In Re Meeting NYC - Taxi & Limousine Commission March 17, 2022

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3	New York City			
4	Taxi & Limousine Commission			
5	Commission Meeting			
6	x			
7	ZoomVideo Conference March 17, 2022			
8	10:02 a.m.			
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10	HELD BEFORE:			
11	RYAN WANTTAJA, Chair			
12	SHERRYL ELUTO, Acting General Counsel			
13				
14	BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:			
15	KENNETH MITCHELL			
16	STEVE KEST			
17	THOMAS SORRENTINO			
18	BILL AGUADO			
19	JACQUES JIHA			
20				
21	Shechinah Jackson,			
22	Court Reporter			
23				
24				
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In Re Meeting NYC - Taxi & Limousine Commission March 17, 2022

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MR. WANTTAJA: Hi, good morning, I'll now call this meeting of the Taxi & Limousine Commission Board of Commissioners to order at 10:02 a.m. am acting commissioner Ryan Wanttaja and we are joined by Commissioners Sorrentino, Mitchell, Aguado, Jiha and Kest. As you may be aware, former TLC chair and Commissioner Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk recently stepped down after two years of leading this agency. tenure began almost on the day, at the same time as the COVID pandemic, so I want to thank her for her service to the agency and to the City during these past two incredibly challenging years of the industry in the City at large.

It is also sad for me to report,
that after 14 years of dedicated service
to the agency, Commissioner Lubi Polanco
has decided to move on from her
commission as a TLC Commissioner.
Commissioner Polanco was appointed as a
Commissioner in 2007 and served

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continuously since then. In her 14
years of service to the City,
Commissioner Polanco was a consistent
advocate for our drivers and passengers
alike, playing a key role in the passage
of our driver income rules and our
wheelchair accessibility requirements
for taxis and FHBs, among many other
important initiatives. So I again want
to thank you, Commissioner Polanco, for
her 14 years of service to the agency.

Before I talk a little bit about the rules we have before us, I'll note that on March 3rd we noticed two proposed rule packages for public hearing on April 5th. The first implements Council local law 109 of 2020 and requires anyone with an interest in a medallion to file an annual financial disclosure statement with the TLC. The second rule packet would raise the JFK flat rate from \$52 to \$65 and establish for the first time a flat rate of \$39 between the central business district of

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Manhattan and LaGuardia Airport. I urge everyone to check out both of those rule packages on TLC's website and participate on the April 5th hearing. I know any time we're talking about adjustments to the tax, rates and fares, it's a complicated discussion, so we would really welcome your thoughts and comments on those proposed rules.

And that brings us to the rules before us for a vote today. The medallion relief program announced last year is underway and to date, we have been able to assist 263 owners with their medallion loans, disbursing about \$5.3 million in grant funds, resulting in a total amount of almost \$37 million in reduced debt. Today, we are voting on rules that will help us bring those numbers even higher. The proposed rules establish the eligibility criteria to apply for a supplemental loan deficiency guaranteed through the medallion relief program, where the City will fund a

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third party guarantee on medallion loans that are written, down to a principal balance of no more than \$170,000 with an interest rate of 5 percent or less and are fully amortized over 20 years.

I want to take this time to encourage all eligible medallion owners to reach out to our owner/driver resource center to start the process of renegotiating your loan with assistance from attorneys at our owner/driver resource center. We had about 1600 medallion owners make appointments already and I've encouraged any owner who thinks they may be eligible for debt relief to reach out to us via TLC website or mrp@tlc.nyc.gov.

The goal of the program is to provide debt relief for every single eligible medallion owner who needs it.

So, if you're struggling to make your existing loan payments regardless of the current principal balance of your loan,

I urge you to reach out and take

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advantage of this program.

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Before we move on to our agenda, let me say how grateful I am for all of the work and support from TLC's incredibly dedicated and talented staff during this transition period. I am consistently amazed at what a capable team of civil servants we have at the TLC and I couldn't be more thankful for everyone here, as we keep up the TLC important work, and speaking of thankful, let me introduce you to acting general counsel Sherryl Eluto, who many of you may know. Sherryl has mercifully agreed to serve as acting general counsel, while I'm keeping the Commissioner seat warm and I can honestly say none of this would work without her agreeing to do so. So for what I'm sure is the hundredth time, but certainly not the last, thank you, Sherryl. And with that --MS. ELUTO: Thank you for the kind

MR. WANTTAJA: With that, I will

words.

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PROCEEDING 1 2 hand it over to acting general counsel 3 Sherryl ELUTO to take us through the 4 rest of our agenda. 5 MS. ELUTO: Good morning, Commissioners. Before we have the 6 adoption of the minutes from the October 7 8 6, 2021 commission meeting, let's call a 9 vote, if you can raise your hand for 10 approval. Commissioner Jiha, I can't 11 see you, there you go. Great, okay, so 12 Passed unanimously. 13 Next business, the approval or 14 denial of the base applications, we have 15 Fabian Cancel, who will lead you through 16 that. 17 MR. CANCEL: Good morning, 18 Commissioners and attendees, my name is Fabian Cancel. I'm the director of the 19 20 base and business licensing unit. 30 21 base renewal and change applications 22 have been submitted for review and they 23 are awaiting your approval. MS. ELUTO: Can we have a vote; all 24

those who agree raise your hand, one,

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two, three, four, five, great, okay,
approved unanimously, and now we have
before you --

MR. CANCEL: Thank you, commissioners.

MS. ELUTO: Now we have before you an amendment to the rules establishing eligibility criteria for applying for a supplemental loan deficiency quarantee under the medallion relief program, pursuant to the City Administrative Procedure Act. The proposed rules were published in the City Record on January 5, 2022. The commission held a public hearing on the rules on February 8, 2022 and the final version of the proposed rules was posted on the TLC's website on March 14th and a copy of the written comments received were e-mailed to each of the commissioners on that date. So with that, we can all vote on the rules. All those in favor of adopting the proposed amendments, please raise your hands, one, two, three, four, five and

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2	with that, it passes unanimously.
3	I think that's all we have on our
4	agenda for today.
5	MR. WANTTAJA: Yes, that's it today,
6	for today's meeting. Thank you, Sherryl
7	and thank you commissioners for your
8	time this morning. And with that, I
9	will conclude this meeting at 10:08
10	a.m., thank you all.
11	(TIME NOTED: 10:08 a.m.)
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5	STATE OF NEW YORK)
6	Ss:
7	COUNTY OF BRONX)
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9	I, Shechinah Jackson, a shorthand
10	reporter within and for the State of New York,
11	do hereby certify that the within is a true and
12	accurate transcript of the statement taken on
13	3/17/22.
14	I further certify that I am not related
15	to any of the parties to this action by blood or
16	by marriage, and that I am in no way interested
17	in the outcome of this matter.
18	In witness whereof, I have hereunto set
19	my hand this 17th day of March 2022.
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