TRANSCRIPT OF THE NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION Monday, July 18, 2016 33 Beaver Street COMMISSION HEARING ROOM, 19TH FLOOR BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN STENO-KATH REPORTING SERVICES, LTD. 139 MAMARONECK AVENUE MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543 212.95.DEPOS (953.3767)* 914.381.2061 FACSIMILE: 914.722.0816 E-MAIL: Stenokath@verizon.net

HEARING CONVENED AT 10:21 a.m. COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Meera Joshi, Chair Jacques Jiha Edward Gonzales Frank Carone Lauvienska Polanco ALSO PRESENT: Chris Wilson, General Counsel Staff The Public The Press Reported by: Jennifer Cassella

PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES PAGE Daniel Goddin, Law Department......8 SPEAKERS ON UNIVERSAL LICENSE RULES PAGE David Pollack, Melrose Taxi Action Center,12 Naphtali Jeferson.....17 Daniel Joseph, Bolton-St. Johns on behalf of Committee for Taxi Safety.....19 Fernando Garcia, ASOTINY.....23 (Interpreter) Peter Mazer, MTBOT.....24

1 Proceedings 2 THE CHAIR: Good morning, everyone. 3 The time now is 10:25 and we're going to start our public meeting. 4 The first thing I just want to 5 6 notify everybody is we've had some 7 difficulties because of the heat with our equipment at Long Island City, so the 8 telephones are down and the office is 9 closed for appointments and for any 10 11 transactions and hopefully today will be the only day it's closed and will be up and 12 running tomorrow, but if you have any 13 questions or concerns, Kala Wright is in 14 15 the back and she can help you along with her team if there were transactions you 16 17 needed to get done at Long Island City, we'll see if we can make other 18 19 arrangements. We sent out industry notices and other notices, e-mail, hopefully text 20 21 messages, but we want to try to get the word out there. 22 23 Also, another change in our driver 24 application process, we're now moving 25 online completely. That is drivers,

1 Proceedings 2 applicants can fill out everything they need online, submit documentation, make 3 payments, and then for fingerprinting 4 they'll go to one of 10 sites throughout 5 6 New York City to do the fingerprinting. 7 They have hours that are a little later than what our Long Island City hours are 8 during the week and they also have Saturday 9 hours. So hopefully that will be more 10 11 convenient for applicants. And then the scheduling of 12 appointments ended on the 13th and 13 today -- actually tomorrow, will be the 14 15 first day that applicants can schedule fingerprint appointments. So we apologize 16 17 for a few days in delay, but hopefully the end result is a smoother system that 18 19 is -- ends up with faster processing, but more importantly less time away from 20 working and in line at Long Island City. 21 I have a few personnel 22 23 announcements. One, I want to just 24 announce the promotion of Rodney Stiles to the position of Assistant Commissioner of 25

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1 Proceedings 2 Data and Technology. I don't know if Rodney's here. Oh, there he is. 3 Congratulations, Rodney. 4 5 (Applause.) 6 THE CHAIR: Rodney is a longtime TLC 7 employee joining the agency in 2012 from the Department of Planning and quickly 8 established his place in the TLC Policy 9 Department. He's become a recognized name 10 11 among data wonks, both inside and outside 12 of the City. So we're very pleased that Rodney is still with us and will be leading 13 our data and technology units. 14 15 Another milestone, I think everybody knows him, Alan Fromberg. Last week, Alan 16 17 celebrated 20 years with the TLC, and I just want to -- a few facts of what 20 18 19 years with the TLC looks like. (Applause.) 20 21 THE CHAIR: That's 3 Mayor's, 5 TLC Commissioners, 20 Commission Members, 1,800 22 23 medallions, new medallions, and 26 24 transportation beat reporters. So Alan is 25 still standing. He has tirelessly and

1 Proceedings 2 excellently represented the agency. He survived markets peaks and valleys and 3 watched the industry more than once move 4 the City in the midst of crisis, 9/11 and 5 6 Hurricane Sandy and much more. Reporters 7 appreciate his time, responsiveness and humor, and we appreciate that he always 8 learns completely about an issue before 9 boiling it down for public consumption, and 10 11 I think everyone in this room knows how 12 complex our issues can be and what skill it takes to simplify them. 13 So it's an accomplishment for the 14 15 agency that we've been able to retain such talent for so long. We're confident that 16 17 he has in 20 years of press releases in the backseat of his car so as a memoriam, and I 18 19 would throw out a pun here but Alan is the master punster so I leave it to him. But 20 thank you very much, Alan. There's not a 21 person in this room that doesn't appreciate 22 23 the hard work you do. 24 (Applause.) 25 THE CHAIR: And with that, we're

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1 Proceedings 2 going to move to base applications -- oh, I'm sorry, adoption of the minutes. 3 MR. WILSON: We have to wait until 4 5 we --6 THE CHAIR: Oh, we can't do any of 7 that because there's only three of us. All right. 8 9 So we will move on to the one piece on our agenda that we can do without a 10 11 quorum and that is start our public hearing on the universal license rules. So to 12 begin that public hearing, Dan Goddin from 13 our Legal Department is going to do a 14 15 presentation on what the new rules package 16 entails. 17 MR. GODDIN: Good morning, Commissioners. I'm here to present a brief 18 19 summary on the latest TLC rule package that establishes the creation of a TLC driver's 20 21 license and implement certain penalty revisions. We will be hearing public 22 23 testimony following this short 24 presentation, so I'll get starred now and 25 then take any questions you may have.

1 Proceedings 2 Mayor de Blasio signed into law 3 Local Law 51 on April 21st, 2016. This law will change the types of licenses that the 4 TLC issues. We currently offer separate 5 6 driver's licenses for taxicab drivers and for-hire vehicle drivers. The law requires 7 a new single license that authorizes 8 holders to operate both taxicabs and FHVs. 9 The new license will be called the "TLC 10 Driver's License." 11 Local Law 51 of 2016 requires the 12 conversion of all existing taxicab and 13 14 for-hire vehicle licenses to TLC driver's 15 licenses. Once the law takes effect, any 16 driver licensed to operate an FHV may also 17 operate a taxicab and vice-versa. Existing taxicab and FHV drivers will be 18 19 automatically converted and will not have to take any action to be able to operate 20 either vehicle type. 21 The proposed rule implements 22 23 legislation that will provide greater flexibility for drivers and will ensure 24 that more drivers are available to work 25

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1	Proceedings	
2	with different transportation providers.	
3	The TLC driver's license will create	
4	unprecedented opportunity flexibility for	
5	both drivers and businesses.	
6	Holders of TLC driver's licenses	
7	will be held to the same standards and	
8	subject to the same safeguards that are	
9	currently in place for taxicab and for-hire	
10	vehicle drivers such as fingerprint-enabled	
11	criminal background checks, DMV driving	
12	record checks will remain in place, our	
13	drug testing policies will be unchanged by	
14	the rule, and TLC's mandatory training	
15	requirements will remain in place,	
16	including instruction on defensive driving	
17	and wheelchair-accessible vehicle training.	
18	In addition to establishing the TLC	
19	driver's license, this rule package will	
20	update some of the agency's penalty	
21	provisions. TLC periodically reviews its	
22	penalties to ensure that they have been set	
23	for adequately discouraged or regulated	
24	conduct without imposing unnecessary	
25	burdens on licensees. Proposed changes to	

1	Proceedings
2	existing penalties were reached after
3	review by TLC staff and with feedback from
4	industry stakeholders.
5	For example, the rule that prohibits
6	the marketing to passengers has a current
7	penalty of \$50 to \$350 and carries the
8	possibility of discretionary suspension.
9	The proposed new penalty will be revised to
10	\$50 with no upward fine range and no
11	possibility of suspension. The rationale
12	of this proposed penalty revision is to
13	reduce the severity of the penalty to match
14	the seriousness of the underlying conduct.
15	In another example, the rule
16	prohibits drivers for ignoring a
17	non-functioning taximeter has a current
18	penalty of \$50 to \$350 if the driver does
19	not ensure taximeter repair. The proposed
20	new penalty precludes a fine to the driver
21	so long as that driver immediately notifies
22	the vehicle's owner of the taximeter
23	defect. The rationale of this proposed
24	penalty revision is that taximeter
25	functionality is as a vehicle owner, rather

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1	Proceedings	
2	than vehicle driver, responsibility.	
3	And one last example before I wrap	
4	up. The rule prohibits an FHV vehicle	
5	owner from failing to correct a defect in	
б	their vehicle is a current penalty \$50 per	
7	day. The proposed new penalty carries a	
8	\$50 flat penalty, not per day, plus	
9	suspension until compliance. The rationale	
10	of the proposed penalty revision is that	
11	the set \$50 fine plus suspension until	
12	compliance is sufficient to ensure that	
13	defects are corrected.	
14	Thank you. Any questions before we	
15	hear testimony and comments from others?	
16	(No response.)	
17	MR. WILSON: With that, we'll begin	
18	with the public speakers.	
19	The first speaker is David Pollack.	
20	I would ask all speakers to state for the	
21	record whom you represent if you're here on	
22	behalf of an organization. Thanks.	
23	MR. POLLACK: Alan, before you start	
24	the clock, first of all, I have some	
25	testimony here, but I'd like to thank you	

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1	Proceedings	
2	for being so approachable and for being the	
3	best media person out of all the City	
4	agencies that I have ever dealt with the	
5	last 20 years.	
6	MR. FROMBERG: Thank you, sir. I	
7	appreciate it.	
8	MR. POLLACK: Good morning,	
9	Commissioners, Commissioner Joshi. Thank	
10	you for the opportunity to provide comments	
11	on the proposed rules regarding universal	
12	TLC driver's license. My name is	
13	David Pollack, and I'm the Director of the	
14	Melrose Taxi Action Center at Melrose	
15	Credit Union, a leading lender in the New	
16	York City medallion taxicab industry.	
17	Melrose Credit Union supports the proposed	
18	rules implementing Local Law 51, creating	
19	universal TLC driver's licenses that will	
20	allow operators to drive both medallion	
21	taxicabs and FHV vehicles.	
22	As I think everyone in this room now	
23	recognizes, app based FHV car services are	
24	operating in the New York City market with	
25	an unfair competitive advantage. FHVs	

1	Proceedings
2	operated by app based car services are
3	subject to fewer, less stringent, and far
4	less costly rules and regulations. For
5	example, all taxicab vehicles had to be new
6	and meet exhaustive specifications for
7	every aspect of vehicle design, safety and
8	passenger experience, while FHVs could use
9	new or used with virtually limitless
10	discretion concerning specifications;
11	taxicabs have to be equipped with expensive
12	T-PEP equipment, while FHVs have no such
13	requirement; and taxicab fares are metered
14	and highly regulated, while FHVs can charge
15	almost anything they want as long as they
16	file their rates with the TLC.
17	The list of unfair advantages goes
18	on and on and it has to stop. Yellow taxis
19	must be allowed to compete against app
20	based car services on a level playing
21	field. So, we are relieved to see that the
22	TLC has begun to recognize this basic
23	unfairness and has started working to
24	"level the playing field" for New York City
25	taxicabs. Some of the positive changes

1	Proceedings
2	recently implemented include: Eliminating
3	the owner must drive rule for medallion
4	owners; creating a pilot to test and
5	allowing for the hack-up of used vehicles;
6	increasing penalties for illegal street
7	hails and operating for-hire without a TLC
8	license; and creating a pilot program
9	allowing more flexible lease arrangements
10	and fare share leases.
11	These are important first steps, but
12	much more work remains, including the rule
13	changes before you today. The creation of
14	a universal TLC driver's license will help
15	continue the work of leveling the playing
16	field in the FHV industry. Until recently,
17	taxi operators had many more requirements
18	to qualify for their licenses as compared
19	to FHV operators. Implementing a universal
20	TLC driver's license makes good sense for
21	the riding public. All TLC drivers be
22	subject should be subject to the same
23	requirements for age, physical and mental
24	capacity; drug testing; background checks
25	and training requirements, including

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2	accessibility training, particularly since	
3	app based car services are behaving just	
4	like taxis.	
5	We also believe a universal TLC	
б	driver's license will help bring fairness	
7	to the treatment of tens of thousands of	
8	drivers earning a living in the FHV	
9	industry. There have already been a number	
10	of stories about former drivers for app	
11	based car services who have returned to	
12	driving yellow taxis because they were not	
13	being treated as well as the app based car	
14	service and were not making as much money	
15	as they were they were lead to before	
16	they left. Implementing a universal TLC	
17	driver's license will give all licensed FHV	
18	drivers the freedom and flexibility to move	
19	between segments of the industry, forcing	
20	app based companies to compete fairly with	
21	taxicabs for their services.	
22	Melrose believes that the adoption	
23	of a universal TLC driver's license will	
24	help continue the process of leveling the	
25	playing field, however, there still remains	

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2	critical issues that need to be addressed,	
3	such as requiring the app based services to	
4	provide wheelchair-accessible service equal	
5	to those required of taxis and also	
б	requiring them to pay the MTA surcharge.	
7	It is also time for the TLC once and for	
8	all to enforce a clear definition of the	
9	term "prearrangement" in the smartphone	
10	era, so that app based FHV companies stop	
11	using electronic hails to infringe on the	
12	right to hail exclusivity that taxicab	
13	medallion owners paid New York City dearly	
14	for. It is unfair and it is wrong.	
15	The TLC is moving in the right	
16	direction with this rule, and we hope it	
17	will continue to move in this direction in	
18	the future. Thank you for giving me the	
19	opportunity to testify in support of the	
20	new TLC driver's license.	
21	MR. WILSON: Thank you.	
22	The next speaker is	
23	Naphtadi (phonetic) Jefferson.	
24	MR. JEFFERSON: Hi.	
25	Naphtali Jefferson.	

1 Proceedings 2 MR. WILSON: I'm sorry. Thank you. MR. JEFFERSON: Hi. How are you 3 doing? My name is Naphtali Jefferson. I'm 4 a driver for Uber. I've been doing this 5 6 now for eight months. Prior of this, 7 before I used to work in the retail industry as a manager, and since I've been 8 working for Uber, I have been -- I have 9 been -- had the time to go back to school 10 11 and I'm about to finish my school right now in November. The flexibility of working --12 13 THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. We're having a hearing on universal license rules. 14 Is 15 that what you want to testify on today? MR. JEFFERSON: Right, that's where 16 17 I'm going to right now. THE CHAIR: Okay. 18 19 MR. JEFFERSON: So being able to do this, being able to do this actually gives 20 me the opportunity to work. Now, while 21 leading to the universal license rules, and 22 23 actually I think it's a great idea because 24 like everybody say, it will give us the 25 opportunity to choose which company to work

1 Proceedings 2 for so I think that's a great idea. And 3 yeah, that's it. THE CHAIR: Thank you. 4 5 MR. WILSON: Thank you. 6 The next speaker is Daniel Joseph 7 from Bolton-St. Johns. MR. JOSEPH: Hi. Good morning. I 8 9 would like to say good morning to the Chair and to the Commissioners. On behalf of the 10 11 Committee for Taxi Safety and David Beier, 12 my name is Daniel Joseph and I'll be 13 testifying today. We've already submitted to you more extensive comments than what I 14 15 will deliver so I'll briefly summarize the concerns the Committee has regarding the 16 17 rules that you have before you. First, although we applaud the 18 19 Commission for increasing the penalties associated with illegal or unauthorized 20 activity concerning driver fares, we renew 21 our suggestion that electronic data 22 23 collected through the T-PEP system as the 24 only practical way to enforce this 25 regulation.

Proceedings 1 2 Next, just as yellow medallion cars and SHLs are branded by color, we believe 3 that black cars should have an equivalent 4 visible form of identification, such as a 5 6 designated license plate color --7 THE CHAIR: Just as I mentioned for the last speaker, I want to make sure 8 you're focused on the universal license 9 rules, so that's the ability for a driver 10 to drive in different sectors. We haven't 11 actually touched some of the technology and 12 vehicle rules in this package. 13 MR. JOSEPH: Okay. A lot of it is 14 15 about the universal driver rules. I can 16 skip -- sorry. Well, these are also in reference to 17 18 penalties proposed forth. 19 THE CHAIR: Definitely part of the package so that would be great if you can 20 21 give us that testimony. MR. JOSEPH: So we believe that 22 23 TLC's offers a reduced penalty to a driver 24 who pleads guilty to a hearing is unfair. 25 Everyone is entitled to a hearing as a

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1	Proceedings	
2	right and should be entitled to exercise	
3	that right without being penalized for	
4	asserting it. I understand that's not the	
5	universal license but I wanted to get that	
6	out there.	
7	In these next comments I will go	
8	through particular provisions. First, we	
9	believe that fines in three of the proposed	
10	rules should be increased significantly to	
11	help deter illegal activity. First, in	
12	80-09(f), prohibits a driver from allowing	
13	the vehicle to be operated for-hire by a	
14	person who is not validly licensed by the	
15	TLC except in the event of an emergency.	
16	The fine here should be higher than \$250.	
17	Next in 80-11(b)(1)(ii), which is a	
18	provision that forces a driver who has	
19	filed for workers compensation to surrender	
20	their TLC license while claiming	
21	disability. That fine should also	
22	be that fine should be increased and we	
23	believe should be greater than \$75.	
24	Rule 80-17(a), which issues a fine	
25	of \$50 to a driver who solicits a passenger	

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1	Proceedings	
2	illegally. We suggest that the fine should	
3	start at \$350.	
4	In regards to $80-12(h)(1)$ and (2) ,	
5	which relates to serious crashes, we	
6	believe that this rule is too harsh. If a	
7	driver has been driving for 15 years	
8	without incident and then is involved in a	
9	single accident that is deemed a serious	
10	crash, the driver's license may be	
11	summarily suspended, taking away a driver's	
12	livelihood. There needs to be	
13	consideration of the driver's long-term	
14	record and other factors surrounding the	
15	accident.	
16	Proposed rules 80-20 and 80-21 list	
17	provisions that allow for two electronic	
18	devices in vehicles plus a GPS device,	
19	totaling to three separate devices in the	
20	vehicle. If an aim of Vision Zero is to	
21	prevent distracted driving, we question how	
22	the TLC can allow these innumerable devices	
23	in one vehicle.	
24	Sorry. I just want to make	
25	sure yeah. Okay.	

1 Proceedings 2 Lastly, we wish to express our 3 concern that discretionary revocation or more severe penalties cab be imposed by the 4 Chairperson or the Commission for any rule 5 violation. At a minimum, we believe this 6 7 violates due process. The Commission has comprehensively set forth penalties for 8 rule violations, and we believe that it is 9 only those penalties that should be 10 11 enforced. As stated, we addressed these 12 concerns and other concerns in further 13 detail in a previously submitted letter to 14 15 the TLC. We thank the Commission for their time and consideration of these comments. 16 17 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Fernando Garcia from ASOTINY. 18 19 MR. GARCIA: (Interpreter.) Good morning, Commissioners. Good 20 21 morning, everyone present. My name is Fernando Garcia. I'm in representation of 22 23 ASOTINY. I just want to come and say thank 24 you for all the measures that are being 25 taken. That he's very concerned about

1 Proceedings 2 unlicensed vehicles. 3 He says that Uptown, it's bombarded by unlicensed straight plates and he's 4 worried and he wants measures to be taken 5 6 to combat the illegal activity that's going 7 on Uptown and in the malls, Garcia says. He's very happy with a universal 8 license that will give drivers the 9 opportunity to work in between segments. 10 11 He says that when it comes to fines, to think about how high the fines are, to 12 13 keep them at a moderate rate because the market is so saturated and it's just 14 15 getting harder and harder to do their jobs. And he just wanted to say thank you 16 17 and have a good day. And he just wanted to give the support on what he just spoke 18 about. And thank you for always calling 19 ASOTINY to have a word in everything that 20 21 qoes on. MR. WILSON: Thank you. 22 23 And the next speaker is Peter Mazer. 24 MR. MAZER: Good morning, 25 Chairperson Joshi and members of the

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2	Commission. My name is Peter Mazer and I	
3	am General Counsel to the Metropolitan	
4	Taxicab Board of Trade. Thank you for	
5	giving me the opportunity to speak on	
6	today's proposed rule package.	
7	First of all, we commend the TLC for	
8	proposing rules that will implement the	
9	recently passed City Council legislation	
10	related to the creation of the universal	
11	taxicab license. For the first time, there	
12	will be uniform standards and rules of	
13	conduct for the holders of taxicab,	
14	street-hail livery and for-hire vehicle	
15	licensees. There are many details which	
16	must still be worked out, such as the	
17	content of the training curriculum, as well	
18	as the cost of the various mandated	
19	courses. We look forward to working with	
20	the TLC to ensure an open and transparent	
21	process for the selection of cost	
22	providers, and as well as the development	
23	of training and testing materials that will	
24	be used by all perspective licensees.	
25	The Commission has also proposed a	

1	Proceedings
2	number of technical amendments to the
3	taxicab owners rules and FHV rules which we
4	support. These changes address matters
5	which affect the day-to-day operation of
6	licensed taxicabs but will have no impact
7	on public safety. Rules relating to such
8	matters as equalization of penalties
9	between taxicabs and licensed for-hire
10	vehicles, governing who may drive an
11	off-duty taxicab to inspection, clarifying
12	how an owner learns of the drivers that
13	have had their licenses suspended, and when
14	and how proof of correction of a vehicle
15	defect is transmitted to the TLC would
16	result in collaborative efforts between the
17	TLC and various stakeholders to ensure that
18	the rules address public safety and
19	regulatory concerns of the TLC without
20	placing an unreasonable or unnecessary
21	burden on the regulated industries.
22	We're also happy that the rule
23	defining the rules for which a
24	discretionary revocation may be imposed by
25	an Administrative Law Judge was clarified

1	Proceedings
2	because we've had the problem at OATH with
3	some of our judges improperly revoking
4	licenses when they had no authority to do
5	so.
6	Finally, I wish to address the
7	proposed amendments to the TLC rules which
8	would delete the reference of the term
9	"accident" and replace it with the term
10	"collision", consistent with the City's
11	Vision Zero initiative. The term accident
12	is used throughout state law and statutes
13	including, but not limited to, defining
14	obligations and standards under the
15	Insurance Law and the Vehicle and Traffic
16	Law, administrative agency regulations and
17	in court interpretations. It is a standard
18	used by insurance companies and policies in
19	general dealings. Its meaning has been
20	well-defined in both statutory construction
21	and case law so that the term can be used
22	confidently by legislators, regulators,
23	consumers and business entities in their
24	day-to-day dealings.
25	The Vehicle and Traffic Law utilizes

1	Proceedings
2	the term accident to prescribe both civil
3	and criminal penalties for offenses such as
4	leaving the scene of an accident. The
5	amendment of TLC rules to use the term
6	collision as defined by the TLC in lieu of
7	the term accident may have some unintended
8	consequences since these are very different
9	terms with very different meanings. An
10	impact between two vehicles or a vehicle
11	and a pedestrian or an animal is a
12	collision under the TLC rules, irrespective
13	of fault. A motorist who hits a parked
14	taxicab is involved in a collision as is
15	the driver of the parked taxicab. This
16	driver may now face consequences such as
17	license revocation as a result of this
18	occurrence.
19	For example, if these rules were
20	approved, three such collisions would
21	result in mandatory TLC license revocation.
22	The TLC rules with respect to the duty to
23	report a collision may differ from the VTL
24	requirements with respect to the duty to

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report an accident.

1	Proceedings
2	The proposed rule amendment is not
3	merely a change in nomenclature. It is a
4	major change in the legal responsibility of
5	drivers as well as owners who may be
б	involved in vehicular incidents, now a term
7	collisions but not accidents which may not
8	be the driver's fault.
9	I urge the TLC to consider tabling
10	this portion of the rule package until a
11	clearer definition of the terms "accident"
12	and "collision" can be developed consistent
13	with the intent of the Vehicle Traffic Law
14	and Vision Zero initiatives. I want to
15	thank you for giving me the opportunity to
16	testify this morning and I would be happy
17	to answer any questions you may have.
18	MR. WILSON: Thank you.
19	Let the record reflect that
20	Commissioner Carone joined the meeting at
21	10:45.
22	And the next speaker is
23	Osman Chowdhury.
24	MR. CHOWDHURY: Skip.
25	MR. WILSON: You're passing,

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1	Proceedings	
2	Mr. Chowdhury?	
3	MR. CHOWDHURY: Yes.	
4	MR. WILSON: Okay.	
5	The next speaker is Zubin Soleimany	
6	from NYTWA.	
7	MR. SOLEIMANY: Good morning, Chair	
8	Joshi, Commissioners. Thank you for giving	
9	me the opportunity to speak today. I'm	
10	going to focus the bulk of my comments on	
11	the penalty review section of this rule	
12	book. I think as we're taking a	
13	comprehensive look at the driver rule books	
14	and the penalties therein, I think we need	
15	to address the ways in which this framework	
16	is far too punitive, both in the amounts of	
17	the penalties and the way in which those	
18	penalties are processed through the Taxi	
19	and Limousine Tribunal and OATH.	
20	For starters, you know, I'd like to	
21	say that I think as we're as we're	
22	looking at the rules, there are some	
23	encouraging changes both to rules that have	
24	been deleted and some of the rules	
25	that where the penalties have been	

1	Proceedings
2	reduced. However, I want to note that
3	there are still far too many penalties
4	that where the prices are way too high.
5	One example on its face would be, for
6	example, 54-13(a)(2) parking violation that
7	sites a traffic rule of a \$65 fine comes at
8	a \$200 premium when a TLC driver gets that
9	ticket.
10	I do also want to note that there
11	were some penalties that were increased in
12	this round of rulemaking which seems a
13	little curious. One example would be the
14	penalty not when a driver has overcharged a
15	passenger, but simply told the not told
16	the passenger going to Newark airport that
17	they'll be using an additional \$15 on the
18	drop. That fine was increased from 25 to
19	\$100. We don't believe that's appropriate.
20	What we do propose is a system of
21	review of the driver penalties in more in
22	line with what the City of Chicago has done
23	recently. Considering that drivers
24	are drivers' earnings are constantly
25	being reduced by the influx of vehicles,

1	Proceedings
2	drivers having to work longer hours for
3	less pay, we propose following in Chicago's
4	footsteps which impose a \$400 maximum for
5	any penalty imposed in their system. I
6	know that there are some exceptions to this
7	that would be barred by the Ad Code but
8	were not bared by the Ad Code. We believe
9	that's appropriate in line also with a rule
10	that would cap the amount of fines that
11	could be imposed altogether, right.
12	Currently
13	THE CHAIR: I'm sorry. Is that per
14	incident?
15	MR. SOLEIMANY: It's \$400 per fine
16	and I believe and so then what
17	we they also have an amount per
18	incident, right, so that there would be an
19	800 or \$1,000 cap per incident as opposed
20	to right now where we're seeing drivers
21	with five or six charges on one summons,
22	\$4,000 in fines, plus a 30-day suspension,
23	which for a DOV driver is equivalent to
24	about a \$6,500 economic loss.
25	We'd also propose a rule that would

1	Proceedings
2	require the OATH judge to make a choice
3	between either suspension or a monetary
4	fine, not to take away a driver's ability
5	to pay the fine after imposing it.
6	More broadly, we'd also like to just
7	look at just the ways in which licenses are
8	taken away from drivers. Right now, fines
9	are not due immediately upon a finding of
10	guilt at the tribunal, but suspensions are
11	imposed immediately. This means that a
12	driver who has defaulted, when they don't
13	receive a notice in the mail, or a driver
14	who has lost but later was successful on
15	appeal has no way of challenging that
16	suspension until it's imposed. We recently
17	had a member of ours who went through three
18	appeals processes and a petition to the
19	Chair and along the way was suspended
20	twice, ultimately to be found not guilty,
21	lost ten days of work.
22	When it comes to when it comes to
23	the imposition of these suspensions, also
24	there needs to be clearer rulemaking that
25	TLC will reinstate licenses on the actual

		3
1	Proceedings	
2	day by calendar day. We're seeing drivers	
3	not get reinstated by TLC until over the	
4	weekend and losing that time.	
5	There also needs to be clearer rules	
6	about the obligations of T-PEP vendors to	
7	reinstate licenses. Drivers are facing	
8	five-day suspensions which turn into	
9	eight-day suspensions when Verifone or CMT	
10	doesn't reinstate immediately. They're	
11	being told that they can't process those	
12	over the weekend. That needs to change.	
13	In terms of licensing, we strongly	
14	recommend probably the most punitive change	
15	that's happened to the TLC rules over the	
16	years, not about penalties but about	
17	renewals of licenses. There used to be a	
18	grace period. I believe it was 90 days for	
19	drivers to renew their licenses. Right	
20	now, when you have a driver who if they	
21	miss their payment by one day, they're out	
22	for they can be out for up to three	
23	months. If you can tell me, I'd be happy	
24	to talk about this, but it doesn't seem	
25	like this serves any legitimate agency	

1	Proceedings
2	purpose when the driver has all when the
3	TLC has all the information about the
4	driver, their fingerprints, their record,
5	their social security, to make them
6	reapply, pay \$500. Again, a suspension
7	into compliance would do the same thing.
8	So those are I mean, I think as
9	far of a broader review, there are a lot of
10	licensing and penalty issues that can look
11	towards eliminating the unnecessary need
12	for drivers to lose time away from work.
13	So thank you for allowing me to
14	testify. I'm happy to answer any
15	questions.
16	MR. WILSON: Thank you.
17	The next listed speaker is
18	Asim Akhtar.
19	MR. SOLEIMANY: I don't think
20	they're here.
21	MR. WILSON: Okay. And then the
22	other the last speaker I had on this was
23	Bhairavi Desai. She's not around she's
24	not here either?
25	MR. SOLEIMANY: No.

		36
1	Proceedings	
2	MR. WILSON: So I think that	
3	terminates our public hearing on the	
4	universal license rules.	
5	And Commissioner Polanco has joined	
6	us at 10 minutes 5 minutes to	
7	10:00 [sic].	
8	THE CHAIR: Now that we have a	
9	quorum, we can move on to the items	
10	that for Commission action. The first	
11	item is adoption of the minutes from the	
12	June 23rd meeting.	
13	All in favor of adopting?	
14	(Chorus of Ayes.)	
15	THE CHAIR: With that, the minutes	
16	are unanimously adopted.	
17	Next is base approvals base	
18	applications for determination.	
19	And I get to introduce another new	
20	Assistant Commissioner, Aisha Norflett who	
21	is joining us from the Department of	
22	Buildings	
23	(Applause.)	
24	THE CHAIR: and will be the front	
25	face of licensing, working with all the	

37 Proceedings 1 2 customer relations and counter issues. MS. NORFLETT: Thank you. Thank you 3 so much for the introduction. 4 Good morning, Commissioners. Today 5 6 I have a total of five base applications 7 for your approval, five base renewals, two of which either have a change of ownership 8 or a change of officers. Thank you. 9 THE CHAIR: All in favor of adopting 10 11 the recommendation? 12 (Chorus of Ayes.) THE CHAIR: Next on the agenda for 13 Commission action was the rules that we had 14 15 a hearing on last -- a couple of weeks ago on fatigue driving, and I move that we vote 16 17 on the rules today as is but defer the effective date of the rules until a little 18 19 over three months, like November 1st, in order for us to fully explore whether we 20 can with additional data points, develop a 21 methodology to measure driver fatigue even 22 23 more effectively. At the last meeting, 24 much of the testimony focused on earnings 25 and the interplay with safety standards,

1	Proceedings		
2	and we were clear then and remain clear		
3	that safety considerations must guide our		
4	approach.		
5	Since the hearing, the discussion		
б	has shifted to what is the best way to		
7	calculate fatigue and the difficulty in		
8	doing so in a world with differing levels		
9	of data. In an effort to always have the		
10	most precise rule possible, we will use the		
11	time between now and November 1st to see if		
12	we can, with expanded trip data on the FHV		
13	side, arrive at a more exact method, and I		
14	want to thank everyone who has participated		
15	in this discussion for their underlying and		
16	unwavering support of the goal of safety in		
17	our streets.		
18	Anyone second the motion?		
19	COMM. GONZALES: Second.		
20	COMM. CARONE: Madam Chair, I		
21	support your approach completely. I'm just		
22	curious, when the new data comes in, is		
23	that something that's going to be shared		
24	with the Commission or is that going to be		
25	a staff analysis or both?		

1	Proceedings		
2	THE CHAIR: We would share you		
3	probably wouldn't want the data because		
4	it's voluminous, but it would the		
5	analysis most definitely would be.		
6	So I think the motion was seconded.		
7	So now we can vote on the fatigue driving		
8	rules, which if passed today, would not		
9	take effect. They would not take effect		
10	until November 1st, and in between now and		
11	November 1st we will work with the industry		
12	to see if with more data we can fashion a		
13	more exact rule that reflects the actual		
14	realities that many people shared with us		
15	in discussions in testimony here and in		
16	discussions in our office after the		
17	hearing.		
18	All in favor?		
19	MR. WILSON: Let me just do a couple		
20	of housekeeping things.		
21	A Public Hearing was held on these		
22	rules on June 23rd, 2016. Following the		
23	Public Hearing and based on staff comment,		
24	including as a result of public feedback		
25	from the hearing and meeting held with		

1	Proceedings		
2	numerous groups following the public		
3	hearing, and in addition to the motion that		
4	Commissioner Joshi carried this morning,		
5	the following changes were made to the		
6	proposed the rule as originally noticed:		
7	First, providing a statement of		
8	basis and purpose that our the TLC's		
9	intention is to give warnings during the		
10	phasing period following any rules being		
11	enacted. Secondly, clarifying how the		
12	rules work including specifically pointing		
13	out that the hours in which no passenger		
14	pickups occur do not count towards the hour		
15	limits; provide that in any week, no driver		
16	will be penalized for exceeding the 12-hour		
17	per day limit by one hour for the first two		
18	times that that limit is exceeded so only		
19	the third violation would incur a penalty;		
20	reduce the lookback period for prior		
21	violations from one year to one month which		
22	will effectively limit the number of		
23	suspensions; generally decrease monetary		
24	penalties so that they're not overly		
25	punitive but sill serve as a detriment; and		

1	Proceedings
2	finally provide that a violation of the
3	daily limit can also not cannot also
4	serve as the basis for a violation of the
5	weekly limit.
б	As Local Law requires, the final
7	rule with those changes for Commission
8	action was posted on the TLC's website on
9	July 14th and sent to the Commissioners on
10	that date.
11	And I think I misstated when
12	Commissioner Polanco joined. She joined at
13	10:55.
14	All in favor of the rule?
15	(Chorus of Ayes.)
16	MR. WILSON: It passes unanimously.
17	THE CHAIR: And I just want to make
18	clear for the record for people that are
19	here and the information that you take with
20	you when you leave, the rule that we voted
21	on today will not take effect until
22	November 1st, and it will take effect on
23	November 1st if by the time between now and
24	then we have not formulated a different
25	proposal using additional trip data from

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1	Proceedings	
2	the FHV industry. So the simple message is	
3	if drivers want to know are there fatigue	
4	driving rules in effect right now, no,	
5	there are not, and we look forward to the	
б	next couple of months of continuing the	
7	discussions we've had and the benefit of	
8	additional data about the trips, the	
9	beginning time and the end time of trips on	
10	the FHV side.	
11	And with that, that is the end of	
12	our public meeting and the time now is	
13	11:00.	
14	(Time noted: 11:00 a.m.)	
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2	CERTIFICATE	
3		
4	STATE OF NEW YORK)	
5	COUNTY OF RICHMOND) ss:	
6		
7	I, JENNIFER CASSELLA, a Notary Public	
8	within and for the State of New York, do hereby	
9	certify:	
10	I reported the proceedings in the	
11	within-entitled matter, and that the within	
12	transcript is a true record of such proceedings	
13	to the best of my ability.	
14	I further certify that I am not related	
15	to any of the parties to this action by blood	
16	or 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 26th day of July, 2016.	
20		
21		
22	JENNIFER CASSELLA	
23		
24		
25		

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Α	Applause (4) 6:5,20 7:24 36:23	Bolton-St (2) 3:8 19:7
a.m (2) 2:2 42:14	applicants (3) 5:2,11,15	bombarded (1) 24:3
ability (3) 20:10 33:4 43:13	application (1) 4:24	book (1) 30:12
able (4) 7:15 9:20 18:19,20	applications (3) 8:2 36:18 37:6	books (1) 30:13
accessibility (1) 16:2	appointments (3) 4:10 5:13,16	BOROUGH (1) 1:12
accident (9) 22:9,15 27:9,11 28:2,4	appreciate (4) 7:7,8,22 13:7	branded (1) 20:3
28:7,25 29:11	approach (2) 38:4,21	brief (1) 8:18
accidents (1) 29:7	approachable (1) 13:2	briefly (1) 19:15
accomplishment (1) 7:14	appropriate (2) 31:19 32:9	bring (1) 16:6
action (7) 3:6 9:20 13:14 36:10	approval (1) 37:7	broader (1) 35:9
37:14 41:8 43:15	approvals (1) 36:17	broadly (1) 33:6
activity (3) 19:21 21:11 24:6	approved (1) 28:20	Buildings (1) 36:22
actual (2) 33:25 39:13	April (1) 9:3	bulk (1) 30:10
Ad (2) 32:7,8	arrangements (2) 4:19 15:9	burdena (1) 26:21
addition (2) 10:18 40:3	arrive (1) 38:13	burdens (1) 10:25
additional (4) 31:17 37:21 41:25	Asim (1) 35:18	business (1) 27:23 businesses (1) 10:5
42:8	ASOTINY (4) 3:9 23:18,23 24:20	businesses (1) 10.5
address (4) 26:4,18 27:6 30:15	aspect (1) 14:7 asserting (1) 21:4	C
addressed (2) 17:2 23:12	Assistant (2) 5:25 36:20	C (2) 43:2,2
adequately (1) 10:23	associated (1) 19:20	cab (1) 23:4
administrative (3) 3:2 26:25 27:16	authority (1) 27:4	calculate (1) 38:7
adopted (1) 36:16	authorizes (1) 9:8	calendar (1) 34:2
adopting (2) 36:13 37:10	automatically (1) 9:19	called (1) 9:10
adoption (3) 8:3 16:22 36:11	available (1) 9:25	calling (1) 24:19
advantage (1) 13:25	AVENUE (1) 1:22	cap (2) 32:10,19
advantages (1) 14:17	Ayes (3) 36:14 37:12 41:15	capacity (1) 15:24
affect (1) 26:5		car (7) 7:18 13:23 14:2,20 16:3,11
age (1) 15:23 agencies (1) 13:4	В	16:13
agency (5) 6:7 7:2,15 27:16 34:25	back (2) 4:15 18:10	Carone (3) 2:7 29:20 38:20
agency's (1) 10:20	background (2) 10:11 15:24	carried (1) 40:4
agenda (2) 8:10 37:13	backseat (1) 7:18	carries (2) 11:7 12:7
ago (1) 37:15	bared (1) 32:8	cars (2) 20:2,4
aim (1) 22:20	barred (1) 32:7	case (1) 27:21
airport (1) 31:16	base (5) 8:2 36:17,17 37:6,7	Cassella (3) 2:22 43:7,22
Aisha (1) 36:20	based (10) 13:23 14:2,20 16:3,11	celebrated (1) 6:17
Akhtar (1) 35:18	16:13,20 17:3,10 39:23	Center (2) 3:6 13:14
Alan (6) 6:16,16,24 7:19,21 12:23	basic (1) 14:22	certain (1) 8:21
allow (3) 13:20 22:17,22	basis (2) 40:8 41:4	certify (2) 43:9,14
allowed (1) 14:19	beat (1) 6:24	Chair (23) 2:4 4:2 6:6,21 7:25 8:6
allowing (4) 15:5,9 21:12 35:13	Beaver (1) 1:10	18:13,18 19:4,9 20:7,19 30:7
altogether (1) 32:11	beginning (1) 42:9	32:13 33:19 36:8,15,24 37:10,13
amendment (2) 28:5 29:2	begun (1) 14:22	38:20 39:2 41:17
amendments (2) 26:2 27:7	behalf (3) 3:8 12:22 19:10	Chairperson (2) 23:5 24:25
amount (2) 32:10,17	behaving (1) 16:3	challenging (1) 33:15
amounts (1) 30:16	Beier (1) 19:11	change (8) 4:23 9:4 29:3,4 34:12
analysis (2) 38:25 39:5	believe (12) 16:5 20:3,22 21:9,23	34:14 37:8,9
animal (1) 28:11	22:6 23:6,9 31:19 32:8,16 34:18 believes (1) 16:22	changes (7) 10:25 14:25 15:13 26:4 30:23 40:5 41:7
announce (1) 5:24	benefit (1) 42:7	
announcements (1) 5:23	best (3) 13:3 38:6 43:13	charge (1) 14:14 charges (1) 32:21
answer (2) 29:17 35:14	Bhairavi (1) 35:23	checks (3) 10:11,12 15:24
apologize (1) 5:16	black (1) 20:4	Chicago (1) 31:22
app (9) 13:23 14:2,19 16:3,10,13	Blasio (1) 9:2	Chicago's (1) 32:3
16:20 17:3,10	blood (1) 43:15	choice (1) 33:2
appeal (1) 33:15	Board (1) 25:4	choose (1) 18:25
appeals (1) 33:18	boiling (1) 7:10	Chorus (3) 36:14 37:12 41:15
applaud (1) 19:18		
	•	•

Chowdhury (4) 29:23,24 30:2,3	confidently (1) 27:22	day-to-day (2) 26:5 27:24
Chris (1) 2:13	Congratulations (1) 6:4	days (3) 5:17 33:21 34:18
City (15) 1:3 4:8,17 5:6,8,21 6:12	consequences (2) 28:8,16	de (1) 9:2
7:5 13:3,16,24 14:24 17:13 25:9	consider (1) 29:9	dealings (2) 27:19,24
31:22 Situla (4) 07:40	consideration (2) 22:13 23:16	dealt (1) 13:4
City's (1) 27:10	considerations (1) 38:3	dearly (1) 17:13
civil (1) 28:2	Considering (1) 31:23	decrease (1) 40:23
claiming (1) 21:20	consistent (2) 27:10 29:12	deemed (1) 22:9
clarified (1) 26:25	constantly (1) 31:24	defaulted (1) 33:12
clarifying (2) 26:11 40:11	construction (1) 27:20	defect (3) 11:23 12:5 26:15
clear (4) 17:8 38:2,2 41:18	consumers (1) 27:23	defects (1) 12:13
clearer (3) 29:11 33:24 34:5	consumption (1) 7:10	defensive (1) 10:16
clock (1) 12:24	content (1) 25:17	defer (1) 37:17
closed (2) 4:10,12	continue (3) 15:15 16:24 17:17	defined (1) 28:6
CMT (1) 34:9	continuing (1) 42:6	defining (2) 26:23 27:13
Code (2) 32:7,8	CONVENED (1) 2:2	definitely (2) 20:19 39:5
collaborative (1) 26:16	convenient (1) 5:11	definition (2) 17:8 29:11
collected (1) 19:23	conversion (1) 9:13	delay (1) 5:17
	.,	delete (1) 27:8
collision (6) 27:10 28:6,12,14,23	converted (1) 9:19	
29:12	correct (1) 12:5	deleted (1) 30:24
collisions (2) 28:20 29:7	corrected (1) 12:13	deliver (1) 19:15
color (2) 20:3,6	correction (1) 26:14	Department (5) 3:3 6:8,10 8:14
combat (1) 24:6	cost (2) 25:18,21	36:21
come (1) 23:23	costly (1) 14:4	Desai (1) 35:23
comes (5) 24:11 31:7 33:22,22	Council (1) 25:9	design (1) 14:7
38:22	Counsel (2) 2:13 25:3	designated (1) 20:6
COMM (2) 38:19,20	count (1) 40:14	detail (1) 23:14
commend (1) 25:7	counter (1) 37:2	details (1) 25:15
comment (1) 39:23	COUNTY (1) 43:5	deter (1) 21:11
comments (6) 12:15 13:10 19:14	couple (3) 37:15 39:19 42:6	determination (1) 36:18
21:7 23:16 30:10	courses (1) 25:19	detriment (1) 40:25
Commission (13) 1:4,11 6:22	court (1) 27:17	develop (1) 37:21
19:19 23:5,7,15 25:2,25 36:10	crash (1) 22:10	developed (1) 29:12
37:14 38:24 41:7	crashes (1) 22:5	development (1) 25:22
Commissioner (7) 5:25 13:9 29:20	create (1) 10:3	device (1) 22:18
36:5,20 40:4 41:12	creating (3) 13:18 15:4,8	devices (3) 22:18,19,22
	creation (3) 8:20 15:13 25:10	
Commissioners (9) 2:3 6:22 8:18		differ (1) 28:23
13:9 19:10 23:20 30:8 37:5 41:9	Credit (2) 13:15,17	different (5) 10:2 20:11 28:8,9
Committee (3) 3:8 19:11,16	criminal (2) 10:11 28:3	41:24
companies (3) 16:20 17:10 27:18	crisis (1) 7:5	differing (1) 38:8
company (1) 18:25	critical (1) 17:2	difficulties (1) 4:7
compared (1) 15:18	curious (2) 31:13 38:22	difficulty (1) 38:7
compensation (1) 21:19	current (3) 11:6,17 12:6	direction (2) 17:16,17
compete (2) 14:19 16:20	currently (3) 9:5 10:9 32:12	Director (1) 13:13
competitive (1) 13:25	curriculum (1) 25:17	disability (1) 21:21
completely (3) 4:25 7:9 38:21	customer (1) 37:2	discouraged (1) 10:23
complex (1) 7:12		discretion (1) 14:10
compliance (3) 12:9,12 35:7	D	discretionary (3) 11:8 23:3 26:24
comprehensive (1) 30:13	daily (1) 41:3	discussion (2) 38:5,15
comprehensively (1) 23:8	Dan (1) 8:13	discussions (3) 39:15,16 42:7
concern (1) 23:3	Daniel (4) 3:3,8 19:6,12	distracted (1) 22:21
concerned (1) 23:25	data (12) 6:2,11,14 19:22 37:21	DMV (1) 10:11
concerning (2) 14:10 19:21	38:9,12,22 39:3,12 41:25 42:8	documentation (1) 5:3
concerns (5) 4:14 19:16 23:13,13	date (2) 37:18 41:10	doing (3) 18:4,5 38:8
26:19	David (4) 3:6 12:19 13:13 19:11	DOV (1) 32:23
conduct (3) 10:24 11:14 25:13	day (10) 4:12 5:15 12:7,8 24:17	drive (4) 13:20 15:3 20:11 26:10
confident (1) 7:16		drive (4) 13.20 13.3 20.11 28.10 driver (29) 4:23 9:16 11:18,20,21
	34:2,2,21 40:17 43:19	
	1	I

	I	1
12:2 18:5 19:21 20:10,15,23	establishes (1) 8:20	fines (6) 21:9 24:11,12 32:10,22
21:12,18,25 22:7 28:15,16 30:13	establishing (1) 10:18	33:8
31:8,14,21 32:23 33:12,13 34:20	event (1) 21:15	fingerprint (1) 5:16
35:2,4 37:22 40:15	everybody (3) 4:6 6:15 18:24	fingerprint-enabled (1) 10:10
driver's (20) 8:20 9:6,11,14 10:3,6	exact (2) 38:13 39:13	fingerprinting (2) 5:4,6
10:19 13:12,19 15:14,20 16:6,17	example (8) 11:5,15 12:3 14:5	fingerprints (1) 35:4
16:23 17:20 22:10,11,13 29:8	28:19 31:5,6,13	finish (1) 18:11
33:4	exceeded (1) 40:18	first (13) 4:5 5:15 12:19,24 15:11
drivers (25) 4:25 9:6,7,18,24,25	exceeding (1) 40:16	19:18 21:8,11 25:7,11 36:10 40:7
10:5,10 11:16 15:21 16:8,10,18	excellently (1) 7:2	40:17
24:9 26:12 29:5 31:23 32:2,20	exceptions (1) 32:6	five (3) 32:21 37:6,7
33:8 34:2,7,19 35:12 42:3	exclusivity (1) 17:12	five-day (1) 34:8
drivers' (1) 31:24	exercise (1) 21:2	flat (1) 12:8
driving (8) 10:11,16 16:12 22:7,21	exhaustive (1) 14:6	flexibility (4) 9:24 10:4 16:18 18:12
37:16 39:7 42:4	existing (3) 9:13,17 11:2	flexible (1) 15:9
drop (1) 31:18	expanded (1) 38:12	FLOOR (1) 1:11
drug (2) 10:13 15:24	expensive (1) 14:11	focus (1) 30:10
due (2) 23:7 33:9	experience (1) 14:8	focused (2) 20:9 37:24
duty (2) 28:22,24	explore (1) 37:20	following (6) 8:23 32:3 39:22 40:2
	express (1) 23:2	40:5,10
Ε	extensive (1) 19:14	footsteps (1) 32:4
	GALGHONG (1) 13.14	
E (2) 43:2,2	F	for-hire (7) 9:7,14 10:9 15:7 21:13
e-mail (2) 1:24 4:20		25:14 26:9
earning (1) 16:8	F (1) 43:2	forces (1) 21:18
earnings (2) 31:24 37:24	face (3) 28:16 31:5 36:25	forcing (1) 16:19
economic (1) 32:24	facing (1) 34:7	form (1) 20:5
Edward (1) 2:6	FACSIMILE (1) 1:23	former (1) 16:10
		formulated (1) 41:24
effect (6) 9:15 39:9,9 41:21,22 42:4	factors (1) 22:14	
effective (1) 37:18	facts (1) 6:18	forth (2) 20:18 23:8
effectively (2) 37:23 40:22	failing (1) 12:5	forward (2) 25:19 42:5
effort (1) 38:9	fairly (1) 16:20	found (1) 33:20
efforts (1) 26:16	fairness (1) 16:6	framework (1) 30:15
eight (1) 18:6	far (4) 14:3 30:16 31:3 35:9	Frank (1) 2:7
eight-day (1) 34:9	fare (1) 15:10	freedom (1) 16:18
either (4) 9:21 33:3 35:24 37:8	fares (2) 14:13 19:21	Fromberg (2) 6:16 13:6
electronic (3) 17:11 19:22 22:17	fashion (1) 39:12	front (1) 36:24
eliminating (2) 15:2 35:11	faster (1) 5:19	fully (1) 37:20
emergency (1) 21:15	fatigue (5) 37:16,22 38:7 39:7 42:3	functionality (1) 11:25
employee (1) 6:7	fault (2) 28:13 29:8	further (2) 23:13 43:14
enacted (1) 40:11	favor (4) 36:13 37:10 39:18 41:14	future (1) 17:18
encouraging (1) 30:23	feedback (2) 11:3 39:24	
		G
ended (1) 5:13	Fernando (3) 3:9 23:18,22	
ends (1) 5:19	fewer (1) 14:3	Garcia (5) 3:9 23:18,19,22 24:7
enforce (2) 17:8 19:24	FHV (14) 9:16,18 12:4 13:21,23	general (3) 2:13 25:3 27:19
enforced (1) 23:11	15:16,19 16:8,17 17:10 26:3	generally (1) 40:23
ensure (6) 9:24 10:22 11:19 12:12	38:12 42:2,10	getting (1) 24:15
25:20 26:17	FHVs (5) 9:9 13:25 14:8,12,14	give (6) 16:17 18:24 20:21 24:9,18
entails (1) 8:16	field (4) 14:21,24 15:16 16:25	40:9
entities (1) 27:23	file (1) 14:16	gives (1) 18:20
entitled (2) 20:25 21:2	filed (1) 21:19	giving (4) 17:18 25:5 29:15 30:8
equal (1) 17:4	fill (1) 5:2	go (3) 5:5 18:10 21:7
equalization (1) 26:8	final (1) 41:6	goal (1) 38:16
equipment (2) 4:8 14:12	finally (2) 27:6 41:2	Goddin (3) 3:3 8:13,17
equipped (1) 14:11	finding (1) 33:9	goes (2) 14:17 24:21
equivalent (2) 20:4 32:23	fine (13) 11:10,20 12:11 21:16,21	going (9) 4:3 8:2,14 18:17 24:6
era (1) 17:10	21:22,24 22:2 31:7,18 32:15 33:4	30:10 31:16 38:23,24
established (1) 6:9	33:5	Gonzales (2) 2:6 38:19
	I	I

and (12) 4:0 0:47 40:0 45:00 40:0	16:16	ining (1) 20:20 20:5 44:40 40
good (12) 4:2 8:17 13:8 15:20 19:8	16:16	joined (4) 29:20 36:5 41:12,12
19:9 23:20,20 24:17,24 30:7 37:5	implements (1) 9:22	joining (2) 6:7 36:21
governing (1) 26:10	important (1) 15:11	Joseph (6) 3:8 19:6,8,12 20:14,22
GPS (1) 22:18	importantly (1) 5:20	Joshi (5) 2:4 13:9 24:25 30:8 40:4
grace (1) 34:18	impose (1) 32:4	judge (2) 26:25 33:2
great (3) 18:23 19:2 20:20	imposed (6) 23:4 26:24 32:5,11	judges (1) 27:3
greater (2) 9:23 21:23	33:11,16	July (3) 1:9 41:9 43:19
groups (1) 40:2	imposing (2) 10:24 33:5	June (2) 36:12 39:22
guide (1) 38:3	imposition (1) 33:23	
guilt (1) 33:10		К
	improperly (1) 27:3	
guilty (2) 20:24 33:20	incident (4) 22:8 32:14,18,19	Kala (1) 4:14
	incidents (1) 29:6	keep (1) 24:13
<u> </u>	include (1) 15:2	know (4) 6:2 30:20 32:6 42:3
hack-up (1) 15:5	including (6) 10:16 15:12,25 27:13	knows (2) 6:16 7:11
hail (1) 17:12	39:24 40:12	
hails (2) 15:7 17:11	increased (4) 21:10,22 31:11,18	L
hand (1) 43:19	increasing (2) 15:6 19:19	Lastly (1) 23:2
happened (1) 34:15	incur (1) 40:19	latest (1) 8:19
happy (5) 24:8 26:22 29:16 34:23	industries (1) 26:21	Lauvienska (1) 2:8
35:14	industry (10) 4:19 7:4 11:4 13:16	law (16) 3:3 9:2,3,3,7,12,15 13:18
hard (1) 7:23	15:16 16:9,19 18:8 39:11 42:2	26:25 27:12,15,16,21,25 29:13
harder (2) 24:15,15	influx (1) 31:25	41:6
harsh (1) 22:6	information (2) 35:3 41:19	lead (1) 16:15
hear (1) 12:15	infringe (1) 17:11	leading (3) 6:13 13:15 18:22
hearing (16) 1:11 2:2 8:11,13,22	initiative (1) 27:11	learns (2) 7:9 26:12
18:14 20:24,25 36:3 37:15 38:5	initiatives (1) 29:14	lease (1) 15:9
39:17,21,23,25 40:3	innumerable (1) 22:22	leases (1) 15:10
heat (1) 4:7	inside (1) 6:11	leave (2) 7:20 41:20
held (3) 10:7 39:21,25	inspection (1) 26:11	
		leaving (1) 28:4
help (5) 4:15 15:14 16:6,24 21:11	instruction (1) 10:16	left (1) 16:16
hereunto (1) 43:18	insurance (2) 27:15,18	legal (2) 8:14 29:4
Hi (3) 17:24 18:3 19:8	intent (1) 29:13	legislation (2) 9:23 25:9
high (2) 24:12 31:4	intention (1) 40:9	legislators (1) 27:22
higher (1) 21:16	interested (1) 43:16	legitimate (1) 34:25
highly (1) 14:14	interplay (1) 37:25	lender (1) 13:15
hits (1) 28:13	interpretations (1) 27:17	letter (1) 23:14
holders (3) 9:9 10:6 25:13	Interpreter (2) 3:10 23:19	level (2) 14:20,24
hope (1) 17:16	introduce (1) 36:19	leveling (2) 15:15 16:24
hopefully (4) 4:11,20 5:10,17	introduction (1) 37:4	
		levels (1) 38:8
hour (2) 40:14,17	involved (3) 22:8 28:14 29:6	license (28) 3:5 8:12,21 9:8,10,11
hours (5) 5:7,8,10 32:2 40:13	irrespective (1) 28:12	10:3,19 13:12 15:8,14,20 16:6,17
housekeeping (1) 39:20	Island (4) 4:8,17 5:8,21	16:23 17:20 18:14,22 20:6,9 21:5
humor (1) 7:8	issue (1) 7:9	21:20 22:10 24:9 25:11 28:17,21
Hurricane (1) 7:6	issues (6) 7:12 9:5 17:2 21:24	36:4
	35:10 37:2	licensed (5) 9:16 16:17 21:14 26:6
	item (1) 36:11	26:9
idea (2) 18:23 19:2	items (1) 36:9	licensees (3) 10:25 25:15,24
identification (1) 20:5	J	licenses (14) 9:4,6,14,15 10:6
ignoring (1) 11:16		13:19 15:18 26:13 27:4 33:7,25
illegal (4) 15:6 19:20 21:11 24:6	Jacques (1) 2:5	34:7,17,19
illegally (1) 22:2	Jeferson (1) 3:7	licensing (3) 34:13 35:10 36:25
immediately (4) 11:21 33:9,11	Jefferson (7) 17:23,24,25 18:3,4	lieu (1) 28:6
34:10	18:16,19	limit (5) 40:17,18,22 41:3,5
impact (2) 26:6 28:10	Jennifer (3) 2:22 43:7,22	limited (1) 27:13
	Jiha (1) 2:5	limitless (1) 14:9
implement (2) 8:21 25:8		
implement (2) 8:21 25:8	iohs (1) 24.15	limits (1) 40.15
implement (2) 8:21 25:8 implemented (1) 15:2 implementing (3) 13:18 15:19	jobs (1) 24:15 Johns (2) 3:8 19:7	limits (1) 40:15 Limousine (2) 1:4 30:19

	1	1
line (3) 5:21 31:22 32:9	media (1) 13:3	note (2) 31:2,10
list (2) 14:17 22:16	Meera (1) 2:4	noted (1) 42:14
listed (1) 35:17	meet (1) 14:6	notice (1) 33:13
little (3) 5:7 31:13 37:18	meeting (6) 4:4 29:20 36:12 37:23	noticed (1) 40:6
livelihood (1) 22:12	39:25 42:12	notices (2) 4:19,20
livery (1) 25:14	Melrose (5) 3:6 13:14,14,17 16:22	notifies (1) 11:21
living (1) 16:8	member (1) 33:17	notify (1) 4:6
Local (4) 9:3,12 13:18 41:6	members (2) 6:22 24:25	November (7) 18:12 37:19 38:11
long (7) 4:8,17 5:8,21 7:16 11:21	memoriam (1) 7:18	39:10,11 41:22,23
14:15	mental (1) 15:23	number (3) 16:9 26:2 40:22
long-term (1) 22:13	mentioned (1) 20:7	numerous (1) 40:2
longer (1) 32:2	merely (1) 29:3	NYTWA (2) 3:12 30:6
longtime (1) 6:6	message (1) 42:2	
look (5) 25:19 30:13 33:7 35:10	messages (1) 4:21	0
42:5	metered (1) 14:13	OATH (3) 27:2 30:19 33:2
-		
lookback (1) 40:20	method (1) 38:13	obligations (2) 27:14 34:6
looking (1) 30:22	methodology (1) 37:22	occur (1) 40:14
looks (1) 6:19	Metropolitan (1) 25:3	occurrence (1) 28:18
lose (1) 35:12	midst (1) 7:5	off-duty (1) 26:11
losing (1) 34:4	milestone (1) 6:15	offenses (1) 28:3
loss (1) 32:24	minimum (1) 23:6	offer (1) 9:5
lost (2) 33:14,21	minutes (5) 8:3 36:6,6,11,15	offers (1) 20:23
lot (2) 20:14 35:9	misstated (1) 41:11	office (2) 4:9 39:16
	moderate (1) 24:13	officers (1) 37:9
M	Monday (1) 1:9	oh (3) 6:3 8:2,6
Madam (1) 38:20	monetary (2) 33:3 40:23	Okay (5) 18:18 20:14 22:25 30:4
mail (1) 33:13	money (1) 16:14	35:21
major (1) 29:4	month (1) 40:21	once (3) 7:4 9:15 17:7
making (1) 16:14	months (4) 18:6 34:23 37:19 42:6	online (2) 4:25 5:3
malls (1) 24:7	morning (12) 4:2 8:17 13:8 19:8,9	open (1) 25:20
MAMARONECK (2) 1:22,22	23:20,21 24:24 29:16 30:7 37:5	operate (4) 9:9,16,17,20
manager (1) 18:8	40:4	operated (2) 14:2 21:13
mandated (1) 25:18	motion (3) 38:18 39:6 40:3	operating (2) 13:24 15:7
mandatory (2) 10:14 28:21	motorist (1) 28:13	operation (1) 26:5
MANHATTAN (1) 1:12	move (7) 7:4 8:2,9 16:18 17:17	operators (3) 13:20 15:17,19
market (2) 13:24 24:14	36:9 37:16	
		opportunity (9) 10:4 13:10 17:19
marketing (1) 11:6	moving (2) 4:24 17:15	18:21,25 24:10 25:5 29:15 30:9
markets (1) 7:3	MTA (1) 17:6	opposed (1) 32:19
marriage (1) 43:16	MTBOT (1) 3:11	order (1) 37:20
master (1) 7:20		organization (1) 12:22
match (1) 11:13	N	originally (1) 40:6
materials (1) 25:23	name (6) 6:10 13:12 18:4 19:12	Osman (1) 29:23
matter (2) 43:11,17	23:21 25:2	outcome (1) 43:17
matters (2) 26:4,8	Naphtadi (1) 17:23	outside (1) 6:11
maximum (1) 32:4	Naphtali (3) 3:7 17:25 18:4	overcharged (1) 31:14
Mayor (1) 9:2	need (4) 5:3 17:2 30:14 35:11	overly (1) 40:24
Mayor's (1) 6:21	needed (1) 4:17	owner (5) 11:22,25 12:5 15:3
Mazer (4) 3:11 24:23,24 25:2	needs (4) 22:12 33:24 34:5,12	26:12
mean (1) 35:8	new (21) 1:3,22 5:6 6:23 8:15 9:8	owners (4) 15:4 17:13 26:3 29:5
meaning (1) 27:19	9:10 11:9,20 12:7 13:15,24 14:5	ownership (1) 37:8
meanings (1) 28:9	14:9,24 17:13,20 36:19 38:22	
means (1) 33:11	43:4,8	P
measure (1) 37:22	Newark (1) 31:16	package (7) 8:15,19 10:19 20:13
measures (2) 23:24 24:5	nomenclature (1) 29:3	20:20 25:6 29:10
medallion (5) 13:16,20 15:3 17:13	non-functioning (1) 11:17	PAGE (2) 3:2,5
20:2	Norflett (2) 36:20 37:3	paid (1) 17:13
medallions (2) 6:23,23	Notary (1) 43:7	parked (2) 28:13,15
	10taly (1)43.7	pained (2) 20.13,13
	I	I

parking (1) 31:6 part (1) 20:19 participated (1) 38:14 particular (1) 21:8 particularly (1) 16:2 parties (1) 43:15 passed (2) 25:9 39:8 passenger (5) 14:8 21:25 31:15,16 40:13 passengers (1) 11:6 passes (1) 41:16 passing (1) 29:25 pay (4) 17:6 32:3 33:5 35:6 payment (1) 34:21 payments (1) 5:4 peaks (1) 7:3 pedestrian (1) 28:11 penalized (2) 21:3 40:16 penalties (19) 10:22 11:2 15:6 19:19 20:18 23:4,8,10 26:8 28:3 30:14,17,18,25 31:3,11,21 34:16 40:24 penalty (19) 8:21 10:20 11:7,9,12 11:13,18,20,24 12:6,7,8,10 20:23 30:11 31:14 32:5 35:10 40:19 people (2) 39:14 41:18 period (3) 34:18 40:10,20 periodically (1) 10:21 person (3) 7:22 13:3 21:14 personnel (1) 5:22 perspective (1) 25:24 Peter (3) 3:11 24:23 25:2 petition (1) 33:18 phasing (1) 40:10 phonetic (1) 17:23 physical (1) 15:23 pickups (1) 40:14 piece (1) 8:9 pilot (2) 15:4,8 place (4) 6:9 10:9,12,15 placing (1) 26:20 Planning (1) 6:8 plate (1) 20:6 plates (1) 24:4 playing (4) 14:20,24 15:15 16:25 pleads (1) 20:24 pleased (1) 6:12 plus (4) 12:8,11 22:18 32:22 pointing (1) 40:12 points (1) 37:21 Polanco (3) 2:8 36:5 41:12 policies (2) 10:13 27:18 Policy (1) 6:9 Pollack (5) 3:6 12:19,23 13:8,13 portion (1) 29:10 position (1) 5:25 positive (1) 14:25

possibility (2) 11:8,11 possible (1) 38:10 posted (1) 41:8 practical (1) 19:24 prearrangement (1) 17:9 precise (1) 38:10 precludes (1) 11:20 premium (1) 31:8 prescribe (1) 28:2 present (4) 2:3,12 8:18 23:21 presentation (3) 3:2 8:15,24 press (2) 2:18 7:17 prevent (1) 22:21 previously (1) 23:14 prices (1) 31:4 prior (2) 18:6 40:20 probably (2) 34:14 39:3 problem (1) 27:2 proceedings (41) 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1 43:10,12 process (5) 4:24 16:24 23:7 25:21 34:11 processed (1) 30:18 processes (1) 33:18 processing (1) 5:19 program (1) 15:8 prohibits (4) 11:5,16 12:4 21:12 promotion (1) 5:24 proof (1) 26:14 proposal (1) 41:25 propose (3) 31:20 32:3,25 proposed (19) 3:2 9:22 10:25 11:9 11:12.19.23 12:7.10 13:11.17 20:18 21:9 22:16 25:6,25 27:7 29:2 40:6 proposing (1) 25:8 provide (5) 9:23 13:10 17:4 40:15 41:2 providers (2) 10:2 25:22 providing (1) 40:7 provision (1) 21:18 provisions (3) 10:21 21:8 22:17 public (17) 2:17 4:4 7:10 8:11,13 8:22 12:18 15:21 26:7,18 36:3 39:21,23,24 40:2 42:12 43:7 pun (1) 7:19 punitive (3) 30:16 34:14 40:25 punster (1) 7:20 purpose (2) 35:2 40:8 Q qualify (1) 15:18

question (1) 22:21 questions (5) 4:14 8:25 12:14 29:17 35:15 quickly (1) 6:8 quorum (2) 8:11 36:9

R R (1) 43:2 range (1) 11:10 rate (1) 24:13 rates (1) 14:16 rationale (3) 11:11,23 12:9 reached (1) 11:2 realities (1) 39:14 reapply (1) 35:6 receive (1) 33:13 recognize (1) 14:22 recognized (1) 6:10 recognizes (1) 13:23 recommend (1) 34:14 recommendation (1) 37:11 record (7) 10:12 12:21 22:14 29:19 35:4 41:18 43:12 reduce (2) 11:13 40:20 reduced (3) 20:23 31:2,25 reference (2) 20:17 27:8 reflect (1) 29:19 reflects (1) 39:13 regarding (2) 13:11 19:16 regards (1) 22:4 regulated (3) 10:23 14:14 26:21 regulation (1) 19:25 regulations (2) 14:4 27:16 regulators (1) 27:22 regulatory (1) 26:19 reinstate (3) 33:25 34:7,10 reinstated (1) 34:3 related (2) 25:10 43:14 relates (1) 22:5 relating (1) 26:7 relations (1) 37:2 releases (1) 7:17 relieved (1) 14:21 remain (3) 10:12,15 38:2 remains (2) 15:12 16:25 renew (2) 19:21 34:19 renewals (2) 34:17 37:7 repair (1) 11:19 replace (1) 27:9 report (2) 28:23,25 reported (2) 2:21 43:10 reporters (2) 6:24 7:6 REPORTING (1) 1:21 represent (1) 12:21 representation (1) 23:22 represented (1) 7:2 require (1) 33:2

required (1) 17:5
requirement (1) 14:13
requirements (5) 10:15 15:17,23
15:25 28:24
requires (3) 9:7,12 41:6
requiring (2) 17:3,6
respect (2) 28:22,24
response (1) 12:16
responsibility (2) 12:2 29:4
responsiveness (1) 7:7
result (5) 5:18 26:16 28:17,21
39:24
retail (1) 18:7
retain (1) 7:15
returned (1) 16:11
review (4) 11:3 30:11 31:21 35:9
reviews (1) 10:21
revised (1) 11:9
revision (3) 11:12,24 12:10
revisions (1) 8:22
revocation (4) 23:3 26:24 28:17,21
revoking (1) 27:3
RICHMOND (1) 43:5
riding (1) 15:21
right (14) 8:8 17:12,15 18:11,16,17
21:2,3 32:11,18,20 33:8 34:19
42:4
Rodney (4) 5:24 6:4,6,13
Rodney's (1) 6:3
room (4) 1:11 7:11,22 13:22
round (1) 31:12
rule (29) 8:19 9:22 10:14,19 11:5
11:15 12:4 15:3,12 17:16 21:24
22:6 23:5,9 25:6 26:22 29:2,10
22.0 23.3,9 23.0 20.22 29.2,10
30:11,13 31:7 32:9,25 38:10 39:13 40:6 41:7,14,20
rulemaking (2) 31:12 33:24
rules (40) 3:5 8:12,15 13:11,18
14:4 18:14,22 19:17 20:10,13,15
21:10 22:16 25:8,12 26:3,3,7,18
26:23 27:7 28:5,12,19,22 30:22
30:23,24 34:5,15 36:4 37:14,17
37:18 39:8,22 40:10,12 42:4
running (1) 4:13
5()
S
safeguards (1) 10:8
safety (8) 3:8 14:7 19:11 26:7,18
37:25 38:3,16
Sandy (1) 7:6
saturated (1) 24:14
Saturday (1) 5:9
says (3) 24:3,7,11
scene (1) 28:4
schedule (1) 5:15
scheduling (1) 5:12
school (2) 18:10,11

second (2) 38:18,19 seconded (1) 39:6 Secondly (1) 40:11 section (1) 30:11 sectors (1) 20:11 security (1) 35:5 see (4) 4:18 14:21 38:11 39:12 seeing (2) 32:20 34:2 segments (2) 16:19 24:10 selection (1) 25:21 sense (1) 15:20 sent (2) 4:19 41:9 separate (2) 9:5 22:19 serious (2) 22:5,9 seriousness (1) 11:14 serve (2) 40:25 41:4 serves (1) 34:25 service (2) 16:14 17:4 services (8) 1:21 13:23 14:2,20 16:3,11,21 17:3 set (4) 10:22 12:11 23:8 43:18 severe (1) 23:4 severity (1) 11:13 share (2) 15:10 39:2 shared (2) 38:23 39:14 shifted (1) 38:6 SHLs (1) 20:3 short (1) 8:23 sic (1) 36:7 side (2) 38:13 42:10 signed (1) 9:2 significantly (1) 21:10 sill (1) 40:25 simple (1) 42:2 simplify (1) 7:13 simply (1) 31:15 single (2) 9:8 22:9 sir (1) 13:6 sites (2) 5:5 31:7 six (1) 32:21 skill (1) 7:12 skip (2) 20:16 29:24 smartphone (1) 17:9 smoother (1) 5:18 social (1) 35:5 Soleimany (6) 3:12 30:5,7 32:15 35:19,25 solicits (1) 21:25 sorry (6) 8:3 18:2,13 20:16 22:24 32:13 speak (2) 25:5 30:9 speaker (9) 12:19 17:22 19:6 20:8 24:23 29:22 30:5 35:17,22 speakers (3) 3:5 12:18,20 specifically (1) 40:12 specifications (2) 14:6,10 spoke (1) 24:18

ss (1) 43:5 staff (4) 2:16 11:3 38:25 39:23 stakeholders (2) 11:4 26:17 standard (1) 27:17 standards (4) 10:7 25:12 27:14 37:25 standing (1) 6:25 starred (1) 8:24 start (4) 4:4 8:11 12:23 22:3 started (1) 14:23 starters (1) 30:20 state (4) 12:20 27:12 43:4,8 stated (1) 23:12 statement (1) 40:7 statutes (1) 27:12 statutory (1) 27:20 STENO-KATH (1) 1:21 Stenokath@verizon.net (1) 1:24 steps (1) 15:11 Stiles (1) 5:24 stop (2) 14:18 17:10 stories (1) 16:10 straight (1) 24:4 street (2) 1:10 15:6 street-hail (1) 25:14 streets (1) 38:17 stringent (1) 14:3 strongly (1) 34:13 subject (4) 10:8 14:3 15:22,22 submit (1) 5:3 submitted (2) 19:13 23:14 successful (1) 33:14 sufficient (1) 12:12 suggest (1) 22:2 suggestion (1) 19:22 summarily (1) 22:11 summarize (1) 19:15 summary (1) 8:19 summons (1) 32:21 support (5) 17:19 24:18 26:4 38:16 38:21 supports (1) 13:17 surcharge (1) 17:6 sure (2) 20:8 22:25 surrender (1) 21:19 surrounding (1) 22:14 survived (1) 7:3 suspended (3) 22:11 26:13 33:19 suspension (8) 11:8,11 12:9,11 32:22 33:3,16 35:6 suspensions (5) 33:10,23 34:8,9 40:23 system (4) 5:18 19:23 31:20 32:5 т **T (2)** 43:2,2

T-PEP (3) 14:12 19:23 34:6

tabling (1) 29:9 take (8) 8:25 9:20 33:4 39:9,9 41:19.21.22 taken (3) 23:25 24:5 33:8 takes (2) 7:13 9:15 talent (1) 7:16 talk (1) 34:24 taxi (7) 1:4 3:6,8 13:14 15:17 19:11 30:18 taxicab (16) 9:6,13,17,18 10:9 13:16 14:5,13 17:12 25:4,11,13 26:3,11 28:14,15 taxicabs (7) 9:9 13:21 14:11,25 16:21 26:6,9 taximeter (4) 11:17,19,22,24 taxis (4) 14:18 16:4,12 17:5 team (1) 4:16 technical (1) 26:2 technology (3) 6:2,14 20:12 telephones (1) 4:9 tell (1) 34:23 ten (1) 33:21 tens (1) 16:7 term (9) 17:9 27:8,9,11,21 28:2,5,7 29:6 terminates (1) 36:3 terms (3) 28:9 29:11 34:13 test (1) 15:4 testify (4) 17:19 18:15 29:16 35:14 testifying (1) 19:13 testimony (6) 8:23 12:15,25 20:21 37:24 39:15 testing (3) 10:13 15:24 25:23 text (1) 4:20 thank (26) 7:21 12:14,25 13:6,9 17:18,21 18:2 19:4,5 23:15,17,23 24:16,19,22 25:4 29:15,18 30:8 35:13,16 37:3,3,9 38:14 Thanks (1) 12:22 thing (2) 4:5 35:7 things (1) 39:20 think (14) 6:15 7:11 13:22 18:23 19:2 24:12 30:12,14,21 35:8,19 36:2 39:6 41:11 third (1) 40:19 thousands (1) 16:7 three (7) 8:7 21:9 22:19 28:20 33:17 34:22 37:19 throw (1) 7:19 ticket (1) 31:9 time (15) 4:3 5:20 7:7 17:7 18:10 23:16 25:11 34:4 35:12 38:11 41:23 42:9,9,12,14 times (1) 40:18 tirelessly (1) 6:25 TLC (50) 6:6,9,17,19,21 8:19,20 9:5,10,14 10:3,6,18,21 11:3

13:12,19 14:16,22 15:7,14,20,21 16:5,16,23 17:7,15,20 21:15,20 22:22 23:15 25:7,20 26:15,17,19 27:7 28:5,6,12,21,22 29:9 31:8 33:25 34:3,15 35:3 **TLC's (4)** 10:14 20:23 40:8 41:8 today (10) 4:11 5:14 15:13 18:15 19:13 30:9 37:5,17 39:8 41:21 today's (1) 25:6 told (3) 31:15,15 34:11 tomorrow (2) 4:13 5:14 total (1) 37:6 totaling (1) 22:19 touched (1) 20:12 Trade (1) 25:4 traffic (4) 27:15,25 29:13 31:7 training (6) 10:14,17 15:25 16:2 25:17,23 transactions (2) 4:11,16 transcript (2) 1:2 43:12 transmitted (1) 26:15 transparent (1) 25:20 transportation (2) 6:24 10:2 treated (1) 16:13 treatment (1) 16:7 tribunal (2) 30:19 33:10 trip (2) 38:12 41:25 trips (2) 42:8,9 true (1) 43:12 try (1) 4:21 turn (1) 34:8 twice (1) 33:20 two (4) 22:17 28:10 37:7 40:17 type (1) 9:21 types (1) 9:4

U

Uber (2) 18:5,9 ultimately (1) 33:20 unanimously (2) 36:16 41:16 unauthorized (1) 19:20 unchanged (1) 10:13 underlying (2) 11:14 38:15 understand (1) 21:4 unfair (4) 13:25 14:17 17:14 20:24 unfairness (1) 14:23 uniform (1) 25:12 unintended (1) 28:7 Union (2) 13:15,17 units (1) 6:14 universal (17) 3:5 8:12 13:11,19 15:14,19 16:5,16,23 18:14,22 20:9,15 21:5 24:8 25:10 36:4 unlicensed (2) 24:2,4 unnecessary (3) 10:24 26:20 35:11 unprecedented (1) 10:4

unreasonable (1) 26:20 unwavering (1) 38:16 update (1) 10:20 UPDATES (1) 3:2 Uptown (2) 24:3,7 upward (1) 11:10 urge (1) 29:9 use (3) 14:8 28:5 38:10 utilizes (1) 27:25 V validly (1) 21:14 valleys (1) 7:3 various (2) 25:18 26:17

various (2) 25:18 26:17 vehicle (20) 9:7,14,21 10:10,17 11:25 12:2,4,6 14:7 20:13 21:13 22:20,23 25:14 26:14 27:15,25 28:10 29:13 vehicle's (1) 11:22 vehicles (8) 13:21 14:5 15:5 22:18 24:2 26:10 28:10 31:25 vehicular (1) 29:6 vendors (1) 34:6 Verifone (1) 34:9 vice-versa (1) 9:17 violates (1) 23:7 violation (5) 23:6 31:6 40:19 41:2 41:4 violations (2) 23:9 40:21 virtually (1) 14:9 visible (1) 20:5 Vision (3) 22:20 27:11 29:14 voluminous (1) 39:4 vote (2) 37:16 39:7 voted (1) 41:20 VTL (1) 28:23

W

wait (1) 8:4 want (16) 4:5,21 5:23 6:18 14:15 18:15 20:8 22:24 23:23 29:14 31:2,10 38:14 39:3 41:17 42:3 wanted (3) 21:5 24:16,17 wants (1) 24:5 warnings (1) 40:9 watched (1) 7:4 way (7) 19:24 30:17 31:4 33:15,19 38:6 43:16 ways (2) 30:15 33:7 we'll (2) 4:18 12:17 we're (12) 4:3,24 6:12 7:16,25 18:13 26:22 30:12,21,21 32:20 34:2 we've (5) 4:6 7:15 19:13 27:2 42:7 website (1) 41:8 week (3) 5:9 6:16 40:15 weekend (2) 34:4,12

		•
		1
weekly (1) 41:5	11:00 (2) 42:13,14	80-09(f) (1) 21:12
weeks (1) 37:15	12 (1) 3:6	80-11(b)(1)(ii) (1) 21:17
well-defined (1) 27:20	12-hour (1) 40:16	80-12(h)(1) (1) 22:4
went (1) 33:17	139 (1) 1:22	80-17(a) (1) 21:24
wheelchair-accessible (2) 10:17	13th (1) 5:13	80-20 (1) 22:16
17:4	14th (1) 41:9	80-21 (1) 22:16
WHEREOF (1) 43:18	15 (2) 22:7 31:17	800 (1) 32:19
Wilson (16) 2:13 8:4 12:17 17:21	17 (1) 3:7	000(1)02.10
18:2 19:5 23:17 24:22 29:18,25	18 (1) 1:9	9
30:4 35:16,21 36:2 39:19 41:16	19 (1) 3:8	9/11 (1) 7:5
wish (2) 23:2 27:6	19TH (1) 1:11	90 (1) 34:18
within-entitled (1) 43:11	1st (6) 37:19 38:11 39:10,11 41:22	914.381.2061 (1) 1:23
WITNESS (1) 43:18	41:23	914.722.0816 (1) 1:23
wonks (1) 6:11		953.3767 (1) 1:23
word (2) 4:22 24:20	2	
work (13) 7:23 9:25 15:12,15 18:7	2 (1) 22:4	
18:21,25 24:10 32:2 33:21 35:12	20 (5) 6:17,18,22 7:17 13:5	
39:11 40:12	200 (1) 31:8	
worked (1) 25:16	2012 (1) 6:7	
workers (1) 21:19	2016 (5) 1:9 9:3,12 39:22 43:19	
working (6) 5:21 14:23 18:9,12 25:19 36:25	212.95.DEPOS (1) 1:23	
	21st (1) 9:3	
world (1) 38:8	23 (1) 3:9	
worried (1) 24:5	23rd (2) 36:12 39:22	
wouldn't (1) 39:3	24 (1) 3:11	
wrap (1) 12:3	25 (1) 31:18	
Wright (1) 4:14	250 (1) 21:16	
wrong (1) 17:14	26 (1) 6:23	
	26th (1) 43:19	
X		
	3	
ΥΥ	3 (1) 6:21	
yeah (2) 19:3 22:25	30 (1) 3:12	
year (1) 40:21	30-day (1) 32:22	
years (6) 6:17,19 7:17 13:5 22:7	33 (1) 1:10	
34:16	350 (3) 11:7,18 22:3	
yellow (3) 14:18 16:12 20:2	000 (0) 11.1,10 22.0	
York (9) 1:3,22 5:6 13:16,24 14:24	4	
17:13 43:4,8		
0,ד.טד טו זי ט,	4,000 (1) 32:22	
Z	400 (2) 32:4,15	
	5	
Zero (3) 22:20 27:11 29:14		
Zubin (2) 3:12 30:5	5 (2) 6:21 36:6	
	50 (7) 11:7,10,18 12:6,8,11 21:25	
0	500 (1) 35:6	
	51 (3) 9:3,12 13:18	
1	54-13(a)(2) (1) 31:6	
1,000 (1) 32:19		
1,800 (1) 6:22	6	
10 (2) 5:5 36:6	6,500 (1) 32:24	
10:00 (1) 36:7	65 (1) 31:7	
10:21 (1) 2:2		
10:25 (1) 4:3	7	
10:45 (1) 29:21	75 (1) 21:23	
10:55 (1) 41:13		
100 (1) 31:19	8	
10543 (1) 1:22	8 (1) 3:3	
10070 (1) 1.22	0(1)3.3	
	1	