



NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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TLC NEWS | TESTIMONY

The TLC testified on the proposed medallion sale as part of the Mayors budget for fiscal year 2004

Delivered June 27, 2003 Good morning, Chairman Weprin and members of the Council Finance Committee. My name is Matthew Daus, and I am Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. I have been invited to testify on behalf of the Bloomberg Administration in favor of Intro. No. 496-A, which would authorize the issuance of additional taxicab medallions.

The number of licensed taxicabs authorized to operate in the City of New York is fixed by law at 12,187. Taxicab ownership has been a mechanism whereby many New Yorkers have fulfilled the American dream by owning and operating a small business.

Recently, the New York State legislature authorized the issuance of up to 900 new taxicab medallions. The TLC has commenced the process whereby an environmental review and analysis is being conducted with respect to whether these additional medallions would impact upon traffic congestion and air quality. This review should be completed by the Fall.

There appears to be a need for additional taxicabs, which would be addressed by this bill. For example, taxicab ridership has steadily increased since 2001, and has reached its second highest level during 2002 – when nearly 240 million passengers were transported.

Beyond providing additional service, this bill addresses areas of concern to the Commission: promoting alternative fuel vehicles and the provision of transportation to persons with disabilities. By providing that nine percent (9%) of the vehicles from each sale are accessible, we are reaffirming our commitment to providing transportation to persons with disabilities. Such service will supplement TLC initiatives to provide accessible for-hire services pursuant to its rules. Likewise, the set-aside for alternative fuel vehicles demonstrates a commitment to a cleaner environment. This initiative will supplement other efforts the TLC has made to protect the environment, including mandatory vehicle retirement and tri-annual vehicle inspections.

The Bloomberg Administration supports Intro. No. 496-A and its goals of providing additional taxicab service to the public and generating needed additional revenue for the City.

I would now be happy to answer any questions you may have.

