## In Re Public Hearing NYC - Taxi & Limousine Commission November 29, 2023

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3	NEW YORK CITY
4	TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION
5	PUBLIC HEARING
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8	November 29, 2023
9	10:00 a.m.
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12	HELD AT
13	33 BEAVER STREET
14	NEW YORK, NEW YORK
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17	BEFORE:
18	DAVID DO
19	COMMISSIONER AND CHAIR
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22	Reporter: Susan Fabbricante
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2	APPEARANCES:
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4	TLC COMMISSIONERS:
5	COMMISSIONER DAVID DO
6	COMMISSIONER SARAH KAUFMAN
7	COMMISSIONER ELISA VELAZQUEZ
8	COMMISSIONER KENNETH CHAN
9	COMMISSIONER KENNETH C. MITCHELL
LO	COMMISSIONER PAUL BADER
11	GENERAL COUNSEL SHERRYL ELUTO
L2	
L3	FABIAN CANCEL, DIRECTOR OF BASE/BUSINESS SERVICES
L4	
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1 CHAIR DO: Good morning everyone. 2 Welcome to this public hearing on TLC's 3 4 proposed rule package demonstrating the 5 agency's continued commitment to accessibility for all New Yorkers. 6 7 My name is David Do, and I'm joined today by Commissioners Kaufman, 8 9 Velazquez, Chan, Mitchell and Bader, 10 and also our general counsel is Sherryl 11 Eluto. 12 Before I begin, I would like to 13 give our entire industry some updates. 14 First off, I hope everyone had a 15 lovely Thanksgiving. 16 We've entered that time of year 17 when it gets darker earlier. There are a lot of festivities. So I would like 18 19 to remind everyone to take extra 20 precaution on our roadways. 21 We know that our crashes are 22 preventable. We know that they 23 increase this time of year. So please 24 stay safe. 25 It's been a while since our last

commission meeting, and I also would like to say a few words about the events of the past month.

At our last meeting, on October

18th, the Board of Commission passed a
historic rule, the Green Rights

Initiative. The rule requires that 100
percent of the City's Rideshare trips
be either zero emission or wheelchair
accessible by 2030.

Green Rights is meant to give us cleaner, more sustainable, and more accessible fleet, reduce field and maintenance cost for drivers, and spur the development of the City's charging infrastructure.

Late that same afternoon, the mayor and TLC announced that we were lifting the pause on EV licenses for the foreseeable future. We had an EV exemption to the license pause as recently as 2021.

Since then, we have seen thousands of drivers stop leasing vehicles often

1 2 at predatory rates. We heard from a lot of folks at 3 4 our public comments hearing asking for 5 us to release EV plates as part of the Green Rights Initiative. That's what 6 7 we did. We also released a report 8 9 explaining why this was not going to 10 undermine the gains of the license 11 pause that we achieved, at the same 12 time encouraged drivers to take their 13 time before buying an EV.

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That is one of the reasons we didn't place a time limit on how long EV licenses would be available. We are happy to see the drivers were taking their time.

We were receiving about 100
applications a day up until November
8th. That's when a temporary
restraining order prevented the TLC
from accepting applications after
9 a.m., on November 13th.

This created a scarcity condition,

1 and we went from receiving 100 2 applications a day to 2,000 3 4 applications a day as drivers felt forced to drive EV or missed the 5 opportunity to own the plate. 6 7 As a result, we have now had a lot of drivers waiting for the 8 9 applications to be processed. I want to assure them that we 10 11 are doing everything we can to get 12 through the applications as soon as 13 possible. We also will be doing 14 everything we can to help fast track 15 more charging infrastructure in 16 areas frequented by drivers, working 17 with our DOT partners, our state 18 partners and private industry in 19 using federal grants. We got off to 20 a bumpy start due to legal action. At the other end of this is a 21 22 road that is greener, more inclusive 23 and accessible for all. 24 My last announcement is a 25 bittersweet one. This is First

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2	Deputy Commissioner Ryan Wanttaja's
3	last week with the TLC. Ryan is my
4	right hand. He has served the
5	agency and the City for 12 years.
6	His guidance, leadership and
7	commitment will be sorely missed.
8	He's played a pivotal role in many
9	of the TLC's accomplishments,
10	including ensuring wheelchair
11	accessible service, driver pay
12	standards, and medallion relief
13	program. Those are all bellwether
14	achievements, huge achievements.
15	It's also a lot of fun to work with
16	him, and his knowledge and aptitude.
17	We are going to sorely miss his
18	humor, warmth and camaraderie. The
19	beneficiary of this will be the
20	Department of Transportation where
21	Ryan will be serving as their
22	general counsel.
23	Ryan, I speak for all us here
24	at the TLC. I want to wish you the
25	absolute best. Congratulations and

1 2 thank you so much for all you've 3 done for the TLC family. 4 Now on to our hearing. 5 Today we are holding a public hearing on proposed amendments to 6 7 our taxi cab improvement fund rules, and the rules related to wheelchair 8 accessible vehicles. 9 The rule package would 10 11 reapportion the TIF allocations to 12 provide a 43 percent increase in the 13 initial hack up for wheelchair 14 accessible vehicles, provide the 15 option to disburse the TIF funds 16 directly to vehicle dealerships or accessible vehicle convertors on 17 18 behalf of the eligible medallion 19 owners prior to hacking out the 20 vehicle. 21 To keep more wheelchair 22 accessible vehicles on the road, we 23 would no longer have vehicle retirement dates for both new waves 24 25 placed into service and currently

1 licensed accessible taxi cab, 2 require wheelchair accessible taxis 3 4 remain in-service for five years 5 instead of four years, permit the conversion of using vehicles to 6 7 wheelchair accessible vehicle in accordance with the TLC's proposed 8 criteria, and clarify TLC's 9 10 rehacking rules to ensure that 11 medallions are eligible for rehacking new vehicles adhering to 12 13 TLC's existing accessible 14 requirements. 15 The notice for comments on 16 these proposed rules were submitted 17 to the city record and published on 18 October 26, 2023. The comment 19 period ended yesterday. We're not 20 voting on the rules today, and we 21 are leveraging all the comments that 22 we hear today and written comments 23 to make any changes that are 24 appropriate. 25 I will now hand it over to our

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2	general counsel, Sherryl Eluto, to
3	begin our public hearing.
4	Sherryl.
5	MS. ELUTO: Good morning. When
6	I call your name, you can unmute
7	your microphone and begin your
8	testimony. Each speak will be
9	allotted three minutes to speak.
10	The time limit will be strictly
11	enforced. A 30 second warning will
12	be provided, and then you need to
13	conclude your testimony when your
14	time is up.
15	The video of this hearing and
16	copies of all written comments will
17	be provided to the commissioners
18	prior to the vote on these rules at
19	the next commission meeting.
20	With that, we'll begin our
21	public hearing, and I'll call on our
22	first speaker.
23	Our first speaker is Vinod
24	Malhotra. He will be followed by
25	Wain Chin, and Lee Komitor.

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2	Mr. Malhotra, you can unmute
3	your microphone and begin. You're
4	still muted. Mr. Malhotra? Okay.
5	We're going to come back to you.
6	Let's go to Wain Chin.
7	Mr. Chin, you can unmute your
8	microphone and begin please.
9	MR. CHIN: Hi. Good morning.
10	My name is Wain Chin. I'm also TLC
11	member.
12	Yeah, I would like to, you
13	know, have an increase in grant,
14	because my next car is going to be
15	wheelchair accessible vehicle.
16	We all having problem with
17	getting the down payment, because
18	they cost more than six years ago.
19	Six year ago the cost is like
20	50,000. Now it's like 70,000 for
21	the wheelchair accessible.
22	You know, I would like the
23	grant much higher, you know, and
24	also keep the same making the
25	grants for 3,000 a year, because

1 wheelchair accessible cost more 2 money to maintain, and also the 3 4 insurance for full coverage cost 5 more money for the wheelchair accessible vehicle. 6 7 You know, also because of the mileage, you know, the retirement 8 9 thing, I don't know for 10 year or 10 longer, it doesn't make sense, 11 because most of the cars every taxi 12 they replace seven year. After 13 seven year, the maintenance is much 14 higher than, you know, the normal, 15 you know, schedule, you know. 16 So after seven year, I don't 17 know that the TLC should allow 18 making a grant, which the owner keep 19 the car after seven year, because 20 after seven year, the car, you know, 21 much higher than after seven years. 22 So I would like the grant to 23 continue to repeat after seven year. 24 And for us, you know, also the 25 cost every year that changing,

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2	right, the inflammation. So that
3	the TLC should consider, you know,
4	inflammation adjustment for every
5	grant per year, because the car cost
6	five thousand, three thousand six
7	years ago. It cost more this year,
8	because the inflation is not going
9	down any time soon. It keeps going
10	up.
11	So I would like the grant
12	adjusted by the inflammation every
13	year.
14	Thank you so much.
15	MS. ELUTO: Thank you. Thank
16	you for your comments.
17	Our next speaker is Lee
18	Komitor. Mr. Komitor, yes, you can
19	proceed.
20	Lee Komitor, I see you're
21	unmuted. So go ahead and please
22	speak. Now you muted yourself. Can
23	you unmute? Yes, go ahead.
24	There seems to be a problem.
25	Why don't we try Mr. Malhotra

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2	again. Mr. Malhotra, can you unmute
3	and please speak?
4	We're not doing well today
5	people.
6	All right. Let's go to Max
7	Greenbaum. Mr. Greenbaum, go ahead.
8	MR. GREENBAUM: Hi there. Can
9	you hear me?
10	MS. ELUTO: Yes.
11	MR. GREENBAUM: First I want to
12	thank the commissioners for
13	listening to my concerns. I have
14	submitted detailed written comments
15	as well.
16	My name is Max Greenbaum. I am
17	the vice-president of All Taxi
18	Management, a taxi cab agent
19	licensed by the TLC since 1988.
20	All taxis proud to be an early
21	adopter of the driver owned leasing
22	model, also known as DOVE.
23	This model gives the medallion
24	drivers the opportunity to purchase
25	and own their vehicle throughout

1 their medallion lease. 2 DOVE drivers maintain their own 3 4 vehicles and can even sublease the vehicles to other drivers in an 5 entrepreneurial spirit. It is often 6 7 referred to as a stepping stone to 8 becoming a medallion owner. 9 There are a number of proposed 10 rules and provisions by the TLC that 11 do not support and will actually 12 harm or destroy the DOVE model. 13 With regards to the hack up 14 payment, while we strongly agree 15 with the intent of the rule, we feel the increase does not serve its 16 purpose of offsetting the cost to 17 convert a vehicle to WAVES. 18 19 The current cost to convert a 20 Toyota Sienna is \$26,104. It would 21 only be fair to increase the hack up 22 payment to match the current cost of 23 the conversion. Furthermore, the 24 hack up payment should be at the 25 agent or medallion owner's option to

1 2 be paid directly to the agent, or dealer or converter. 3 4 Regarding the vehicle 5 operational payments, it's crazy to have a 75 percent decrease from 6 7 4,000 to 1,000 per year and expect to have more WAVES enter the 8 industry. This would deter drivers 9 10 from driving WAVE as an added weight 11 after converting it into a WAVE 12 drastically wears on integral costly 13 parts. 14 Furthermore, any rule change 15 should specify for future hack ups 16 not to disrupt ongoing leases. 17 Increasing the WAVE requirement from 18 four to five years proposing a rule 19 to claw back TIF funds does not work within the DOVE leasing model. 20 You may not realize, under the 21 22 current TLC rules, the agent is 23 required to give a credit of \$77 24 every week or \$1,000 yearly in 25 advance to the DOVE driver

1 2 regardless of the agent actually 3 receiving these funds from the TLC. 4 When the vehicle's paid off by 5 the driver, typically in three years, we can rightfully take 6 7 ownership of the title, and return the medallion. While this doesn't 8 9 typically occur, having this rule in 10 place would not be fair to the agent 11 who already paid these funds to the 12 lessee throughout the term of the additional sale of the vehicle. 13 14 Additionally, the current 15 leasing cap of the vehicles is 42,900, which is far below the 16 actual cost of the vehicle. 17 18 While we appreciate and agree 19 to remove the retirement of WAVE 20 vehicles, we feel the TLC should 21 remove the retirement for all medallion vehicles not just WAVE. 22 23 Why should there be different 24 standards for FHB basis than yellow 25 taxis?

1 For example, FHBs get inspected 2 3 by the TLC once every two years, 4 while yellow taxis get inspected by 5 the TLC twice yearly. Again, I thank the commission 6 7 for their time, and I have submitted 8 written comments. 9 MS. ELUTO: Thank you. 10 Our next speaker will be 11 Stephen Chandler to be followed by 12 Richard Chow and then Peter Mazer. Mr. Chandler, go ahead. 13 14 MR. CHANDLER: Good morning. 15 My name is Stephen Chandler. 16 represent City World Auto Group. 17 pretty much just sell TLC vehicles, 18 obviously including the wheelchair 19 vehicles. 20 I wanted to speak on two 21 matters. The funds being paid 22 directly to the dealership is a 23 slight concern. I would like to try 24 to keep it to the medallion owner 25 itself.

You know, there's basically two ways the money would be used by the medallion owner as a down payment.

You know, future monies could be used for down payments. Banks don't allow that. So it becomes an issue if somebody needs a \$30,000 down payment. Here's 10, Steve, and you'll get your 20 in four months or five months.

I couldn't tell a bank that, you know, I'm including money for a down payment for something that I may or may not see for four to five months. So then we would have to go to, you know, lowering the overall cost of the vehicle up front, and that's where it really becomes the dealership becoming a business partner with the medallion owner as we're going to sell the car in a large loss, and then hopefully in the future be able to recoup those monies not to mention if there's an

1 2 issue with the medallion, or the owner's owed funds or anything like 3 4 that. 5 You know, there could be some instances we're kind of required to 6 7 pay it, so we're not losing, you know, tens of thousands of dollars 8 9 there. 10 So it would really make the 11 dealership have to float, you know, 12 probably four to five million 13 dollars before they started 14 recouping when this program would 15 start, and the cash flow of the 16 dealership, I don't know if it 17 supports it. 18 The other thing would be, you 19 know, with the WAVE requirements in 20 terms of years. You know, it's a 21 small subject that a lot of people 22 think about. 23 When we order these vehicles, 24 we order them once, if we're lucky, 25 twice a year. It would be very hard

1 2 to know how many to order for any given year with no retirement dates 3 4 whatsoever, which would force us to 5 either order very small amounts that, you know, we pay hundreds of 6 7 thousands in interest per month on these vehicles. 8 9 If something were to happen where half the vehicles I ordered 10 11 takes two years to sell, you know, 12 it would be very hard for us to survive. So, you know, that would 13 14 be my concern. 15 There is obviously a monetary 16 concern for us, but in all honesty, 17 as far as we sell, you know, we sell 18 in the red to keep the business 19 flowing for the times we can sell in 20 the black. This would make the risk for us 21 22 maybe half the rate prices to 23 overcome that risk. So that's that. 24 That was my concerns. Thank 25 you.

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2	MS. ELUTO: Thank you. Our
3	next speaker is Richard Chow.
4	MR. CHOW: Hello. Can you hear
5	me?
6	MS. ELUTO: Yes.
7	MR. CHOW: Hello, Commissioner
8	and everyone. Good morning. My
9	name is Richard Chow. I'm a member.
10	I'm owner/driver.
11	Inflation is too high
12	everywhere, and the cost is
13	expensive, and I agree with my
14	friend Wain Chin. You know, the
15	cost is very expensive. It take
16	three months owner to get a car. So
17	you know, the driver, we need
18	30,000. The 3,000 grant you must
19	adjust for inflammation every year,
20	and the grant must be at least 3,000
21	per year for up to seven year adjust
22	the inflammation every year 1,500
23	for each year, adjust for
24	inflammation every year.
25	And (inaudible), and the

mileage driven from the dealer including out of state must be inspected. For example, the car cost \$5,000 dollars from Indiana compare to the (inaudible). It takes up to 500 miles, and when the driver drove 700 miles to New York City with the vehicle inspected a new car, and the medallion owner should be assumed with the right to receive the hack up plan. The bottom of the proof must be on the TLC.

The TLC should not have the right to deny to grant based on the criminal conviction. TLC should not have right to demand payment on the grant normally, and the car failed to remain on the road at least five years due to (inaudible) and from the natural disaster, loss of medallion, or retirement of the medallion owner. So we need to fix the problem.

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2	Thank you for listening. Thank
3	you so much.
4	MS. ELUTO: Thank you. Our
5	next speaker this morning is Peter
6	Mazer.
7	Mr. Mazer, you can unmute your
8	mic and begin.
9	MR. MAZER: Good morning,
10	Chairperson Do and members of the
11	Commission.
12	My name is Peter Mazer, and I
13	am general counsel to the
14	Metropolitan Taxi Cab Board of
15	Trade, a 70 year old association
16	representing owners and operators of
17	licensed city medallion taxi cabs.
18	In addition to my comments this
19	morning, I submitted written
20	comments which I ask to be made part
21	of the record.
22	As we are all aware, the TLC is
23	under federal mandate to have at
24	least 55 percent of all taxi cabs
25	accessible for persons with

1 2 disabilities. At present, only about 42 percent of cabs are 3 4 accessible, and the prohibitive cost 5 of purchasing retro-fitted cabs is 6 unlikely that this percentage will 7 change unless something is done to the existing rules. 8 To that end, we commend the 9 10 TLC's proposal to eliminate 11 mandatory vehicle retirement for 12 accessible vehicles as a necessary 13 first step. Nearly 700 accessible 14 vehicles would need to be taken off 15 the road in the near future, because 16 of mandatory vehicle requirement. 17 Under this proposal, these cars can remain in service. 18 19 TLC's rigid inspection 20 requirement needs to ensure that these vehicles are safe. More needs 21 22 to be done. 23 We are pleased the TLC is 24 considering an increase in the 25 reimbursement from 14,000 to 20,000

1 for hack up with an accessible 2 3 vehicle costing between \$70,000 to 4 \$80,000. That's still not enough. 5 We requested that the reimbursement be increased to at least \$25,000. 6 7 We also urge you not to reduce 8 the maintenance payments as 9 proposed, because repair and servicing cost have not declined. 10 11 \$3,000 a year is simply not enough 12 to keep an accessible vehicle in 13 good condition. 14 The proposed rules open a 15 limited pathway to the conversion of nonaccessible vehicles. 16 17 We support this concept, and 18 believe such vehicle conversions, 19 along with the rule changes, will enable the TLC to achieve its 20 federal mandate. 21 22 However, two of the conversion 23 requirements to the proposed rules 24 would foreclose the option to 25 virtually all owners of

1 nonaccessible vehicles, limiting the 2 conversion to vehicles that have 3 4 been operated for less than 50,000 miles and to vehicles less than 5 This conversion three years old. 6 7 option should be open to all owners of nonaccessible vehicles 8 irrespective of the number of miles 9 that the car is in service and 10 11 irrespective of the model year. 12 The medallion owners would 13 still be required to have 14 retrofitting done by an approved 15 manufacturer who would certify the 16 safety of the vehicle, and pass 17 vehicle inspections in order they 18 may stay on the road. 19 There are vehicle retro-fitters 20 that are able and willing to convert 21 existing taxi cab models to 22 accessibility safely without 23 compromising the integrity of the 24 vehicle in any way, or making the 25 vehicle unsuitable for use as a taxi

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2	cab.
3	Indeed, all vehicles that
4	continue to pass TLC inspection
5	should remain in service
6	irrespective of the vehicle's age or
7	number of miles in service.
8	Limiting conversion to only
9	nonaccessible vehicles that meet the
10	requirements is inconsistent with
11	the remaining concept.
12	I thank you for your time, and
13	I would answer any questions that
14	you may have.
15	Thank you.
16	MS. ELUTO: Thank you,
17	Mr. Mazer.
18	Our next speaker is Bhairavi
19	Desai. She'll be followed by Basia
20	Osowski, and Erhan Tuncel.
21	MS. DESAI: Thank you. Good
22	morning, Mr. Chairman, and members
23	of the Commission and TLC staff.
24	I am Bhairavi Desai. I am the
25	executive director of the New York

1 Taxi Workers Alliance. 2 3 With regards to the proposed 4 rules, I really agree with many of 5 the speakers already. You know, the TLC made a 6 7 binding settlement on this issue. You know, people from -- who were at 8 9 TLC many years ago when this settlement was reached will know 10 that the New York Taxi Workers 11 12 Alliance stood in full support. Wе believe in accessibility. We 13 14 believe that taxis, in particular, 15 should have, you know, a pathway to 16 full accessibility even. 17 I mean, you see it in London, and in order for New York to be a 18 19 global 24/7 city, that is just and 20 fair in service. We need full 21 accessibility for our neighbors and 22 for our visitors. 23 This has been a mandate that's 24 really been largely unfunded. 25 the grants that existed through the

1 2 years have come from the industry itself. 3 4 It's drivers labor, the cost of 5 gasoline, and leases, for maintenance that actually subsided 6 7 these grants all these years, and these grant, as Wain and Richard 8 9 have said, never been adjusted for 10 inflammation throughout all of these 11 years. So we cannot contemplate 12 reducing these maintenance grants. 13 These grants are critical. 14 The taxi industry is still 50 15 percent less in trips compared to 16 preCOVID. You know, the economic conditions remain dire. 17 Over 4,000 medallions are still 18 19 in storage. This is a tremendous 20 economic cost to, you know, to 21 convert, to purchase these vehicles, 22 convert them and maintain them. 23 We need the TLC to be a real 24 partner in this mandate, which the 25 TLC is the party that agreed to in

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court. We need to work with you, to go to the state, to increase these grants and actually, you know, no longer be dependent on the industry, the driver's labor itself even producing this revenue.

We are glad to see that the hack up grant has gone up, but it does need to be higher, 25,000 even 30,000, given the cost itself has gone up so much. The maintenance grant absolutely should not be cut, and in terms of mileage, as Richard said, many owner/drivers in particular will find a vehicle in a market like Indianapolis where the cost is much lower. They should be able to buy the car there and drive it back, and the 700 miles when they're driving it back should not count towards the 500 mile limit for the vehicle to be considered new.

This would allow that vehicle to not have to go through a more

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2	burdensome used vehicle inspection,
3	and, you know, that itself would be
4	a good economic boost to
5	owner/drivers.
6	We will follow up with more
7	written comments. Thank you for
8	your time.
9	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
10	Our next speaker is Basia
11	Osowski. You can unmute your
12	microphone and begin.
13	We can hear you. You're
14	echoing, but I hear you.
15	Hello? Are you able to give
16	your comments?
17	I think we'll go on to the next
18	speaker. Erhan Tuncel please.
19	Mr. Tuncel, go ahead.
20	MR. TUNCEL: Hi, Commissioner.
21	My name is Erhan Tuncel. I'm member
22	of New York Taxi Workers Alliance
23	and owner/driver.
24	On this issue, I have mention a
25	few times about mileage, new vehicle

mileage of 500 miles is too low, and I don't see why there has to be a mileage requirement as long as the car is being hacked up for the first time, or registered for the first time in the state. That should give us a better options price wise, and be able to shop for lower priced vehicle.

And also, I appreciate and we all appreciate the increase in the initial grant to 20,000, but we all know that's not enough, and someone testified earlier exactly the number of how much it cost to convert a vehicle, and it might be more by Brown, because Brown is probably one of the best wheelchair accessible converters out there, and 25,000, I think initial grant is more appropriate.

There is a concern I have, a big concern I have that nobody has mentioned to my surprise by the way,

1 because we all work in yellow taxi 2 industry, and we all care for it, 3 4 and we wanted to remain as a viable 5 option to riding public. My concern is that eliminating, 6 7 I'm going to be cursed at. I'm 8 going to be probably spat at when 9 people see me, but I'm going to say 10 it any way. The elimination of retirements 11 12 for WAVE vehicles is a self-inflicted wound to the taxi 13 14 industry. 15 Please do not allow this, and a limit must be -- must be -- the 16 vehicles must have a limit. We can 17 control the conditions of the 18 19 vehicle even if you eliminate the 20 age on the limit that must be a 21 miles requirement or miles limit otherwise the taxi fleet is going to 22 23 fall apart. 24 The days that we are competing 25 for every fare with app cars,

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2	they're newer, they're better cars.
3	This is essential for taxi industry
4	survival.
5	Thank you very much.
6	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
7	Let's try Lee Komitor. You can
8	unmute your mic and begin.
9	MR. KOMITOR: Good morning,
10	Chairman Do and distinguished
11	commissioners. My name is Lee
12	Komitor of Coppell Ford.
13	I have been a car dealer
14	supplier of New York City taxis cabs
15	for over 40 years to the New York
16	City taxi industry, and I'm here to
17	respond to the change of rules
18	regarding the process of allocation
19	funds from the TIF.
20	My questions is as follows:
21	Where in the City budget is money
22	being allocated for this program to
23	the agencies being dramatically cut?
24	What happens if there is
25	insufficient funds?

1 2 As being proposed, the TLC would affect us. That would be 3 4 (inaudible). 5 The cash flow of any business as per our obligation with dealer 6 7 agreement on each vehicle at the time of delivery must be paid off 8 when the vehicle leaves the 9 10 dealership. Each vehicle is 20,000 11 in receivable. 12 How would the dealership be 13 eligible for this money if the 14 medallion owner or the leasing 15 company, if the medallion is in some 16 type of problem? The vehicle should be paid by 17 the end user, and should not be the 18 19 responsibility of the dealership. 20 We understand that through the 21 dealership that many of our clients 22 have significant problems with 23 reimbursement. 24 Where are we guaranteed the 25 money to be had?

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2	What would be the labor
3	reimbursement process?
4	If the medallion has any
5	outstanding issue, what would delay
6	the process of payment to us?
7	Can someone please answer these
8	questions?
9	CHAIR DO: Lee, I'll try to
10	answer some of those questions.
11	Thank you so much for your
12	comments.
13	So the money comes from the TIF
14	Fund, which is one dollar, and it
15	stands for the Taxi Improvement
16	Fund, and it's one dollar per meter
17	trip. So that is where the cash
18	flow comes in. With 3.2 million
19	trips a month, it's about 3.2
20	million dollar revenue for this fund
21	to be pushed back for accessibility
22	initiatives.
23	We'll talk more with you on
24	what the grant looks like, but we
25	are imagining it as a point of sale

1 grant where that can be used for the 2 3 driver to use as a down payment, or to the wheelchair converter to 4 5 assist in lowering the cost upfront. I've heard from many drivers 6 7 and many industry stakeholders that there's a lack of capital. So we 8 9 want to leverage our TIF fund to help those who don't have the 10 11 upfront capital for a down payment 12 or otherwise. MR. KOMITOR: I understand 13 14 that, but we need to understand one 15 thing. When the vehicle leaves 16 here, our financial agreement with that lender, once the vehicle leaves 17 18 here we have to pay this off, 19 whether it be paid prior to process 20 of delivery. 21 CHAIR DO: Like I said, it's a 22 point of sale, and we can talk to 23 you a little more in depth after 24 this hearing. 25 MR. KOMITOR: Well, that I

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2	would appreciate, because I
3	understand, like I said prior, most
4	of our clients are telling me that
5	it takes four to five months to be
6	reimbursed.
7	How do we know that there's not
8	an issue on the medallion of the
9	vehicle or the medallion would be
10	eligible for payment?
11	CHAIR DO: That's why we're
12	doing it upfront at the point of
13	sale.
14	Again, we'll talk more after
15	this, Mr. Komitor. I appreciate
16	your comments today. Thank you.
17	MR. KOMITOR: Our agreement
18	with our lenders (inaudible), once
19	the vehicle leaves the curb, we have
20	to pay this vehicle off.
21	I would be in noncompliance,
22	which would be a significant issue.
23	CHAIR DO: Again, Mr. Komitor,
24	we can talk about the details, but
25	not in a public forum like this.

1 We'll try to assist and make 2 3 the transition as smooth as 4 possible. I've also heard from -- and 5 we'll go on to our next speaker. 6 7 I've also heard from the industry that they still would like an 8 opportunity for the reimbursable 9 10 grant portion of this. So we're 11 thinking about it. It's an either 12 or proposition, and not one or the 13 other. 14 Thank you. 15 We can go to the next speaker, 16 Sherryl. MS. ELUTO: The next speaker, 17 18 we're going back to Vinod Malhotra. 19 MR. MALHOTRA: Hi. Thank you 20 for everything. Good morning, 21 Commission. My name is Vinod 22 Malhotra. I am owner of taxi cab. 23 First of all, thank you for the 24 first step in our industry to have 25 the owners. This rule is not only

1 for the owners. It's for everyone 2 especially to the wheelchair users. 3 4 There will be more and more 5 wheelchair in the industry. I want to please already have 6 7 in place in several service since both hack up and cost grants. 8 I know how I raise the money 9 10 when my car in 2021, that was a very 11 hardship time for us. I understand 12 we have hardly making a living, and please do not give money to the 13 14 dealers directly. Bring this, the 15 vehicle price may go more up. 16 price is very high. 17 I have experience about this. 18 I bought the car, 65 it cost me. 19 Everything bring up to the rule. 20 Some dealers sell the car at 75, and 21 I don't understand why there's so 22 much different. 23 So please, the 25 grant in two 24 months. The first six hack up cost, 25 and which please give to all

1	
2	existing new owners, and next after
3	they paid off the cost inspection.
4	So after that, every year for
5	maintenance goes four to five years.
6	Please increase the trip required
7	350, between 450, 500 trips. Most
8	times we have no (inaudible).
9	We want to go off today's
10	topic.
11	So we have some problem with
12	the insurance companies that don't
13	want to give us some I have some
14	problem with the insurance
15	companies. They do what they want.
16	They don't want to give us funds
17	when we take over the drivers.
18	So thanks again everyone
19	(inaudible) my humble on behalf of
20	all owners who already placed in the
21	car market, please help us and give
22	us 6,000 a hack up cost.
23	Thank you so much. Thank you
24	so much all. God bless.
25	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

1	
2	The next speaker is Basia
3	Osowski. Yes, go ahead.
4	We can't hear you.
5	Ms. Osowski, you can submit
6	written comments today, and we will
7	take a look at them. We seem to
8	have trouble hearing you.
9	That was our last speaker.
10	That concludes our public hearing.
11	Commissioner, I will turn it
12	back to you.
13	CHAIR DO: I want to first
14	thank everyone for their comments,
15	both speaking comments and written
16	comments, because that helps us.
17	Like I said, for many other
18	rule package, this helps us with a
19	better rule package at the end of
20	the day.
21	So for the next few weeks,
22	we'll engage with the stakeholders,
23	and review the written comments, and
24	make sure that the package truly
25	does help our accessibility efforts

```
1
 2
                 and our yellow industry to become
 3
                 more accessible.
                       I want to thank all of my
 4
 5
                 fellow commissioners who are on the
 6
                 call today, and our general counsel
 7
                 for leading our hearing.
 8
                       With that, thank you everyone,
 9
                 and we will see you soon.
10
11
12
                       (Time Ended: 10:43 a.m.)
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1
 2
     CERTIFICATION
     STATE OF NEW YORK )
 3
    COUNTY OF NASSAU
 4
 5
                   I, SUSAN FABBRICANTE, a Stenotype
 6
    Reporter and Notary Public within and for the
 7
    State of New York, do hereby certify:
 8
                   That the witness whose deposition is
 9
    herein before set forth, was duly sworn by me, and
10
    that such examination is a true and accurate
11
    record of the testimony given by such witness to
12
    the best of my ability.
13
                   I further certify that I am not
14
    related to any of the parties to this action by
15
    blood or marriage; and that I am in no way
16
     interested in the outcome of this matter.
17
                   IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
18
    set my hand this 29th day of November, 2023.
19
20
21
22
                               Dusan Pabbricante
23
2.4
25
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