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NYC TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION  
PUBLIC MEETING  
held on Thursday, January 8, 2009  
40 Rector Street  
5th Floor  
New York, New York

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1 Public Meeting convened at 9:50 a.m.  
2  
3 P R E S E N T :  
4 MATTHEW W. DAUS, COMMISSIONER/CHAIR  
5 ELIAS AROUT, COMMISSIONER  
6 LAUVIENSKA POLANCO, COMMISSIONER  
7 EDWARD GONZALES, COMMISSIONER  
8 CHARLES FRASER, GENERAL COUNSEL  
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1 CHAIRMAN DAUS: Good morning,  
2 everyone. Happy New Year. If everybody could  
3 try to find their seats, this should be a

4 brief Commission meeting. We want to note who  
5 is in attendance today for the record,  
6 Commissioners Polanco, Gonzales, Matthew Daus  
7 and Elias Arout, along with our General  
8 Counsel, Chuck Fraser.

9 I would like to go right to Item 1 on  
10 the agenda which is my report. First, some of  
11 you may have read in the Daily News and have  
12 seen on TV that the Mayor had started, along  
13 with the Department of Consumer Affairs, a  
14 volunteer financial hotline or help line. It  
15 was very well publicized.

16 It was an issue that the Daily News  
17 undertook in which the City University, DCA,  
18 and also the Office of Financial Empowerment  
19 at DCA in particular, used a help line between  
20 December 15th and 19th called Your Money Help  
21 Line to basically give New Yorkers advice on  
22 their finances, to see if they could lend a  
23 helping hand.

24 I am pleased to report that we had  
25 trained and sent about 11 TLC volunteers over

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1 to work the hotline and to help people, New  
2 Yorkers in need. And my understanding is that  
3 over 8,000 New Yorkers have been recipients of  
4 the advice from our staff and other staff over  
5 there.

6 Also, just a quick couple of numbers  
7 on the Accessible Dispatch Program as I  
8 promised every month. We have 237 accessible  
9 vehicles. As of today we have had 801  
10 dispatches. There are 308 drivers that have  
11 been trained so that number has gone up  
12 significantly thanks to the work of the  
13 industry and Samara Epstein and Caroline  
14 Castro. 201 vehicles and drivers have been  
15 equipped with Blackberries and an average of  
16 20 to 30 vehicles are logged on at any given  
17 time.

18 Over the next -- as we go into '09,  
19 since we are there now, over the next couple  
20 of weeks we are going to be trying to do a  
21 little outreach as we open up the 311 hotline  
22 to receive dispatch calls on a wider scale.  
23 We first started with testers and a limited  
24 number of people to make sure everything was  
25 working, but our intention is to go a bit

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1 further now and possibly do some public  
2 service announcements and outreach to the  
3 disability community, working closely with the  
4 Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.  
5 So you may see an advertisement here or there  
6 or hear more about it in the coming weeks.  
7 That's the whole point. We want to now see if  
8 the system could handle and whether there is a

9 demand for this service greater than what we  
10 have seen so far.

11 Also you may have read in the papers  
12 earlier this week or seen on TV that the pilot  
13 program that we approved for cameras back in  
14 December has apparently gotten more attention  
15 than we anticipated. We are thankful for  
16 that. I would like to thank -- this is a rare  
17 moment -- I would like to thank the press for  
18 getting the word out actually.

19 Usually when we put Requests For  
20 Information out, we want to do our best to get  
21 the word out and sometimes topics are a little  
22 bit more mundane and we have to send out  
23 mailing lists. I don't think there is anyone  
24 who could doubt that we have reached the  
25 widest possible audience. In fact, we are

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1 getting calls, the phones are ringing off the  
2 hook, even some companies that we did not even  
3 know about that have products like this. It  
4 is apparently more widespread than I thought,  
5 these forward facing cameras that record  
6 accident data.

7 Very well received by many  
8 passengers. Some mixed results with the  
9 drivers, but many passengers like it, the  
10 insurance companies love it, and I actually  
11 had a fleet owner the other day who approached  
12 me and said that they want to basically  
13 install it in their cabs, Mr. Guy Roberts.  
14 And any others who are interested, we would  
15 love to get you to try these devices.

16 Also copies of RFI were published,  
17 are in the back. They are on our website, I  
18 believe, and they were published in the City  
19 Record on December 30th. So it's out there.  
20 I think there is a deadline, I don't recall  
21 what it is, but, obviously, if people come in  
22 over the next month or two, we are not going  
23 to deny you access to possibly test your  
24 products in taxicabs.

25 T-PEP update. I want to talk a

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1 little about this, this is important. It's  
2 hard to believe that we started T-PEP over  
3 four years ago with a lot of the initial  
4 ground work that we had laid, including the  
5 Request For Information, the technology  
6 summit, the RFP. All of that had never  
7 existed and we never really saw anything like  
8 it before. It is really kind of a custom made  
9 product.

10 And I am very, very pleased that it  
11 is working well. There is no question about  
12 it, it has now become a fact of life in the  
13 city, the drivers are now accepting of it. It

14 has become a way of life. I have seen some of  
15 the content on the some of the systems improve  
16 and we have been very fortunate to have  
17 vendors who have been responsive to a lot of  
18 the issues that came up with this new product,  
19 so if there is an issue or a problem, they are  
20 very quick to address it or deal with it.  
21 Because with any new products, any new  
22 software, you always have issues.

23 So I want to thank the vendors for  
24 all of their hard work in putting this  
25 together. But now that it has become part of

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1 the fabric of New York City, and also other  
2 cities like Chicago, I think we are poised at  
3 this time to emulate that we have done with  
4 this successful project in many other cities.  
5 So I think it is important that we constantly  
6 look at what we have done and try to improve  
7 it if we can as we go into the second big  
8 phase of this project in my mind.

9 I think there is still some  
10 considerable time left on the contracts that  
11 we have with the three remaining vendors, but  
12 at this point we would like to be a little bit  
13 ahead of the curve, and I think the point is  
14 we need to take T-PEP to the next level. It  
15 is great, it is doing well. I think what we  
16 would like to do in the coming year is explore  
17 opportunities for us to go further than we  
18 have before, including looking at content, are  
19 there other applications that we haven't  
20 thought of that we can use the technology for.

21 Again, I will give you basically an  
22 example of what I am thinking about. We  
23 started the process with an RFI, so my  
24 thinking is let's start another RFI and issue  
25 that RFI soon to determine what we are going

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1 to do next. Obviously, we have existing  
2 contracts. We seek at this time to honor  
3 those contracts, but we need to decide at some  
4 point when those contracts end what we are  
5 going to do. Whether we are going to renew  
6 them or whether we are going to do a new RFP.

7 So the RFI will probably cover the  
8 following topics: Soliciting input obviously  
9 from the industry, the technology community,  
10 the riding public and the general public,  
11 contents providers. Really anybody who has  
12 good T-PEP experience so we can develop the  
13 new, the 2.0 for T-PEP.

14 Let me just say this: We want to  
15 look at new ideas, new applications, and we  
16 are open to exploring any alternatives that  
17 might be to the existing paradigm as well. We  
18 set off I think on a very successful paradigm

19 where we have competition between numerous  
20 vendors that you drove the cost down for taxi  
21 drivers, for medallion owners, and created  
22 competition. I think that's good. But I  
23 don't think we want to close the door to the  
24 possibility that maybe there could be an  
25 exclusivity that could be granted for the next

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1 contract. Maybe there could be strategic  
2 partnerships that could be developed with the  
3 existing vendors or possibly new people and  
4 other companies that may come in and have  
5 other ideas.

6 And I know some of the vendors are  
7 here, and I want to thank them for doing  
8 fantastic job. But as we get closer, I think  
9 we kind of need to put our thinking caps on  
10 and see what we can do better, what we can do  
11 to bring it to the next level, and we are open  
12 to any and all new ideas. So this is a very  
13 informal part of the process. An RFI is not  
14 an RFP.

15 There may be an RFP that comes out of  
16 this, but right now we want to get as much  
17 information, because technology is always  
18 changing, there are always new things going on  
19 out there, let's get as much information as we  
20 possibly can so that I can make  
21 recommendations to the Board and the staff can  
22 make recommendations to the Board on what we  
23 should do in terms of our next steps. It may  
24 include an RFP; it may not. I don't want  
25 anyone to jump to any conclusions or get

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1 nervous or weird.

2 Let's just do what we can to come up  
3 with new ideas for how we can better this  
4 technology. But I applaud the vendors, I  
5 applaud the staff. We received an award the  
6 other day, Alan, what was it from, Sam  
7 Schwartz gave us an award --

8 MR. SALKIN: One of their Gridlock  
9 Busters awards.

10 CHAIRMAN DAUS: So we are Gridlock  
11 Busters now.

12 Ira Goldstein got the citywide award  
13 on behalf of the project and the staff for  
14 excellence in technology. So this is really  
15 something that whenever I deal with regulators  
16 from other cities, they are always asking  
17 questions about this and they are starting to  
18 implement plans. And when we first presented  
19 it to them years ago, they would look at us  
20 and say, "It's great, but it is never going to  
21 happen."

22 And now it has happened and it is  
23 being done well and New Yorkers are used to it

24 now, and I am proud that we stuck in there  
25 despite all the opposition and issues that we  
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1 had at the very beginning from some of the  
2 drivers. At the end of the day it ended up  
3 being a good thing for New York and for the  
4 industry. So I want to thank the vendors, I  
5 know some are here. Ron is here. I don't  
6 know if Amos is here, but thank you.

7 We will keep you posted. Ira  
8 Goldstein will be in touch with the vendors.  
9 This is not going to happen overnight, but  
10 certainly within the next couple of months we  
11 would like to get an RFI out there so we can  
12 start collecting information and decide what  
13 we want to do.

14 Also, just a little update on some  
15 numbers with respect to the economy and our  
16 regulated industries. We are still hearing  
17 reports that the black car industry continues  
18 to suffer negative revenue impact on its  
19 business. You know, people are losing jobs,  
20 some of the business is also going to the  
21 yellow cab industry because of the credit  
22 card/debit card possibilities. That's clear.

23 In terms of the yellow industry, the  
24 news is pretty good actually. As you probably  
25 read in the paper, we set a record high for  
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1 the number of licensed taxi drivers that we  
2 have ever had in the yellow cab industry. We  
3 had a total of 46,409 licensed hack drivers at  
4 the end of the year. That's basically a  
5 record high.

6 Gas prices have fallen to about \$1.89  
7 or less, which is a fantastic coup for this  
8 industry. And believe it or not, with home  
9 prices spiraling downward, the economy being  
10 in shambles, the price of a medallion has  
11 reached an all-time high. A record sale was  
12 reached for a mini fleet at the end of  
13 December \$747,000. And an independent  
14 medallion sold for another record of \$550,000.  
15 So someone is looking down at this industry  
16 and let's try to keep it together.

17 I don't think that we should get full  
18 of ourselves and think that there is not going  
19 to be an impact a ridership that is severe at  
20 some point. It could happen. But I think we  
21 are pretty well situated, probably better than  
22 other industries are, considering all the work  
23 that we did. And I think one of the main  
24 reasons for that is we gave drivers a living  
25 wage and gave them a significant increase at a  
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1 time when we didn't have to, which has created  
2 a higher wage so that when the economy was

3 good, drivers never over the years prior to  
4 this, never left the industry. They stayed  
5 in.

6 So now everyone else is losing their  
7 job in other industries and they are coming  
8 in, and that is why I think we have the record  
9 number. But that's obviously in some ways  
10 good for our industry. But let's keep it up.  
11 Let's keep our eye on it, but I think it is  
12 noteworthy to share that, that we are still  
13 breaking records on medallion sales.

14 The rules review project proceeds.  
15 We have a second public hearing scheduled for  
16 Friday, January 23rd at 2:30 p.m. in the Map  
17 Room, in this room. We will be covering  
18 Chapter 14, taxi meter rules. Chuck Fraser  
19 will be presiding. That is going to be  
20 similar to the prior hearings that we had, no  
21 substantive changes are being proposed. It is  
22 mostly reorganization. Can we be more precise  
23 and clear, can the lawyers use more plain  
24 English. That type of thing.

25 But as I mentioned to the  
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1 Commissioners, as we are looking through this  
2 non-substantive exercise, if ideas come up of  
3 a substantive nature that we will take note of  
4 them as we go into the second phase of this  
5 project. That's obviously something that,  
6 since we are reading the rules anyway.  
7 Commissioner Gonzales and I were talking about  
8 this, we will keep a running list of issues  
9 that we want to look at when we get to the  
10 next phase when we deal with the consultants.  
11 And I would ask all the Commissioners when  
12 they read the rules to do that, as well as the  
13 industry to keep that in mind.

14 Our upcoming Commission meetings are  
15 February 12th of '09. At that time I will  
16 propose rules to codify the extension that I  
17 have granted to the black car industry on the  
18 25 MPG rules to January 1, 2010. So we will  
19 need to have a public hearing on that and vote  
20 those in, which I would like to do. That  
21 would make it official.

22 On March 12, 2009, we tentatively  
23 will be holding our public hearing on the  
24 lease cap revisions and modifications,  
25 including not just a whole rewrite of the

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1 rules but incentives and disincentives that go  
2 along with the Mayor's announcement that we  
3 did at the end of '08.

4 And good news, we are now at 210  
5 hybrids as of yesterday, so the number keeps  
6 going up.

7 Now I have a personnel announcement I

8 would like to make. I think I may have  
9 alluded to this at the last meeting, but we  
10 now have a new Deputy Commissioner for  
11 Adjudications who is here. Do you want to  
12 stand up, Ray?

13 This is Ray Scanlon. Welcome. Ray  
14 takes Joseph Eckstein's position. He is the  
15 Deputy Commissioner of Adjudications newly  
16 appointed. He started Monday. Ray comes to  
17 us from the Department of Environment  
18 Protection, where he was counsel for there as  
19 well as the ECB, the Environmental Control  
20 Board, for a period of about 12 years.

21 He also managed the Environmental  
22 Control Board's tribunal for over seven years,  
23 where they have many administrative law  
24 judges, some of which came to our tribunal as  
25 well, and always spoke very highly of him over

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1 the years. He also has five years of  
2 experience presiding as an ALJ himself at the  
3 Parking Violations Bureau.

4 So first I would like to welcome you  
5 and thank you for joining our team, Ray. I  
6 would also like to thank the other members of  
7 our team that here today. I don't know if  
8 Shari is here but I want to thank Assistant  
9 Commissioner Pita Minelli, our Chief Judge  
10 Carmena Schweke, and also our Deputy Chief  
11 Judge Sherry Cohen for keeping the shop  
12 together, working directly with Andy Salkin,  
13 who the shop reports to, to make sure that  
14 things were running smoothly.

15 I also actually have your badge, so I  
16 would like to pin you, if that's okay.

17 Also is Sara Meyers here?

18 Sara, I have your badge. I know we  
19 announced you a long time ago, but in the  
20 city, you know, these procurements take some  
21 time.

22 (Badge presented to Mr. Scanlon.)

23 MR. SCANLON: I just want to say  
24 thank you to the Chair for this opportunity to  
25 come to work for TLC. I came here knowing of

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1 the fine reputation TLC adjudication system  
2 has. As Matt alluded to before, many of the  
3 judges also worked for ECB, so I am conscious  
4 of that. I am looking forward to moving ahead  
5 and working with the Judge and with this fine  
6 group.

7 (Applause)

8 CHAIRMAN DAUS: And, Sara, a much  
9 belated holiday gift for you. Sara, we  
10 announced a while ago, the Assistant  
11 Commissioner for Licensing and she is doing a  
12 great job, so congratulations.



13 MS. MEYERS: Thank you.  
14 (Applause.)  
15 CHAIRMAN DAUS: Any questions from  
16 the Commissioners on any items, on the report?  
17 COMM. POLANCO: Just one question:  
18 With the accessible vehicles, the 800  
19 dispatched, do you know where, the locations  
20 as to where they were dispatched?  
21 CHAIRMAN DAUS: Samara, do you have  
22 some details? I know that two were in Staten  
23 Island. That's about all I know.  
24 MS. EPSTEIN: Most of them were from  
25 Manhattan but they went to all the other

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1 boroughs. I can send you the actual  
2 breakdown. I have that number exactly. I  
3 would say like 85, 90 percent go to Manhattan,  
4 and then they are kind of spread throughout  
5 the boroughs and the airport.  
6 COMM. POLANCO: Okay, if you could  
7 send that to me. Thank you.  
8 CHAIRMAN DAUS: If we could  
9 actually, Samara, send that to all the  
10 Commissioners too.

11 MS. EPSTEIN: Okay.  
12 CHAIRMAN DAUS: Any other questions  
13 or comments?

14 (No response.)

15 CHAIRMAN DAUS: All right. And we  
16 haven't forgotten about some of the livery  
17 reforms and issues. That is something that we  
18 are talking to the Commissioners about and in  
19 the new year that is something that we expect  
20 to be happening. So we will talk about some  
21 of those details. We have a lot to handle.  
22 Now I want to say few words about  
23 Stanley Michaels. We have the Michaels family  
24 with us today. Many in this room have learned  
25 that, unfortunately, he passed away recently,

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1 in August, actually, on August 1st.  
2 Our former Commissioner. We lost him  
3 first when he left and now we lost him from  
4 this world after a two-year battle with  
5 cancer. And he was certainly valiant and he  
6 certainly was fighting to the last minute. I  
7 remember I ran into Mrs. Michaels and Stanley  
8 about a month or so before he passed away, and  
9 I had no idea he had cancer. He never really  
10 discussed it with us even though we would chat  
11 from time to time.

12 But he just looked like he was  
13 fighting to the very end and he was so very  
14 optimistic and upbeat about it, I was actually  
15 very shocked to learn when he had passed away,  
16 because I just thought that he was going to  
17 beat it. But certainly Stanley was, forget

18 about being a distinguished member of this  
19 Commission, he was a fantastic public servant.  
20 Someone who devoted his life, especially at  
21 the City Council, to selflessly, not opting to  
22 go into the private sector and make money, but  
23 to basically serve the people with all his  
24 skills and talents.

25 And he served a total of 24 years in  
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1 the City Council. Some people have described  
2 him as an activist's activist or an advocate's  
3 advocate. And certainly we saw that here.  
4 During his brief time on the Commission he  
5 really fought hard for disability rights and  
6 he always was one to remind us of what our  
7 real obligations were. And he was really a  
8 mentor. He was a mentor to a lot of people,  
9 but certainly to me.

10 I felt like when I spoke to him,  
11 every conversation would not only make me  
12 laugh but he would certainly help us see a  
13 fine point and we would learn from him.  
14 Practically every time he opened his mouth, he  
15 always imparted some wisdom or some advice  
16 from his breadth of experience.

17 Just a little bit about his history  
18 and some of his legacy. Aside from his  
19 leadership on the Council as the Council's  
20 Leader of the Manhattan Delegation and many  
21 other things that he will be remembered for,  
22 he had secured tens of millions of dollars in  
23 restoration funds for parks in a northern  
24 Manhattan.

25 So aside from his considerable

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1 intellectual legacy and ability, I remember  
2 seeing him many, many years ago when I was  
3 first getting involved in politics and  
4 admiring his thoughtful questions and the way  
5 he handled Council hearings. I think it is  
6 very safe to say that Stanley very truly and  
7 literally changed the face of our city in many  
8 ways forever.

9 And it is important that we remember  
10 him because there are people that serve well  
11 and they serve in a distinguished way, and too  
12 often in politics and in government, people  
13 forget you the second you are gone. But we  
14 want to make sure that we continue to remember  
15 Stanley and he has had a profound impact on  
16 our city. And it is people like him that we  
17 should be looking up to and emulating.

18 Indeed, if you walk along the main  
19 walkway in Fort Tyrone park, leading north  
20 from the Margaret Corbin Circle and  
21 overlooking Heather garden, you will now be  
22 enjoying the Stan Michael's promenade. And I

23 believe, if I am not mistaken, that was  
24 something that thankfully was announced I  
25 think the year or the year before he passed

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1 away. So he was able to enjoy that moment  
2 when they were able to recognize his  
3 accomplishments and name a park after him  
4 before he passed away.

5 And while he was only with us for a  
6 short period of time, I think most of the  
7 Commissioners here knew him and worked with  
8 him, and we were so saddened. And some of the  
9 Commissioners that couldn't be here today are  
10 saddened, especially Commissioner Weinshall,  
11 who was very close to Stanley as well. So I  
12 am sure we will be paying respects in other  
13 ways.

14 We are joined here today by Mrs.  
15 Molly Michaels, also two of his children,  
16 Judge Shari Michaels. He was so proud of  
17 Shari, I will never forget him saying, "Are  
18 you coming? My daughter is becoming a judge,  
19 you have to come." And everybody was coming  
20 down -- the place, I couldn't even get into  
21 it, by the way. They stopped me at the door.  
22 But he was so proud when Shari became a judge.

23 And Karen Michaels is with us also.  
24 Both are very distinguished individuals in  
25 their own right. And also his son couldn't be

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1 here today, but we had met him and he is a  
2 lawyer. He looks just like Stanley.

3 Also we have the honor of having  
4 Steve Simon with us, his former chief of staff  
5 who had been with him for many, many years and  
6 was his -- wind beneath his wings from what I  
7 understand. He was really always there for  
8 him. So I thank everybody for coming today.  
9 And I would like to let you know that we do  
10 have a plaque. It is one small token and  
11 gesture that we can give you at least to  
12 somehow make sure that you know we are  
13 remembering Stanley and always will remember  
14 him and stay in touch with you.

15 But also we have an identical plaque,  
16 as is our tradition when Commissioners leave  
17 us and they pass away and they have been  
18 distinguished, we basically put them on a wall  
19 outside in our waiting room. So he will join  
20 us there as well so that everybody who comes  
21 to our agency will be reminded of Stanley's  
22 contribution.

23 So I would like to now present this  
24 to the family and I think they want to say a  
25 few words.

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1 "In memoriam of Commissioner Stanley

2 Michaels, 1933 to 2008, for your unifying  
3 presence, for your humility, for your love of  
4 or city which you served so long and so well,  
5 you have earned our ever lasting respect and  
6 gratitude. While the two years you spent at  
7 the Taxi and Limousine Commissioner were just  
8 a distinguished fraction of your long and  
9 illustrious public service career, you left an  
10 indelible mark on those of us who were  
11 privileged to work with you. Your  
12 intelligence and passion inspired us to be  
13 better and we are proud that a small part of  
14 your legacy and leadership rests here with us.  
15 Presented by the New York City Taxi and  
16 Limousine Commission, October 2008."

17 (Applause.)

18 MRS. MICHAELS: Thank you very much  
19 Commissioner Daus and Commissioners that are  
20 here. Thank you. Shari, my middle child;  
21 Karen, my youngest. My oldest Jeffrey is here  
22 in spirit. He lives in Jerusalem along with  
23 his wife and two sons. He does come back and  
24 forth because, like his father, he is an  
25 activist. He does practice out of New York

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1 City, so I am very fortunate, I get to see him  
2 often.

3 Stanley truly loved his time at the  
4 Taxi Commission agency. He was the kind of  
5 person who always liked to make a difference,  
6 and being the Chair of the Environmental  
7 Committee and the City Council, he brought  
8 that part of him here, and he was always  
9 interested in getting more hybrid cars in  
10 circulation. And I was so happy to hear that  
11 number has gone up, which the Commissioner  
12 just told us.

13 Additionally, Stanley also dedicated  
14 himself to getting cars that were handicapped  
15 accessible at the time when he wasn't  
16 handicapped. And whenever we would travel to  
17 a city, he would interview the taxi driver:  
18 How many cars do you have that are handicap  
19 accessible, and what are you doing about this,  
20 and what are you doing about that?

21 So he always comparing and  
22 contrasting. And in New York, he would say,  
23 we are doing just fine, we are moving ahead  
24 and working so hard. So this was a very  
25 important part, after the Council, in

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1 Stanley's life, serving and working together  
2 with the Commissioners.

3 And I want to thank everybody for  
4 being here and sharing this tribute that was  
5 arranged by Commissioner Daus to honor Stan  
6 today. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. SIMON: I just want to thank  
9 you, and I know how pleased Stanley was to be  
10 able to continue his public service by serving  
11 here on the Commission and continuing some of  
12 the work that he had started on the Council.

13 I worked for him for 23 years and 11  
14 months. I would like to say that I served for  
15 24 years but it took him a month to decide  
16 whether to hire me. I was particularly  
17 pleased that we were able to name the Fort  
18 Tyrone Promenade for him. It was actually just  
19 one week before he died. He had just come out  
20 of the hospital, we weren't even sure he would  
21 be able to make it to the ceremony. We  
22 weren't sure he would have enough strength to  
23 get up and speak.

24 I brought the microphone over to him  
25 as he was sitting in a chair, but, no, he

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1 insisted on getting up and taking the walker  
2 and walking over to the podium, and he  
3 gathered enough strength and he gave a speech,  
4 just like the old Stan Michaels. I now work  
5 at the Parks Department, so it is particularly  
6 comforting to me to know that we were able to  
7 do this for him and that we now have a  
8 permanent sign up in the park honoring him.

9 But if you would just indulge me for  
10 another moment, I want to be able to call my  
11 94 year old father in Florida tonight and tell  
12 him that I spoke at a TLC meeting. He was a  
13 taxicab driver for over 25 years. He was a  
14 member of LAMTO, of Bronx Two-way, of Queens  
15 Two-way, I don't know if they exist anymore.

16 I grew up reading the LAMTO News, and  
17 I certainly remember that there were a number  
18 of articles that weren't very complimentary  
19 towards the TLC. But he had one of those  
20 old, great, big checkered cab with the two  
21 jump seats. And I would get my allowance  
22 every week by pulling out the back seat and  
23 finding all the change that people had dropped  
24 behind there. That was my allowance.

25 And I tell you, I don't know whether

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1 to tell him, Commissioner, that the medallion  
2 sales have now gone up to \$550,000. I know  
3 when he cashed out it was probably less than  
4 half of that. But he is still kicking down in  
5 Florida, still trying to play golf, still  
6 trying to take care of my mother. So I can't  
7 wait to tell him tonight that I spoke to the  
8 TLC.

9 And I thank you again on behalf of  
10 Stanley. It is gratifying to know that the  
11 work we did in the Council for 24 years, or in

12 my case 23 years and 11 months, is remembered,  
13 and that there are lasting contributions that  
14 he made to the City of New York and that  
15 people remember them.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRMAN DAUS: Thank you for those  
19 kind words, Steve. We are so flattered and  
20 thankful to have the Michaels family with us  
21 here today. Thank you for coming.

22 The one thing as you were speaking  
23 about his accomplishments, I think it is  
24 important to point out, too, a lot of people  
25 don't recognize this and talk about it today,

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1 he was the primary sponsor and very much  
2 involved in a lot of the laws the city has  
3 passed over the years to deal with preventing  
4 and stopping lead paint poisoning in children.  
5 And he has, there is no question, saved the  
6 lives and insured the health of many, many  
7 young children in his district and well  
8 beyond. So his contributions remain.

9 We will miss him greatly, but we will  
10 always remember him. And thank you so much  
11 for coming.

12 MRS. MICHAELS: Thank you,  
13 Commissioner.

14 CHAIRMAN DAUS: Now I have to end, I  
15 don't know if this is a record Commission  
16 meeting. It is not. But I want to apologize  
17 to everyone here and also to my colleagues.

18 Unfortunately, we did have much more  
19 than a quorum two days ago, and due to various  
20 illnesses and last minute things that couldn't  
21 be averted, we lost our quorum. So I  
22 apologize for not having had the opportunity  
23 to cancel this because I just learned as early  
24 as 8:30 this morning that I wasn't going to  
25 have a quorum.

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1 So I apologize. We will try to get  
2 it right next time. It was kind of a light  
3 agenda anyway, nothing that is earth  
4 shattering, but we will be getting the base  
5 licenses adjourned and heard at the February  
6 meeting.

7 I take it that in addition in  
8 addition to Chapters 15 and 19, we may  
9 actually have Chapter 14 as well, so we will  
10 vote on three rule chapters. And we will be  
11 having the public hearing in February on the  
12 black car extension hopefully, if we are able  
13 to publish that in time.

14 So, again, I apologize to everyone  
15 for having to spend the time, but it was  
16 probably a good idea to get together and share

17 some information. And thank you to the  
18 Michaels family for joining us today.  
19 Any questions?  
20 (No response.)  
21 CHAIRMAN DAUS: I would like to make  
22 a motion to close the hearing but I don't have  
23 a quorum, so I will act on my own volition and  
24 it is hereby closed.  
25 (Time Noted: 10:30 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

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I, MARGARET EUSTACE, a Shorthand  
5 Reporter and a Notary Public, do hereby  
6 certify that the foregoing is a true and  
7 accurate transcription of my stenographic  
8 notes.

9

10 I further certify that I am not  
11 employed by nor related to any party to this  
12 action.

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MARGARET EUSTACE,  
Shorthand Reporter

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