay. Good morning, Chairperson Do

1 and members of the Commission.

2 My name is Peter Mazer, general
3 counsel to the Metropolitan Taxicab
4 Board of Trade, a 70-year-old
5 association representing owners and
6 operators of licensed medallion
7 taxicabs.

8 The Medallion Relief Program has
9 helped many small business owners
10 restructure their medallion loan debt.
11 Today, the TLC is proposing a change in
12 the eligibility requirements.

13 We support the TLC's proposal to now
14 include owners of up to six medallions
15 in the program. We also urge the
16 Commission --

17 (Disruption in transmission.)

18 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Mazer, you're muted.

19 SPEAKER: Oh, I see. Okay -- great.
20 Let me pick up where I left --

21 Today, the TLC is proposing a change
22 in the eligibility requirements. We
23 support the TLC's proposal to now
24 include owners of up to six medallions
25 in the program.

1 We also urge the Commission to take
2 additional steps to keep this program
3 open so that more borrowers can
4 participate and additional lenders can
5 consider the advantages of participating
6 in this program. We would further
7 encourage the Commission to allow any
8 medallion owner to participate,
9 irrespective of the number of medallions
10 they may own.

11 Every medallion owner faces an
12 ongoing financial crisis, whether they
13 own one medallion or some greater
14 number.

15 The medallion taxicab industry has
16 not recovered from the pandemic.
17 Thousands of medallions -- cabs remain
18 off the road due to a lack of available
19 drivers, the unavailability of vehicle
20 financing, or economic uncertainty. No
21 medallion owner who would otherwise
22 qualify for participation in the
23 Medallion Relief Program should be left
24 behind simply because they have an
25 ownership interest in more than six

1 medallions.

2 We urge the Commission to open the
3 program to any medallion owner in need
4 of debt relief and to keep the program
5 open as long as there remains a need for
6 the program and resources are available.

7 Thank you for your time and
8 consideration, and I would be happy to
9 answer any questions you may have.

10 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
11 comments and that concludes our first
12 public hearing.

13 We will now begin our second public
14 hearing on FHV electric vehicle licenses
15 for individuals.

16 Our first speaker is Bhairavi Desai.
17 (No response.)

18 MS. ELUTO: Okay. I don't see --
19 apparently we're having tech issues.

20 All right. Mr. Mazer, we're going
21 to go back to you cause you're our
22 second speaker --

23 SPEAKER: Oh --

24 MS. ELUTO: -- so good you're still
25 on.

1 SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you. You can
2 hear me, right?

3 MS. ELUTO: Yes.

4 SPEAKER: Good morning again. My
5 name is Peter Mazer, general counsel to
6 the Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade.

7 The TLC is now considering
8 modifications to the cap on the issuance
9 of new for-hire vehicle permits by
10 allowing an additional 1,000 new FHV
11 permits to be issued, as long as the
12 vehicles attach these permits on
13 electric vehicles.

14 As of December 30, 2022, there were
15 74,396 permits issued to vehicles
16 affiliated with Uber and Lyft, and
17 another 19,000 for-hire vehicle permits
18 issued to cars affiliated with livery
19 and black car bases.

20 At a time when the City and state
21 are planning to address congestion in
22 the central business district through a
23 tolling system, one may wonder why
24 adding an additional 1,000 for-hire
25 vehicles on our already crowded streets

1 is necessary. It is not clear from the
2 statement of basis and purpose that the
3 TLC has considered the need for
4 additional for-hire vehicles to be
5 placed in service.

6 The medallion industry supports the
7 goals of the City and state to promote
8 the use of electric vehicles. Medallion
9 fleet owners would be willing to
10 incorporate electric vehicles into their
11 fleets if certain hurdles could be
12 overcome.

13 First, the cost of the vehicle and
14 the lack of financing available to most
15 medallion owners needs to be addressed.
16 Medallion owners and operators simply
17 cannot afford the burden of purchasing
18 new expensive vehicles. A program to
19 provide incentives to support the
20 purchase of electric vehicles would be
21 helpful in this regard.

22 Second, the problem of available
23 infrastructure must be addressed.
24 Significant incentives must be
25 undertaken to increase the number of

1 charging stations available to taxis. A
2 vastly increased electric fleet would
3 require both substantially more charging
4 stations, as well as more facilities to
5 repair and maintain electric vehicles.

6 The yellow cab industry is excited
7 to partner with the City and will work
8 side by side to make an increased
9 electric vehicle fleet a reality. We
10 share the goals of the City to promote a
11 cleaner environment and healthier City.

12 To this end, we believe a better
13 approach would be to work with existing
14 licensees, both in the taxicab and in
15 the for-hire industries, to meet these
16 goals by replacing existing vehicles
17 with electric cars, accomplishing the
18 City's goals without increasing traffic
19 congestion.

20 Thank you again for your time and
21 consideration, and I would be happy to
22 answer any questions you may have.

23 MS. ELUTO: Thank you Mr. Mazer.

24 Our next speaker is Andrew
25 Greenblatt.

1 SPEAKER: Good morning. My name is
2 Andrew Greenblatt and I'm the Policy
3 Director of the Independent Drivers
4 Guild. Thank you for this opportunity
5 to testify before you today regarding
6 the proposed creation of 1,000 licenses
7 for electric vehicles.

8 The Independent Drivers Guild is a
9 nonprofit affiliate of the International
10 Association of Machinists and Aerospace
11 Workers, and our organization represents
12 over 100,000 for-hire vehicle drivers in
13 New York State.

14 We thank the TLC again for listening
15 to drivers' concerns. IDG has always
16 maintained that an important piece of a
17 stable and thriving FHV industry is for
18 drivers to be able to own their own
19 vehicles with TLC licenses.

20 The current cap on licenses has
21 created a shortage forcing many drivers
22 to lease vehicles. This means that
23 firms that lease these vehicles are able
24 to take a cut of drivers' pay while
25 keeping them from building any equity in

1 their own cars. There is a better way
2 and this proposal would be an important
3 first step.

4 To empower drivers and help
5 stabilize these workers and their
6 family, all 1,000 new FHV licenses for
7 electric battery vehicles should first
8 be offered to existing individual
9 drivers. Preference should be given to
10 drivers who are currently leasing and
11 distributed on a seniority basis.

12 Why is this number limited to 600 in
13 the current proposal and why give any
14 applicant the ability to own up to 400
15 more TLC licenses on a first come, first
16 served basis?

17 In the unlikely event that 1,000
18 drivers don't step forward, the TLC
19 could then offer remaining licenses to
20 others. Who gets these licenses is no
21 small matter.

22 The Drivers Guild research has found
23 that FHV drivers who rent their vehicles
24 incur \$10,000 per year more in expenses
25 than those who own their own cars and

1 licenses. That could be the difference
2 between missed rent payments and a
3 stable home; between earning a living
4 wage and desperation.

5 Electric vehicles are also cheaper
6 to operate. Fuel costs and repairs
7 could be as much as 40 percent lower for
8 these workers. Electric vehicles are
9 the future and drivers should be the
10 first ones to have access to that
11 future.

12 Should the TLC want to encourage the
13 rest of the FHV industry to jump on the
14 electric bandwagon, we would encourage
15 the TLC to offer lower fees for electric
16 vehicle licenses.

17 Thank you all for your hard work and
18 for giving us time to discuss this
19 matter with you.

20 MS. ELUTO: Thank you -- thank you
21 for your comments.

22 Our next speaker is Cira Angeles --
23 except I don't see her -- oh.

24 SPEAKER: Good morning,
25 Commissioners. My name is Cira Angeles,

1 a spokesperson for the Livery Base
2 Owners Association.

3 Today's testimony is in opposition
4 to the TLC rules presented today.

5 If adopted, these rules will only
6 further injure the livery sector, which
7 has been in a prolonged state of
8 emergency since 2018. With this rule,
9 TLC has once again missed an opportunity
10 to support the immigrant owned small
11 mom-and-pop businesses we represent.

12 First, livery opposes the
13 restriction that reserves all 1,000
14 licenses created by this rule to
15 electric vehicles. While we support the
16 transition to EVs on our City roads, the
17 inaccessible cost in maintenance for EVs
18 for our drivers creates an absolutely --
19 with absolutely zero charging station in
20 the outer boroughs, creates an
21 unrealistic pathway.

22 We need for nonelectric vehicles or
23 hybrids to be considered also.

24 Second, in the manner in which these
25 new licenses are disbursed does nothing

1 to address the massive need for new
2 licenses for the livery sector. We have
3 experienced almost 80 percent decline.

4 Reserving 600 individual licenses
5 for EVs that our drivers cannot afford
6 to own, maintain, or charge -- another
7 400 on a first come, first served basis
8 -- can only allow corporate entities
9 that can go and buy up to 400, and then
10 the rest that our drivers cannot afford
11 -- and work in the central business
12 district in congested zones -- further
13 hurting our industry.

14 As is, this rule will fail to bring
15 the green revolution to the outer
16 boroughs as that purport to do.

17 Third, we believe an annual review
18 license ignores the extreme emergency of
19 the need for more licenses for the
20 livery sector.

21 In 2015, we -- the TLC reported over
22 21,000 licenses in the livery sector.
23 Today, as per your report of 2022, we
24 only have over 3,900. We've lost out of
25 494 bases, 238 businesses that had to

1 close their doors under the TLC's watch.

2 We urge the Commission to keep the
3 six-month review for licenses, as they
4 were created by City Council in 2018, to
5 keep a close watch as to the side
6 effects of this one-size-fits-all
7 policy.

8 Lastly, we reject the TLC plan to
9 cease issuing licenses to drivers with a
10 long-term lease in effect prior to 2018
11 with --

12 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

13 SPEAKER: -- a lease to buy option.
14 The City Council group was created to
15 assist our drivers.

16 We would like to work -- we are
17 willing to work with the TLC, but to
18 continue moving forward, we cannot have
19 all the debt stacked against us. We
20 have survived the pandemic and its
21 economic decline and still manage to
22 serve our communities.

23 We are asking for the TLC to be our
24 partner in supporting our sector, our
25 drivers, and the passengers that we

1 transport in New York City. We hope
2 future proposed rules --

3 TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.

4 SPEAKER: -- take our industry into
5 consideration.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Michele Dottin.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. ELUTO: Ms. Dottin, un-mute your
11 mic -- okay.

12 SPEAKER: Good morning, Commissioner
13 Do and Commissioners. Happy New Year to
14 you. We're starting off with a bang, I
15 see.

16 With regard to the 1,000 BEV plates
17 -- you're proposing the issue -- I'm
18 kindly asking that you put a portion of
19 those to drivers who have been leasing
20 and renting before the moratorium set in
21 -- who have spent about 65 to \$108,000
22 on those vehicles, who now cannot do
23 anything with them and is forced to
24 continue renting, as well if they chose
25 to stay with those plates, have to pay

1 the leasing companies for the insurance
2 in order to continue to operate.

3 It is totally unfair. Those
4 drivers, unfortunately when they signed
5 those contracts, did not realize that
6 those plates did not come with the car
7 and I think turning around those plates
8 continues to add more cars through the
9 leasing system instead of keeping
10 numbers at a lower pace -- those plates
11 to the drivers who earned it.

12 Spending \$108,000 for a Camry that's
13 20,000 is ridiculous, right? So, again,
14 we're taking food from the families --
15 we're taking food from their mouths. We
16 can actually put some of those plates to
17 those drivers who surely earn it or take
18 the ability from the leasing company to
19 continue reusing -- recycling those
20 plates -- and give it to the drivers who
21 have earned it, as well as the EVs.

22 The first preference should go to
23 those driver -- those grandfathered
24 drivers who have been in this system
25 before 2018. They should have a

1 preference. All 1,000 should go to the
2 drivers.

3 We need to continue showing that you
4 have given us drivers -- FHV drivers --
5 concern over their income. They're
6 suffering with all of these fees that
7 they have to pay.

8 All of these, you know, companies
9 that know and come and predatory (sic),
10 and exploit these drivers, we need to
11 show that these 1,000 should go to
12 drivers both first who have been leasing
13 and renting, and then to new requests
14 because they can't afford to get a new
15 car right now. They're already paid an
16 exorbitant amount on that.

17 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

18 SPEAKER: At IDG -- Independent
19 Drivers Guild -- we fight for the rights
20 of these drivers and we continue to
21 fight.

22 We're asking that this is something
23 that's very important to the drivers and
24 it will show that you care about their
25 individual earnings -- that they keep

1 the money in their pocket and now can
2 utilize those cars that they paid so
3 much money for.

4 Thank you, Commissioners. Please,
5 please, please think about the drivers
6 first. Have a great day.

7 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Adalisa Paeto
9 (phonetic.)

10 Ms. Paeto -- yes -- okay.

11 SPEAKER: Good morning -- good
12 morning, Commissioners. Thank you for
13 this opportunity.

14 My name is Adalisa Paeto --
15 (indiscernible) -- Taxi Union Drivers of
16 New York. We are pleased that the
17 plates are being released for drivers.

18 I had a meeting with Commissioner Do
19 last year about this point, but our
20 concern is that we have so many drivers
21 that are struggling, paying leasing for
22 plates that they should've gotten if
23 this rule was not in effect.

24 Our main concern is that the drivers
25 that have those issues and that are

1 paying -- they're leasing leading and
2 being overcharged by these leasing
3 companies -- should be taken into
4 consideration when it comes to the plate
5 release.

6 We understand that we want to help
7 our environment and we want to move
8 forward into electric cars, so in the
9 future, and future years, we have more
10 electric cars on the road, so that will
11 help our environment.

12 But right now, we have thousands of
13 drivers struggling with this issue that
14 they are either overpaying the leasing
15 companies because they're not allowed to
16 have plates or they have a car parked in
17 the garage and paying for that garage,
18 and then at the same time, they are
19 renting a car from outside in order to
20 work.

21 So, we urge the Commissioner to work
22 with these drivers first to see how can
23 we solve their issues to help the
24 industry and to help them, and then move
25 forward into seeing if there's any

1 possibility for those drivers -- or even
2 those that are willing to -- going into
3 the EV plates will take care of the
4 drivers that are struggling right now
5 because it's hurting them.

6 It's hurting their family with this
7 economic crisis that we have right now.
8 It will be really a good help for them
9 to be able to bring more earnings to
10 their home instead of giving most of
11 their earnings to the leasing companies
12 and the companies that are renting cars
13 when they have one that is not being
14 able to be used.

15 Like I said, we are happy about the
16 plate release. We just want the
17 Commissioners to think about those
18 drivers that --

19 TIMEKEEPERS: 30 seconds remaining.

20 SPEAKER: -- have been struggling --
21 that have been struggling with the plate
22 issues for so long and try to work out
23 with them before releasing the EV plait
24 plates to other drivers.

25 And thank you very much and have a

1 good day.

2 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker is Ron Gil.

4 SPEAKER: Hello, Commissioners.

5 Good morning. Thank you for taking the
6 time out to have this hearing.

7 I'm just speaking in regards to the
8 luxury limousine sector since that's the
9 part that I belong in.

10 In my opinion, first of all, I think
11 it's great that the TLC is allowing
12 drivers to get their own plates with
13 electric vehicles. However, as an owner
14 of a luxury limousine base, we cater
15 towards a certain type of traveler.

16 One of those needs that they have
17 tends to be that they want larger
18 vehicles, such as an Escalade, whether
19 it's for business or pleasure.

20 Currently, in the market, there's
21 really no substitution for electric
22 vehicles such as an Escalade, so,
23 therefore, in regards to the pause, I
24 feel that the luxury limousine bases
25 should be allowed to, you know, buy

1 these kind of vehicles -- the Escalades
2 that are still fuel combustion
3 engines -- until a suitable replacement
4 is out on the market.

5 I'm not sure if you guys are aware,
6 but there's only about 1,600 plates that
7 are registered to the TLC luxury
8 limousines and that's only about two
9 percent -- not even two percent of the
10 110,000 plates that are currently on the
11 road.

12 We're a very small sector, which is
13 comprised purely of small bases. Most
14 of these bases have 20 cars or less, and
15 not all of them are affiliated with --
16 are owned by the bases. They're -- you
17 know, they use independent contractors.

18 With the pause, it has been very
19 difficult to grow our businesses and it
20 still continues to be a challenge to
21 this day.

22 While I think it's great that, you
23 know, the EV -- you know, we're able to
24 get electric vehicles back on the road,
25 I ask that the TLC reconsider our sector

1 as, you know, we don't have that pause
2 so that we can actually be able to grow
3 our businesses.

4 We're not going to scale our
5 companies to, you know, have 50,000 cars
6 on the road. You know, one or two
7 vehicles a year will make a big
8 difference in me being able to grow my
9 business.

10 In short, while I do think that the
11 electric is the future, at the current
12 time, I do urge that the TLC reconsider
13 that we do get a chance to buy, you
14 know, our permits for fuel combustion
15 engines, whether it's through an
16 allotment of say, you know, a car or two
17 a year -- a plate or two a year.

18 But, again, we're a very small
19 sector. We don't -- we're not looking
20 to, you know, crowd the roads. We're
21 not looking to grow our businesses to be
22 the next Uber or Lyft --

23 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

24 SPEAKER: -- and we just want to,
25 you know, be able to contribute to our

1 communities.

2 We -- you know, companies such as
3 mine does take care -- you know, we do
4 compensate our chauffeurs very well. We
5 also pay for all the expenses. They
6 don't -- you know, they don't pay for
7 any fuel, tolls, repairs.

8 So, again, it's just a small sector
9 that I'm basically just putting it out
10 there and I guess that's pretty much it.
11 So, thank you so much for your time.

12 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker is Astarling
14 Martinez (phonetic) and we need the
15 Spanish interpreter.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Martinez, un-mute
18 your mic.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. ELUTO: Interpreter, maybe you
21 can tell Mr. Martinez to un-mute his
22 microphone.

23 SPEAKER: I would rather not give an
24 opinion. I just would want to listen.

25 MS. ELUTO: Oh, okay. It took me a

1 second to figure out -- okay.

2 All right. Thank you then. So, no
3 comments?

4 SPEAKER: No, I don't have any
5 comments.

6 MS. ELUTO: Okay. Thank you, sir.
7 Yes, you can listen to the whole
8 hearing.

9 Our next speaker then is Tenzen
10 Delek (phonetic).

11 (No response.)

12 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Delek, you can
13 un-mute your microphone.

14 SPEAKER: Hello, everyone. This is
15 Tenzen Delek speaking. I'm currently an
16 Uber/Lyft driver, so I'm renting from
17 the -- renting from (indiscernible).

18 Currently, my weekly payment is 500.
19 Now, it's -- the car is very old and it
20 is also, I have to like maintain lot of
21 things and also I have to feed my family
22 weekly.

23 This is -- like, I don't even make
24 like -- just pay for the car. I don't
25 put any money on my (indiscernible) -- I

1 do without -- without my plate.

2 So, I want to -- TLC, please, I
3 understand for the drivers to give a new
4 plate and that's my own hope to get a
5 plate. That's all I want to say.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Gabriel
9 Hernandez.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Hernandez, un-mute
12 your mic.

13 SPEAKER: Hello, can you hear me?

14 MS. ELUTO: Yes -- yes, we can hear
15 you.

16 SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

17 All right. Hello, everyone. My
18 name is Gabriel Hernandez and I'm here
19 to share my testimony.

20 I believe that allowing new TLC
21 plate vehicle will not create more
22 congestion on the street on New York --
23 five boroughs. The amount of drivers
24 are the same whether they rent or buy.
25 Newer electric cars driven by the

1 drivers also means safer cars on the
2 road than the ones rented at the garage.

3 Everyone who doesn't have a TLC
4 plate should be eligible for at least
5 one. Renting weekly is very expensive
6 and hard to get by. When drivers have a
7 plate, they can work less to make more.
8 That also means less drivers that are
9 tired on the road as well.

10 When drivers work less to earn more,
11 it also means less stressed drivers on
12 the road, which means drivers can have
13 happier family life as well -- things
14 that are made complicated because of the
15 rental corporations taking advantage of
16 drivers during a desperate situation.

17 If this justice is made, it would
18 not only change the life of the driver
19 and their family, but it's very good for
20 the community of New York having newer
21 cars on the road as well. Less drivers
22 will be on the road cause they won't
23 have to work or sleep in their cars to
24 make ends meet, which will also help the
25 congestion.

1 All the drivers are working all the
2 time. That creates more congestion. If
3 you spend less time on the road, you
4 will make enough, right -- not like
5 these 24/7 rental companies. They're
6 like a mafia. It's a monopoly. They
7 don't have any growth for the drivers.
8 It just seems like a modern-day slavery.

9 That's what I have to say. Thank
10 you for your time, guys.

11 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

12 Our next speaker is Gurpal Singh.

13 SPEAKER: Hey, everyone and my name
14 is Gurpal Singh. I am an Uber and Lyft
15 driver, so I am happy to hear -- to open
16 FHV license.

17 So, I was apply FHV license 2018 and
18 I got denied because of that car
19 dealership. So, then it's hard to pay
20 rent for car and I keep paying rent
21 since 2016.

22 So, I hope that the TLC review all
23 application who got denied when this
24 happened in 2018. So, then -- and give
25 driver opportunity to have their own car

1 and own plates.

2 So, that's all I say. Thank you.

3 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
4 comments.

5 Next up is Alasin Ali (phonetic).

6 (No response.)

7 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Ali, if you can
8 un-mute your mic -- okay.

9 SPEAKER: Okay. Good morning. I'm
10 from Brooklyn. I'm one of the TLC
11 driver since 2007.

12 I had a TLC plate, but unfortunately
13 I surrender my plate 2018. So, now I am
14 eager to get one of the TLC plate on the
15 new electric car so that I can maintain
16 my family. Thank you.

17 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker is Rashan Jacody
19 (phonetic).

20 (No response.)

21 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Jacody, if you could
22 un-mute your mic, you can begin.

23 (No response.)

24 MS. ELUTO: Sir, you have to un-mute
25 your microphone.

1 (No response.)

2 MS. ELUTO: All right. We're going
3 to go onto the next speaker -- wait, no
4 -- there it goes.

5 You're un-muted -- great.

6 SPEAKER: Hi -- (indiscernible).

7 MS. ELUTO: Good morning.

8 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Rashan
9 Jacody.

10 MS. ELUTO: Yes.

11 SPEAKER: I bought a Tesla Model 3
12 car. Before I bought the car, I
13 (indiscernible) for the TLC. They said
14 we're allowed to buy the Tesla Model C
15 car. I bought it, but the Tesla Model 3
16 car.

17 So, after I tried to register the
18 TLC plate, but it not registered. So,
19 I'm now excited for, like, the three
20 months of waiting for TLC plate. So,
21 now I'm very happy for that, we have
22 opportunity for the 1,000 car
23 registered.

24 So, I would like to drive for TLC
25 with Tesla. Thank you.

1 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

2 Our next speaker is Gertab Singh
3 (phonetic).

4 Mr. Singh.

5 SPEAKER: Yes, hello?

6 MS. ELUTO: Yes, hello. We can hear
7 you.

8 SPEAKER: Thank you so much for
9 giving some time to testimony.

10 I am a long-time driver with the TLC
11 driving a really long time -- over two
12 decades. I have my own medallion too,
13 which we lost during the COVID.

14 I urge the Commission, please
15 consider this for driver-owner drivers
16 who don't have enough access right now
17 to get the plates. So, you know, we
18 really, really need license plates to
19 drive the TLC and earn enough money.
20 That's my request.

21 Just please consider, like, driver
22 -- long-time -- they can get the license
23 plates. Thank you.

24 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

25 Our next speaker is Daniel Gavalanos

1 (phonetic).

2 (No response.)

3 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Gavalanos, you can
4 un-mute your mic.

5 SPEAKER: Good morning, all.

6 MS. ELUTO: Good morning.

7 SPEAKER: My name is Daniel
8 Gavalanos. I'm an Uber driver.

9 I know that we need to go green.
10 That's why we need the electric cars.
11 1,000 license plates is not enough. You
12 mentioned congestion -- too many cars.

13 All we need to do is transition.
14 That's all we're doing. We're not
15 adding new drivers. We just doing the
16 transition for the people who are
17 leasing cars and renting cars. That's
18 all we're doing. There's not going to
19 be more congestion just because you're
20 going to issue a new license.

21 So, I ask TLC to work with us. I am
22 hoping that they are on our side, not on
23 the other side because 1,000 -- if you
24 look back, you mentioned that you issued
25 20,000 plates, 70,000 plates. What is

1 1,000 plates a year to give to a driver?
2 I mean, that's -- that's ridiculous
3 cause we're over here suffering.

4 I -- I used to make 100,000 a year.
5 I lost my job so I decided to drive,
6 chose to make peanuts when we can make a
7 decent amount of money to support a
8 family, to pay our rent. Just leasing a
9 car, it costs me almost \$80,000. I pay
10 off the car. Now, I have to lease the
11 plates. It's nonsense.

12 Either TLC give us the plates or
13 make the leasing company give us the
14 plate. I mean, TLC have to look at
15 those numbers and they need to see
16 what's going on with the drivers'
17 renting, leasing the cars and see if we
18 deserve those plates.

19 Just because you're making a
20 decision based on congestion and you're
21 holding back, you know, people to --
22 drivers to move on and to have a better
23 life, and you're keeping the minority
24 people down instead of bringing them up.

25 So, how many -- how many licenses

1 have we issued back in the days and
2 never had a problem? Now, just because
3 you're going to issue 1,000 plates,
4 you're going to have congestion?

5 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

6 SPEAKER: It doesn't make no sense.

7 So, I suggest that please, TLC,
8 issue plates as it comes, not once a
9 year. Thank you.

10 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

11 Our next speaker is Gerable Zuhar
12 (phonetic).

13 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Gerable
14 Zuhar. I've been driving for Lyft and
15 Uber since 2018 and I've been renting
16 since 2018.

17 The costs are a lot because you
18 spend a lot of money just to rent a car.
19 I think every driver have a right to get
20 plate because I said -- like I said
21 previous, the cost are a lot of you
22 can't make, like, money.

23 I think creating new plates
24 doesn't -- doesn't -- doesn't cause a
25 congestion because it's just simply

1 equal because those people, when they
2 own their own plates, they will not rent
3 cars. So, it's the same.

4 So, those cars, they will stay by
5 their companies -- I mean, the renting
6 companies, so those driver, when they
7 have their own cars, they will not rent.
8 So, it's the same.

9 It's the same and it's -- it's more
10 convenient because they will not spend a
11 lot of times on the roads because when
12 you rent the car, you will spend more
13 times driving because you just want to
14 fight to make some -- some money because
15 the rents are expensive.

16 When you own the plates, you will
17 drive less and you will make more money
18 and you will be less stressed. You will
19 be happy with your family -- a lot of
20 positive things.

21 So, I think every driver have the
22 right to get plate and some drivers,
23 they work partial (sic) time but some
24 drivers, they work more, I think -- the
25 same. This is -- I hope they will

1 release more plates for drivers who are
2 renting cars and those companies, they
3 are -- like they take advantage. They
4 steal money. A lot of stories with
5 those companies, drivers, they know what
6 I'm saying.

7 Yeah, so please, like, release more
8 plates for those people. Thank you.

9 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker is Guseyn
11 Ishankuliyev. I'm sorry, I probably
12 messed that up.

13 SPEAKER: No, that's good.

14 MS. ELUTO: Oh, okay.

15 SPEAKER: Thank you guys for
16 allowing me to speak. It's such an
17 honor.

18 So, I am a basketball trainer by my
19 (indiscernible). I train, coach kids of
20 different ages, levels. But in my free
21 time, I do Uber and Lyft, which is on
22 average, 40 to 60 hours a week and I'm
23 renting a car obviously, so I can't
24 really -- you know, I don't have my own
25 plates.

1 I rent a car from the company --
2 like Tower -- and just the basic math, I
3 have to -- my costs per week is \$1,000
4 and I make, like, 1,300 or 400 -- like
5 these days, which if you think about,
6 spending 40 to 50 hours, is kind of too
7 much I guess. Even you, you can think
8 about it.

9 And that's the only thing I was
10 going to say, is just I do it on my
11 part-time -- on my free time, but that
12 would be a good opportunity for somebody
13 like me who wants to be a stable member
14 of society -- make money, pay taxes,
15 help families -- just be useful.

16 If I'm going to have an opportunity
17 like that -- have my own plates -- yeah,
18 just wanted to say that and I appreciate
19 you so much for this opportunity.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker is Harmon Prit
23 Singh (phonetic).

24 (No response.)

25 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Singh, un-mute your

1 microphone.

2 SPEAKER: Yeah, hi. How are you
3 guys doing?

4 I just would like to say that the
5 new EV license should be given to the
6 drivers who are already leasing the
7 vehicles from the companies or some
8 private guys -- or, you know, using
9 plates and having their own cars.

10 Please bring these plates in the
11 hands of the working people, not to the
12 car place or like people who have four
13 or five cars -- or two cars -- and
14 people who are not driving, they
15 shouldn't have any plates.

16 I think the plates which are already
17 existing should be going to the people
18 who are working on the road every day,
19 not who are sitting at their homes and
20 making money off it.

21 Thank you. That's it -- and please
22 listen to the people, not to the big
23 companies. Please listen to the people.

24 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
25 comments.

1 Our next speaker is Rigzin Gurung.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Gurung, you can
4 un-mute your mic and begin.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. ELUTO: Sir, you have --

7 SPEAKER: Hi.

8 MS. ELUTO: -- yeah, go ahead. Yes,
9 we can hear you.

10 SPEAKER: Yes, hi. My name is
11 Rigzin Gurung. Recently, my full-time
12 job is Uber and Lyft.

13 Recently, I'm leasing from the
14 rental company, so they are charging for
15 us. So, weekly, \$450 for my car and \$15
16 my insurance -- and even they charge a
17 lot of money for us, even with Lyft and
18 they call us during very bad conditions.
19 So, sometimes brakes not properly
20 working -- various issues for us.

21 If you go to service center -- car
22 auto shops are going to take a long time
23 -- three hours, four hours. We have
24 suffering those things.

25 I have two question to this:

1 If it is important to you, what the
2 application for us will be in, in
3 advance, how you can drive us people in
4 advance.

5 Number two, please publish the
6 information on how the license will be
7 distributed fairly with our clear open
8 process. So, we want to -- so, most --
9 I want to request Commissioners to
10 consider to drivers, please, so driver
11 are now (indiscernible) -- so I have to
12 seven days work.

13 I don't have the time for my
14 families because I have to pay a lot of
15 rent to those companies. Those
16 companies are -- I'm telling you, those
17 are like illegally, like, a scam
18 company. I feel like that. Even they
19 are very rude and their service very
20 bad -- car is very bad.

21 So, please consider to the drivers
22 -- all drivers -- who are working hard.
23 So hard to work every day 14, 15 hours,
24 seven days. I don't have the time for
25 my families. Please consider to

1 drivers.

2 Thank you for all.

3 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
4 comment.

5 SPEAKER: You're welcome.

6 MS. ELUTO: Our next speaker is Sona
7 Lama (phonetic).

8 SPEAKER: Hello, can you hear me?

9 MS. ELUTO: Hello -- yes, we can
10 hear you.

11 SPEAKER: Hi. Good morning,
12 everyone. My name is Sona Lama. I'm a
13 driver advocate. Moreover, I'm a very
14 proud member of Independent Drivers
15 Guild.

16 IDG, Independent Drivers Guild, is
17 little off the -- all the drivers that I
18 would say, leading driver organizations
19 in the nation, I represent over hundreds
20 of for-hire drivers in New York City and
21 advocate over 250 drivers across New
22 York, New Jersey, Connecticut,
23 Massachusetts, and Illinois -- Chicago.

24 IDG advocates for more drivers than
25 any other organization throughout the

1 actions and advocacy, from wages to
2 offer them benefits, to (indiscernible)
3 resources. IDG has been leading and
4 winning fights for drivers.

5 Finally -- finally today, TLC has
6 heard IDG for demanding more plates for
7 divers. But TLC, 1,000 plates are not
8 enough. We want more plates. What
9 happened to those surrendered plates?
10 Thousands of plates were surrendered,
11 right, during this COVID over the years.
12 Where are those plates? Why so many?

13 Who is blocking TLC from giving more
14 plates for driver? Isn't it the driver
15 who run the TLC for the regulation to
16 run the office? Isn't it the driver who
17 is making TLC generate money? Honestly,
18 who pays the salary of TLC staff?
19 That's my question first. Isn't it the
20 driver fees and other expenses to TLC?

21 So, please, this is the time to wake
22 up with all these crisis. All the
23 leasing companies are benefitted.
24 Please, wake up. I would like to tell
25 everyone right now -- the drivers at TLC

1 -- with this crisis, only the benefit
2 are leasing company who is making more
3 money than TLC itself and we know that.

4 Please do something for the drivers.
5 At the end of the day, TLC is our
6 home -- is our house. We want to be
7 treated like a family member, not like
8 something else.

9 So, EV plates are fine -- that's
10 fine, right. But not everyone can
11 afford it. It has to be -- it has to be
12 for regular people too. EV plates are
13 -- cars are more than \$100,000.

14 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

15 SPEAKER: I cannot afford it, right.

16 So, long story short, the benefitted
17 are leasing company. They raise their
18 rate from \$250 to 650, and you already
19 heard all the drivers are complaining,
20 these lease companies mafia-style to rob
21 the drivers.

22 Please, all drivers have no options
23 to just come here and say the same
24 issues. I demand more plates for our
25 fellow drivers and our fellow IDG

1 members.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

4 Our next speaker is Guermo Foundare
5 (phonetic).

6 SPEAKER: Good morning.

7 MS. ELUTO: Good morning.

8 SPEAKER: Hello -- yeah, okay.

9 MS. ELUTO: Yes.

10 SPEAKER: Yeah, you say my name
11 already.

12 MS. ELUTO: I did. We're ready.

13 SPEAKER: Right -- cool.

14 So, I'm a for-hire vehicle
15 ride-share driver. I'm also organizer
16 for IDG.

17 IDG has been in the industry as a
18 machinist partner for a long time. We
19 organize more than 140,000 for-hire
20 drivers in New York State, Connecticut,
21 New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Chicago,
22 Illinois.

23 So, I am able to represent 250,000
24 members. Also, we want to thank the TLC
25 for the opportunity to speak up.

1 So, why TLC is going to issue 1,000
2 plates for that -- for the vehicles?
3 Why only giving 600 to -- to the drivers
4 and giving 400 to the leasing industry
5 rather than (indiscernible) the leasing
6 industry. They should be punished
7 because they're being -- harming the
8 driver's life forever.

9 With the payments, they
10 (indiscernible) plate when the driver
11 finished their car. So, that's
12 something TLC to take in consideration
13 and give -- and issue all the license
14 plates only to the drivers because the
15 drivers are also business owners
16 independent and they pay taxes like
17 before speakers say.

18 We pay the taxes. We pay your
19 salary for the City and we pay a lot of
20 tickets also. We've been punishing from
21 everywhere. So, you should think about
22 it very well and be more human, and give
23 these plates to the drivers, not the
24 companies making money on the expense of
25 the drivers' benefits and their family.

1 When you have a happy driver driving
2 around, you have better community. You
3 have better citizens. You have better
4 (indiscernible) allocated because your
5 father, rather than being 14, 16 hours
6 on the road, making money to pay the
7 rent, they could save hours of that and
8 allocate to their children.

9 You have --

10 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

11 SPEAKER: -- extremely situation on
12 the City. You should take that into
13 consideration.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

16 Our next speaker is Baris Yalsin
17 (phonetic).

18 SPEAKER: Hello.

19 MS. ELUTO: Hello.

20 SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

21 MS. ELUTO: Yes.

22 SPEAKER: I participate here to
23 learn the terms and conditions how to
24 apply for the new electric car license,
25 but so far I didn't get any information.

1 Could you please tell us more about
2 this information?

3 MS. ELUTO: Commissioner Do?

4 SPEAKER: Excuse me?

5 Chair Do: Thank you.

6 So, this is a public hearing so that
7 we can hear from you all and consider
8 the rule.

9 And so this is just to see what your
10 comments are and your feedback on the
11 rules as proposed. And that's why we're
12 in this public hearing today.

13 SPEAKER: Thank you. I didn't know
14 that. I thought that you were going to
15 give more information and I would like
16 to learn also what is this first come,
17 first serve.

18 How is it working and who is it for?
19 It's not for individuals, I think?

20 MS. ELUTO: It's for both.

21 Chair Do: So, we'll be releasing
22 more information -- thank you, Sherryl.

23 We'll be releasing more information
24 once the -- once the entire Commission
25 has a full vote.

1 And so this is, right now, a
2 feedback and public hearing phase so
3 that we can hear from the community and
4 then we'll tweak, if needed, the rules
5 around this and do a final vote later on
6 this month.

7 SPEAKER: I see -- I see. Thank you
8 -- thank you for us speaking and thank
9 you for this hearing.

10 Okay. Have a good one.

11 MS. ELUTO: All right. Thank you.

12 Our next speaker is Luis Uceda
13 (phonetic).

14 SPEAKER: Hello?

15 MS. ELUTO: Yes, hello.

16 SPEAKER: Yeah, hi. My name is Luis
17 Uceda. Thank you for giving me this
18 opportunity. This is my first meeting
19 with the new Commissioner David. I hope
20 this time, you know, you guys do
21 something.

22 I participate before, but I stopped
23 doing it, cause they never do anything.
24 I feel like I waste time with you --
25 with this and I hope this time, you

1 know, we're doing something better for
2 the driver.

3 I know you tried to give more
4 plates, but actually, ride-share right
5 now, I had to -- God bless you -- I had
6 to rent a car for somebody and I'm going
7 to spend like 18,500 every year for
8 rental car.

9 So, right now, I don't make much
10 money --

11 (Interruption in transmission.)

12 MS. ELUTO: Sire, you muted
13 yourself.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Uceda, no one can
16 hear you -- okay.

17 SPEAKER: I did it -- I did it --
18 somebody muted from me.

19 Okay. Actually, yeah, like I said,
20 I pay 1,800 in rental car and the
21 Commissioner need to go back and check
22 those people who own so many plates with
23 one license. People like me, and many
24 people like me, we only own one license
25 and we don't even have opportunity to

1 have one plate.

2 So, why you should be giving plates
3 to those people who kill the people? I
4 have friends, they pay 650 every single
5 week for renting a car that's owned by
6 Tower. You're going to have to work
7 around 14, 15 hour days, seven days a
8 week.

9 Why do we want to kick this guy out?
10 He has five kids. He needs an
11 opportunity. This guy passed through so
12 many depressed right now because he has
13 to work like horse to make the money to
14 pay for car.

15 Please, please, consider to the
16 people like me and the other people
17 outside, that we don't have plate. You
18 know what, I'm just thinking myself, you
19 know, try to organize drivers and go to
20 the news -- go to the Mayor. Go to
21 anyone to listen to us because this is
22 like the other guy said -- this is like
23 mafia.

24 The dealership owns -- they got the
25 money. They got the money to buy cars

1 easily. For me, a regular guy who has
2 to work 15 -- 40, 55 hours a week, you
3 know, we don't have that kind of money.
4 Right now my payments behind to so many
5 personal problems with money and
6 financial problem.

7 So, why don't try before you give
8 400 plates to the other people, why
9 don't give it to us? Why you don't see
10 what's going on --

11 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

12 SPEAKER: -- with them? Who runs
13 the TLC because before, no matter what
14 you speak -- no matter what you doing --
15 nobody -- nobody do anything.

16 So, I hope you guys, this time --
17 Commissioner Dave -- you know, please do
18 something. See what's going on with
19 that department because a lot of things
20 are going on with that department and a
21 lot of things are going on.

22 Thank you for your help. Happy New
23 Year guys.

24 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
25 comments.

1 Our next speaker Dadarel Alam
2 (phonetic).

3 (No response.)

4 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Alam, you can
5 un-mute your mic.

6 SPEAKER: Hello. Good morning.

7 MS. ELUTO: Good morning.

8 SPEAKER: I want to request TLC,
9 everyone should be able to get a plate.
10 Everyone should be able to choose their
11 personal schedule and instead of issuing
12 plate to some companies, I think those
13 people have -- already have the license.
14 Everyone should be -- get the chance to
15 own a personal plate.

16 And instead of only electric
17 planning -- electric vehicle, I think
18 hybrid vehicle should be included in the
19 plan to issue the plate by TLC.

20 That's it. Thank you so much.

21 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker is Mohammed Acuriju
23 (phonetic).

24 SPEAKER: Hello?

25 MS. ELUTO: Yes -- hello.

1 SPEAKER: Yeah, I think whatever I
2 was going to say has been said already.

3 But what I was going to say now is
4 since TLC is still issuing TLC license
5 to individuals -- I believe TLC is
6 issuing -- at least still continue
7 issuing plates because the drivers is
8 having like -- Uber is killing us. Lyft
9 is killing us and then rental of lease
10 is also killing us.

11 So, I feel like if Uber -- if TLC is
12 going to continue to hold the plates and
13 not issue, it's going to hurt us the
14 most. So, I think that's all I have to
15 say.

16 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

17 Our next speaker is Raul Rivera.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Rivera, un-mute
20 yourself.

21 SPEAKER: Good morning to the
22 Commission. Good morning to Chair Do.

23 I -- my name is Raul Rivera. I'm
24 the founder of NYC Drivers Unite, the
25 only group in New York City seeking the

1 reform of the Taxi & Limousine
2 Commission. That petition that we have
3 has been signed by many elected
4 officials, including Eric Adams, and we
5 still wait for our press conference
6 cause we want Mr. Adams to stand by his
7 signature.

8 Now, I want to touch on some points
9 that I share with the Commission -- that
10 I emailed Mr. Do last night. There's
11 eight points. I'm going to try to go
12 through the points as much as I can.
13 There's eight points. Let me see if I
14 can read them all.

15 First of all, these points are
16 crucial to the plates and who receives
17 those plates. So, personally, I believe
18 all plates -- all plates should go to
19 New York City TLC driver.

20 Also, fleet companies already have
21 more than enough TLC plates. Some fleet
22 companies have thousands and thousands
23 of plates -- Fast Track Mobility,
24 American Lease, Tower, (indiscernible).
25 Lots of fleet companies are changing

1 their business model.

2 Fleet companies are refusing to buy
3 cars. Many of the cars have over
4 200,000 miles on them, for the existing
5 plates that they already have, and are
6 now only renting out plates to drivers
7 at a high cost.

8 My next point is, stop fleet
9 companies from renting out TLC plates.
10 Fleet companies and others are taking
11 advantage and renting out TLC plates for
12 hundreds of dollars per week -- anywhere
13 from 200 to \$350 per week.

14 If the Taxi & Limousine Commission
15 moves forward and gives fleet owners EV
16 plates, then the TLC should make sure
17 that the fleet companies have EVs for
18 those plates that they receive. EV
19 plates -- excuse me -- EV plates and
20 electric vehicles should all be under
21 the name of the fleet company and
22 receive EV plates.

23 Fleet companies and others that rent
24 out TLC plates are adding to the
25 shortage of vehicles to rent. Not

1 everyone can buy a vehicle when starting
2 out as a TLC driver. Stop fleet
3 companies -- stop fleet companies from
4 renting out TLC plates without a vehicle
5 registered to the fleet company itself.

6 New York City TLC plates were not
7 intended to be used in this manner. TLC
8 Taxi & Limousine --

9 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

10 SPEAKER: -- Commission should
11 consider the hybrid vehicle to be added
12 to the City streets and give plates to
13 those drivers who do have hybrid
14 vehicles.

15 Also, I'm going to add, next time
16 TLC goes to court, I'm willing to
17 testify. You have my support. Thank
18 you.

19 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is Bhairavi Desai.

21 SPEAKER: Good morning, Commissioner
22 Do and other members of the Commission.

23 My name is Bhairavi Desai. I'm the
24 Executive Director of the New York Taxi
25 Workers Alliance.

1 First, I actually really want to
2 remind everybody why the vehicle cap was
3 put in place. You know, in 20 --
4 between 2017 and 2018, we saw a massive,
5 massive, you know, decline of driver
6 income. The TLC, in an independent
7 study, found that over 90 percent of the
8 drivers were earning below minimum wage.

9 I mean, the race to the bottom was
10 vicious, and it was painful, and it was
11 literally deadly. When Douglas Shifter
12 (phonetic) died by suicide outside the
13 gates of City Hall, he left a note on
14 Facebook where the entire note
15 concentrated on what the flooding of the
16 streets with cars had meant for drivers.

17 He himself was a black car driver.
18 He talked about how having over 100,000
19 cars to compete with made it absolutely
20 impossible for drivers to survive.

21 We cannot go back to those days and
22 one way in order to ensure that, these
23 plates can only be given to drivers and
24 only as a transition for drivers -- for
25 cars that are already on the streets so

1 that you don't create new cars on the
2 streets because congestion and flooding
3 of the streets is a significant problem.

4 Secondly, the way to address all the
5 predatory leasing is really simple. TLC
6 already regulates lease caps on the
7 yellow cab side. Similarly, the TLC
8 must regulate lease caps on the for-hire
9 vehicle side. The Taxi Workers Alliance
10 has put forth these proposals to the TLC
11 since 2018.

12 It makes absolutely no sense why a
13 Toyota Camry would be capped at 275 a
14 week on the yellow cab side, but could
15 be rented for as much as \$650 a week on
16 the FHV side. We need those lease caps.

17 Also, the grandfather clause should
18 not be taken out. I don't see what the
19 need would be. If you do have drivers
20 that, you know, are -- finish up their
21 payments after August 2023, they should
22 still be entitled to that title --

23 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

24 SPEAKER: -- for that vehicle.

25 And one of the issues, along with

1 capping the leases for FHV, we need to
2 do a whole set of rules that include
3 making it easier for drivers to get
4 access to the title once they finish,
5 you know, completing all their payments.

6 This is something the TLC has
7 already done on the yellow cab side.
8 The TLC must do that also on the FHV
9 side, not only to address the
10 exploitation that FHV drivers are facing
11 today --

12 TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.

13 SPEAKER: -- but also in the pure
14 interest of equity between the sectors.

15 Thank you for your time.

16 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
17 comments.

18 Next speaker is Rihad Hasan
19 (phonetic).

20 SPEAKER: Hi. Thank you for this
21 meeting. I'm very happy to know that
22 there are 1,000 plates being released,
23 but I'd like to speak about some points.

24 The application process is kind of
25 hazy and it's really not clear to

1 understand how to apply and the process
2 is still vague. So, please give a clear
3 regulation and explanation how to apply
4 for the plates.

5 And the second is I would like to
6 mention that, yes, my other colleagues
7 have been stating that the plates --
8 renting a plate is too expensive. It is
9 too expensive.

10 Even though the people who are
11 renting us the plates, they don't have
12 that much of expense, but they're
13 charging more and more money every month
14 and every year, they're increasing the
15 money even though it doesn't make any
16 sense.

17 Renting a plate itself is right now
18 in the market of 500 bucks. It doesn't
19 even make sense. How is TLC approving
20 this? I mean, I think they're aware of
21 this.

22 So, please take a look into that
23 matter as well because it is also
24 hurting the TLC Commission as well
25 because you guys are also working on an

1 hourly basis as well. So, please take a
2 look.

3 And also you are already aware that
4 renting a plate also demands to pay
5 extra insurance, which also doesn't make
6 sense. And also companies like Tower
7 and other companies, they're making
8 money using these TLC loopholes and as a
9 result, we, the drivers, and the TLC
10 Commission itself, is losing money.

11 So, I don't know how it is working
12 for the Commission. I would be -- I
13 would say it would benefit the
14 Commission to look into this matter and
15 try to resolve the matter as well.

16 So, yeah, like I mentioned that
17 because of these issues, you guys are
18 the only ones who are making the rules.
19 So, if you guys are speaking up, I think
20 it will be -- it will be both -- it will
21 be both -- it will be better for both
22 the parties.

23 I think that is all I have to say.
24 Thank you very much.

25 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker is Joeline Moran
2 (phonetic).

3 SPEAKER: Yes, that's me.

4 Good morning first of all. I'd like
5 to -- I'd like to say that I'm a
6 24-year-old Hispanic who lives in a
7 three bedroom apartment housing, living
8 with a sister who's disabled and a
9 grandma who has no income.

10 I'd like to add that it's really --
11 it's really good to offer the electric
12 plates, but I -- I do agree with some of
13 the people that said that the electric
14 plates should only be available to those
15 people who have been renting and working
16 for companies who want to exploit them
17 for about 13 to 16 hours a day.

18 These plates should be prioritized
19 to those people who have been doing
20 this. I'm somebody that applied when --
21 the last time that -- that the plates
22 was offered -- the EV plates was offered
23 -- and I wasn't able to do it on time
24 because these -- these companies took
25 advantage and were ahead.

1 I just want to be -- I just want it
2 to be fair for everybody, you know.
3 That's all I had to say. Thank you.

4 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

5 Our next speaker is Ron Rothstein.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Rothstein, you can
8 un-mute your mic and begin.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. ELUTO: Sir?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. ELUTO: Ron Rothstein, you need
13 to un-mute your microphone.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. ELUTO: All right. We'll come
16 back to you.

17 Our next speaker is Wander Diaz
18 (phonetic).

19 (No response.)

20 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Diaz, could you
21 un-mute your microphone -- yes, good.

22 SPEAKER: Yeah, hi. Good morning.
23 My name is Wander Diaz. I'm a Lyft and
24 Uber driver.

25 So, is -- I think it's ridiculous

1 that every driver drive many times, like
2 15 hours -- sometimes 17 hours a day --
3 only to pay the lease -- the lease for
4 the company. So, that is ridiculous and
5 the company -- the leasing company
6 actually is very, very expensive. Every
7 drive -- every driver can't pay like
8 these thousands and something a week for
9 the rent-a-car.

10 So, I think the TLC like to
11 considerate getting plate only for the
12 driver and keep the driver first. That
13 is my opinion and thank you for the
14 opportunity to participate on that
15 hearing.

16 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
17 comments.

18 We're going to go back to Ron
19 Rothstein. If you're prepared, you can
20 un-mute your mic.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. ELUTO: No -- all right. We'll
23 put you at the end of the list then.

24 Let's go onto Sukta Raj (phonetic).

25 (No response.)

1 MS. ELUTO: Here we go -- Mr. Raj,
2 if you can un-mute your mic and begin.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. ELUTO: Sukta Raj?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. ELUTO: All right. We're going
7 to go next to Pedro Accosta (phonetic).

8 (No response.)

9 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Accosta, if you
10 could un-mute your mic and begin.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. ELUTO: People -- participants,
13 you need to un-mute your mic when I call
14 your name, otherwise you can't testify.

15 All right. I'm going to go onto
16 Mohammed Raman (phonetic).

17 SPEAKER: Is it Mohammed Zihed Raman
18 (phonetic)?

19 MS. ELUTO: Yes -- yes, that's fine.

20 SPEAKER: Good morning. I was
21 sleeping. I'm sorry for the late --

22 MS. ELUTO: That's okay.

23 SPEAKER: -- because I already made
24 a comment on the web page -- like the
25 TLC web page.

1 So, the best -- like this is New
2 York City -- you know, largest city in
3 the United States and every day new
4 people are coming from the different
5 country -- you know, different state --
6 and when they're coming in and looking
7 for the opportunity, there is -- I
8 think, like when they're coming in --
9 and if they choose to drive a taxi --
10 and they don't, like, you know, really
11 get it, like --

12 I'm talking about, let's say, now
13 future generations are coming up --
14 like, you know, every culture -- every
15 -- I mean, race -- so, when they're
16 coming in or they're growing up, they
17 will see like all before the TLC plate
18 -- let's say me 10 or 15 years ago --
19 TLC plate was like, you know, nobody
20 taking it.

21 You know, there was no opportunity
22 about Uber, Lyft, or anything. Now
23 there's days like when Uber giving
24 opportunity. You know, the Lyft giving
25 opportunity. There was another company

1 coming -- they're out already.

2 So, my main thing is, like, you
3 know, the TLC should give everybody
4 opportunity for the future, not to like,
5 you know, people who are going to take
6 all the plate and they're going to do
7 the business the way they did the
8 medallion, like yellow cab medallion.

9 People bought it like, you know,
10 let's say, 5,000, \$10,000. They had to
11 stop those medallion and then it becomes
12 like a million dollars. So, same thing
13 I see is doing also TLC plate.

14 Some people -- it's supposed to like
15 whoever want to drive, they can apply.
16 They can just whenever they -- they want
17 to move to another, like, job, they're
18 supposed to return the plate -- and I'm
19 not talking about that. That plate will
20 be issued to somebody, like, who is new
21 coming, you know.

22 But, I mean, all TLC can do -- that
23 amount of less than 1,000 plates giving
24 for the electric vehicle -- and if these
25 plates -- like anyone is unable to drive

1 or returning the plate. So, that amount
2 of number --

3 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

4 SPEAKER: -- yeah, sorry.

5 They can -- they can, like, you
6 know, give it to the people -- that
7 waiting list -- you know, on the waiting
8 list. That will be like only chance to
9 people apply and can be waiting list and
10 get the plate.

11 So, this way, all the syndicate --
12 whoever, like, you know, making the TLC
13 plate -- like, you know -- I mean,
14 they're selling -- they're renting, you
15 know. They're not going to have a
16 chance.

17 Thank you for giving us opportunity.
18 Thank you.

19 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
20 comments.

21 Our next speaker -- very similar
22 names -- Mohammed Raman (phonetic.)

23 (No response.)

24 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Raman, can you
25 un-mute your mic and begin?

1 (No response.)

2 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Raman?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. ELUTO: All right. Then I have
5 -- oh, yes.

6 SPEAKER: Okay.

7 MS. ELUTO: It was a test.

8 SPEAKER: Can you hear me?

9 MS. ELUTO: Yes -- yes, I can.

10 SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you for
11 everybody who is listening.

12 Actually, I have a few word. First
13 of all, my opinion is that driver was --
14 is driving full-time, they should
15 deserve the plate. Like, if a driver
16 has a record, one year full-time, they
17 deserve a plate.

18 So, this is my first thought, and my
19 second thing is, the City should -- need
20 to take a massive action to the leasing
21 company. So, they have a huge number of
22 cars -- thousands and thousands of cars
23 -- and the car quality is not good.

24 So, I think City can take action to
25 reduce the amount and the leasing

1 company, they can have only 100 cars and
2 the rest of the plates should be
3 allocated to the driver.

4 That's it. Thank you.

5 MS. ELUTO: All right. Thank you.

6 Our next speaker is Depeche Bosnet
7 (phonetic).

8 (No response.)

9 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Bosnet, if you can
10 un-mute your microphone.

11 SPEAKER: Hi. Thank you for asking.
12 I'm okay just listening. I don't have
13 any questions -- I don't have anything
14 to say. Thank you.

15 MS. ELUTO: Okay -- all right.
16 Thank you.

17 Our next speaker then is Synette
18 Wilson (phonetic).

19 SPEAKER: Hi. Good morning,
20 everyone.

21 I'm an individual owner-operator and
22 small fleet owner and since the licenses
23 will be made on first come, first served
24 basis, I wanted to start with a
25 question, that can, for the sake of

1 time, be answered in an external affairs
2 email.

3 Based on Commissioner Do's
4 statement, that the ruling will be
5 announced on January 25th, will
6 applications be accepted the same day I
7 think is the concern for everyone
8 eagerly awaiting to apply.

9 We have a very long waiting list of
10 TLC licensed drivers who inquire almost
11 daily about renting one of our EV
12 licensed vehicles at an affordable rate.
13 I hear daily complaints from drivers,
14 how driver pay has decreased on major
15 ride-sharing platforms such as Uber and
16 Lyft, even though passenger fares have
17 skyrocketed throughout and
18 post-pandemic.

19 They complain of how they're getting
20 crushed at the pump with historic gas
21 prices and I wish I had more cars to
22 offer, but without warning, the TLC
23 issued the ban on the new EV license and
24 crippled our fledgling new business.

25 At one public hearing, Revel's

1 referenced his infrastructure and herein
2 lies the problem. Revel's fleet was
3 given priority over individual
4 owner-operators in a sweetheart back
5 room deal that the TLC had previously
6 and publicly denounced.

7 While there is a market for what
8 Revel provides, forcing drivers to work
9 for minimum wage only further undermines
10 driver pay and bolsters Uber's
11 objections to what appears to be a TLC
12 back-driver pay increase.

13 As we work to create a
14 carbon-neutral footprint, we have a
15 unique opportunity to support local
16 small businesses in the form of
17 owner-operators, which is the heartbeat
18 of New York City.

19 For early adopters, such as myself,
20 I was scoffed at by the larger rental
21 companies. As one of the first TLC
22 vehicle license holders of a Tesla, I
23 was told that drivers didn't and would
24 never want to rent one. Now, we see
25 large fleets on the road while my

1 company was cut off at the knees before
2 we would fully get off the ground.

3 We invested in EVs with no
4 incentives from the TLC or any
5 government agency, a true capitalist
6 enterprise. The sheer cost of electric
7 vehicles is enough of a barrier to entry
8 to ensure that congestion will not be
9 augmented.

10 What is the TLC doing to work with
11 local and state governments to provide
12 public or semi-public charging
13 infrastructure for up to 1,000 new EV
14 cars hitting the road? Paying --

15 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

16 SPEAKER: -- \$32 for half an hour at
17 a Manhattan parking garage to acquire
18 100 miles of range or less multiple
19 times a day is further bad business for
20 drivers. The scarcity of public options
21 shared with the general public is
22 already inciting violence at these
23 chargers.

24 We have a unique opportunity here to
25 make New York City and the world a

1 better place and generate operational
2 revenue for the TLC that does not depend
3 on driver citations in the form of
4 (indiscernible) credit. I look forward
5 to receiving clear and unambiguous
6 guidelines for applications --

7 TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.

8 SPEAKER: -- from an external
9 affairs emails. Thank you.

10 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
11 comments.

12 Our next speaker is Mehmet Aduwan
13 (phonetic).

14 (No response.)

15 MS. ELUTO: Mr. --

16 SPEAKER: Yeah -- hi.

17 MS. ELUTO: Yes.

18 SPEAKER: Good morning -- yeah, good
19 morning.

20 Actually, I agree with the
21 congestion problem on the streets. Yes,
22 that's real, but what I don't understand
23 is now there's a cap on TLC plates,
24 right? So, on the streets, let's say,
25 1,000 plates at the moment, but there's

1 no cap on driving license. So, anybody
2 can go to TLC and apply and get a TLC
3 driving license.

4 And as far as I know, on the
5 liability insurance, you can only add
6 two drivers, if I'm not mistaken -- or,
7 let's say, three. So, if there are a
8 thousand TLC plates on the streets,
9 maximum drivers must be 3,000. So, how
10 come you are still issuing driving
11 license every day, like hundreds, if not
12 thousands, and then put cap on TLC
13 license?

14 I mean, even the math doesn't do it.
15 If there are like 1,000 plates, how can
16 be 100,000 drivers on the streets? And
17 now this might seem like little bit
18 offensive, but I've been taking the TLC
19 course, but most of the attendees can't
20 even speak English. So, they cannot
21 communicate with their passengers or
22 even the instructor.

23 So, if you are not putting any
24 limitations on these -- or rules on
25 these kind of problems, how can we solve

1 the congestion and TLC problem because
2 it's kind of a chicken and egg problem?
3 It's not only one side of it. It's not
4 only about the number of TLC plates;
5 it's also about the number of drivers,
6 driver quality, and if they, you know,
7 follow the rules.

8 I mean, there are terrible drivers
9 on the streets, and everybody knows it,
10 and most of them are TLC drivers. They
11 don't respect each other.

12 They don't even respect anybody, but
13 they're on the streets. Now, people who
14 follow the rules, who try to stay in the
15 limitation are being punished kind of.

16 So, this is my testimony and when
17 you think about the TLC plates, you
18 should also think about TLC driving
19 licenses and quality of the drivers as
20 well because it's all in one bowl, I
21 think.

22 This is my testimony and thanks a
23 lot for your time.

24 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
25 testimony.

1 Our next speaker is Lem Wishelz
2 (phonetic).

3 (No response.)

4 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Wishelz?

5 SPEAKER: Hello. Can you hear me
6 okay?

7 MS. ELUTO: Yes, I can hear you.

8 SPEAKER: All right. I wanted to
9 talk about the electric battery -- the
10 word "battery" is mentioned and I'm just
11 recommending that the word "battery" be
12 removed and instead you say, "fully
13 electric" instead of "battery electric"
14 because they're -- it's going to stifle
15 innovation to limit the electric
16 vehicles to battery.

17 There's lots of ways to store energy
18 -- hydrogen, and flywheel, and whatever
19 -- and by putting battery electric here,
20 you're not making that -- it's
21 (indiscernible). You're not going to
22 have that development happening.

23 And the recharge time for battery
24 electric is not good, and most people
25 don't -- most taxi drivers don't own

1 their home and don't have the ability to
2 charge at home. So, forcing this
3 battery electric vehicle, instead of the
4 alternative, we're never going to get
5 anywhere.

6 I mean, California has had electric
7 -- hydrogen electric -- I'm sorry --
8 hydrogen refueling stations since 2003 I
9 believe it is, and there's -- I mean,
10 Toyota already has a vehicle for this.
11 The energy is saved as hydrogen. It's
12 still fully electric though.

13 So, that's all I'm asking is that
14 the word "battery" be removed from the
15 rule. So, not battery electric
16 vehicles, but fully electric or whatever
17 else you want to say.

18 And the -- others had brought up the
19 fleet problem and I also think that the
20 fleets should not be allowed to get any
21 new plates. You have the individuals or
22 the small businesses that are trying to
23 get plates. These fleet companies are
24 just looking to get as much money as
25 they can.

1 They're looking for a profit.
2 They're not doing anyone any good if --
3 even if someone -- if we give a plate to
4 an individual driver who then wants to
5 rent it out, you're better off because
6 I've found better prices from individual
7 renters than from these companies and
8 you have better vehicles.

9 The big companies are not taking
10 care of their vehicles and I think that
11 all the fleet companies -- all these big
12 companies that renting out and taking
13 advantage of everyone, they should be
14 required to only have electric vehicles.
15 So, that's a whole separate rule. So,
16 that has nothing to do with what today
17 is about.

18 Today is just about electric, you
19 know, licenses and the other issue. But
20 I did want to put that out there as
21 well.

22 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

23 SPEAKER: All set.

24 MS. ELUTO: All right. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER: Thanks.

1 MS. ELUTO: Our next speaker, Redwan
2 Hasan (phonetic).

3 SPEAKER: Thank you so much for
4 giving me time.

5 I just mention three things. One
6 thing -- first thing is we don't know
7 how -- exactly how to -- you know, we
8 are apply the TLC plate. So, can --
9 please can you give us the main
10 information how do we apply that.

11 And also I mention is other two
12 things. First of all, one is like my
13 other -- other colleague also mentioned
14 that -- it's like you give like 1,000
15 plates, but 400 plate you give -- like
16 is the corporation. So, that -- they
17 are like -- they -- the rent is like too
18 expensive.

19 So, I think we deserve and -- we
20 deserve it. Like, also, pull up 1,000
21 plate in individual person. So, can you
22 please do that for all of us because we
23 deserve it. They are like so expensive.
24 They are -- they make money, so two
25 months -- like every week they make 500,

1 \$400.

2 We deserve I think, so -- and other
3 thing is, you give TLC license but you
4 didn't give TLC plate. So, it's -- you
5 know, a lot of people now -- a lot of
6 driver -- TLC driver -- but they didn't
7 have plate. So, it's like -- so
8 (indiscernible) of us.

9 So, you should give the plate also
10 -- you give TLC license and also TLC
11 plate. So, you just making something
12 deeper. So, that's it. My three things
13 is like that. Thank you.

14 MS. ELUTO: Thanks for your
15 testimony.

16 Our next speaker is Delone Baptist
17 (phonetic).

18 Mr. Baptist.

19 SPEAKER: Hello. Good afternoon.
20 Delone Baptist here speaking.

21 I'm fairly new to the TLC. I just
22 got my license about a week ago and, you
23 know, I'm happy to be a part of, you
24 know, this TLC here.

25 It's hard getting a vehicle for me,

1 you know, and I would like to be a part
2 of this -- this -- these plates because
3 I realize the monopoly that was made off
4 of it -- and I'm not going to use any
5 names. You know, I want to be
6 respectful about it. It's just -- I
7 just want a fair share.

8 You know, I want a chance I should
9 say, to be able to hold onto a plate and
10 to help the youth because, you know, I'm
11 from the urban area. A lot of the kids,
12 they don't have jobs. You know, and
13 that's when the crime rate goes up
14 because they can't get a job.

15 So, I'll be able to, you know,
16 employ these guys and give them some
17 work where they could drive a vehicle
18 and, you know, stay off the streets.
19 So, it will help the community even if
20 you open up the regular plates because I
21 do know a lot of plates have been handed
22 in.

23 But I'm just grateful for the
24 opportunity to speak, and thank you so
25 much, and please consider opening up

1 some more plates for the -- for the
2 small businesses so that we can create
3 more jobs, and employ people, and -- you
4 know, thank you.

5 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

6 Our next speaker is Mahidir Rocimov
7 (phonetic).

8 (No response.)

9 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Rocimov, if you can
10 un-mute your microphone.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. ELUTO: Sir, you need to un-mute
13 your microphone.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. ELUTO: All right. Then our
16 next speaker is Larvi Itavu (phonetic).

17 (No response.)

18 MS. ELUTO: Yes, you can begin.

19 SPEAKER: Oh, okay. Just so that my
20 video can now be enabled -- no worries.

21 Good morning, everyone. Good
22 morning, Commissioner.

23 The -- really, the reason that this
24 hearing is created is actually to
25 address the issues that the drivers are

1 facing, and I understand the electric
2 vehicles are very important to the
3 environment, and the goal is, you know,
4 to have a clean, you know, City -- and
5 we need that.

6 And, unfortunately -- and I think
7 you all would agree with me -- that the
8 goal should be to help drivers and
9 that's what IDG has been doing for the
10 past going to be seven years almost, is
11 advocating for drivers to have
12 independency (sic). And, you know, I
13 respect the TLC and I understand that
14 there is a lot of work to do.

15 But, again, drivers are suffering
16 and that needs to stop. When I say
17 "suffering", I have to back it up with
18 something, which is when they go to
19 lease a car, these companies are really
20 taking advantage of them.

21 One more thing -- I know time is
22 going really fast -- as you know, we
23 have been calling for more relief stands
24 throughout the City and having just
25 electric vehicle right now would not be

1 easy for drivers to be charging,
2 especially the one that live in an area
3 where finding parking or finding a
4 charging dock is very hard; not to
5 mention, they're going to be having fear
6 of getting ticketed in a place where
7 they cannot park.

8 There are so many things that
9 really, the TLC needs to address, and go
10 back to the drawing board, and actually
11 figure out all these logistics for
12 drivers that really need to have the
13 independency (sic) of having their own
14 vehicle.

15 Each -- every relief stand that is
16 existing right now is occupied by either
17 NYPD or --

18 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

19 SPEAKER: -- other drivers that
20 they're really not -- don't need to be
21 there -- where the goal for the TLC is
22 to actually help its members and thank
23 you for the time.

24 MS. ELUTO: Thank you for your
25 comments.

1 I'm going back to Mahidir Rocimov.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Rocimov, can you
4 un-mute your mic? I see you're on the
5 screen but you're not un-muting.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. ELUTO: All right then.

8 That concludes our public hearing.
9 We have no more speakers for today. So,
10 thank you.

11 CHAIR DO: Thank you, Sherryl, for
12 guiding us through the two public
13 hearings.

14 And I just want to tell all of
15 our -- those who have testified today --
16 those who are listening today -- that's
17 there's going to be an open and
18 transparent process and we will
19 highlight how to get these licenses
20 through our external affairs team in the
21 coming weeks after the vote and give you
22 as much time for you to ask your
23 questions.

24 It will be -- again, my commitment
25 is to be fully transparent with this

1 process as we move on.

2 I also want to thank our
3 Commissioners for listening in today and
4 participating, and of course the TLC
5 team members who make the magic happen
6 so that we can talk to our TLC community
7 on a regular basis.

8 And so with that, I'll adjourn this
9 meeting today at 1146. Thank you,
10 everybody.

11 (Time noted: 11:46 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, JULIA M. SPEROS, a Notary Public
for and within the State of New York, do
hereby certify:

That the witness whose testimony as
herein set forth, was duly sworn by me;
and that the within transcript is a true
record of the testimony given by said
witness.

I further certify that I am not
related to any of the parties to this
action by blood or marriage, and that I
am in no way interested in the outcome
of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 11th day of January,
2023.



Julia M. Speros

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