GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

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FOR-HIRE VEHICLE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2017

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The Council met in Suite 2032, 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Washington, D.C., at 11:10 a.m., Linwood Jolly, Chairperson, presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LINWOOD JOLLY, Chairperson JASON ARVANITES, Member HANA BEKELE, MEMBER ERNEST CHRAPPAH, MEMBER ELLIOTT FERGUSON, II, Member ERIK MOSES, Member EVIAN PATTERSON, Member JEFFREY SCHAEFFER, Member ANTHONY THOMAS, Member DOTTI LOVE WADE, Member ANTHONY (TONY) WASH, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

JUANDA MIXON, SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL MONIQUE BOCOCK, ESQ., ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL

JACQUES P. LERNER, ESQ. GENERAL COUNSEL

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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Adjournment

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2 (11:09 a.m.) DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Good morning. 3 4 GROUP: Good morning. 5 DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Welcome to the 6 For-Hire Vehicle Advisory Council Meeting. My name is Ernest Chrappah, Director of the 7 8 Department of For-Hire Vehicles. We're located 9 in Public Hearing, Room 2023 at 2235 Shannon Place SE, Washington, D.C. Today's February 8th, 10 11 2017 and the time is 11:10. I'll be running 12 today's meeting until a Chairperson is chosen. Today's a particularly historic day being the 13 14 first meeting for the For-Hire Vehicle Advisory 15 Council and as most of you, or some of you know, 16 the DC Taxicab Commission was abolished last year 17 and For-Hire Department was established along 18 with the For-Hire Vehicle Advisory Council 19 members who provided recommendations to the 20 department. 21 But it is usually customary for our meetings to start by observing a moment of 22

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1 silence for those who departed.

2 MOMENT OF SILENCE DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: The first order of 3 business is to swear in our new committee members 4 5 and we will ask Director Steve Walker, from the Mayor's office of Talent and Appointments, to 6 conduct the ceremony. 7 8 Okay thanks Director. MR. WALKER: 9 First of all, congratulations and welcome to the first meeting of the For-Hire Vehicles Advisory 10 11 I'm really glad to see all of you here Council. today. And I'd really to say thanks to the 12 public who've come help with the District of 13 14 Columbia do this important business. And 15 actually the Director actually would like to have 16 everyone be sworn. Some of you, it may have 17 happened already but we're just did going to do 18 it again and make sure you're all covered. 19 MEMBERS SWORN 20 So if all members, public and 21 government, if you could all please stand. And

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raise your right hand. And repeat after me.

I,

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1
       state your name --
 2
                            I, (name stated).
                   MEMBERS:
                   MR. WALKER: -- having been appointed
 3
 4
       as a member of --
 5
                   MEMBERS: -- having been appointed as
       a member of --
 6
 7
                   MR. WALKER: -- The For-Hire Vehicle
 8
       Advisory Committee --
 9
                   MEMBERS: -- the For-Hire Vehicle
       Advisory Committee --
10
                   MR. WALKER: -- of the District of
11
12
       Columbia --
                   MEMBERS: -- of the District of
13
14
       Columbia --
15
                   MR. WALKER: -- do solemnly swear or
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       affirm that --
17
                   MEMBERS: -- do solemnly swear or
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       affirm that --
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                   MR. WALKER: -- I, state your name --
20
                              --I, (names stated) --
                   MEMBERS:
21
                   MR. WALKER: -- will support and
       defend the Constitution of the United States --
22
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1 MEMBERS: -- will support and defend 2 the Constitution of the United States --MR. WALKER: -- and the laws of the 3 District of Columbia --4 MEMBERS: -- and the laws of the 5 District of Columbia --6 7 MR. WALKER: -- and I will perform 8 such duties --9 MEMBERS: -- and I will perform such 10 duties --MR. WALKER: -- that may be assigned 11 12 to me as a member of this Board --13 MEMBERS: -- that may be assigned to me as a member of this Board --14 15 MR. WALKER: -- to the best of my 16 ability --17 MEMBERS: -- to the best of my ability 18 19 MR. WALKER: without fear or favor --20 **MEMBERS**: -- without fear or favor --21 MR. WALKER: -- and I will exercise my best judgment --22

1 MEMBERS: -- and I will exercise my 2 best judgment --3 MR. WALKER: -- to consider all 4 matters before me --5 MEMBERS: -- to consider all matters 6 before me --7 MR. WALKER: -- from the viewpoint of 8 the best interests --9 MEMBERS: -- from the viewpoint of the best interests --10 11 MR. WALKER: -- of the District of 12 Columbia --13 MEMBERS: -- of the District of Columbia --14 15 MR. WALKER: as a whole ---- as a whole --16 MEMBERS: 17 MR. WALKER: -- and I'll faithfully 18 discharge these duties. 19 MEMBERS: -- and I'll faithfully discharge these duties. 20 21 MR. WALKER: Congratulations. Thank 22 you.

1	DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
2	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: The second order
3	of business is to determine if we have the
4	quorum. I'll ask Ms. Mixon to lead us through
5	that process.
6	SECRETARY MIXON: And I want to
7	pronounce every name right, I hope. Jason
8	Arvanites.
9	MEMBER ARVANITES: Yes, present.
10	SECRETARY MIXON: Hana Bekele.
11	MEMBER BEKELE: Present.
12	SECRETARY MIXON: Ernest Chrappah.
13	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Present.
14	SECRETARY MIXON: Elliott Ferguson.
15	MEMBER FERGUSON: Present.
16	SECRETARY MIXON: Linwood Jolly.
17	MEMBER JOLLY: Present.
18	SECRETARY MIXON: Erik Moses.
19	MEMBER MOSES: Present.
20	SECRETARY MIXON: Evian Patterson.
21	MEMBER PATTERSON: Present.
22	SECRETARY MIXON: Jeffrey Schaeffer.

1 MEMBER SCHAEFFER: Present. 2 SECRETARY MIXON: Anthony Thomas. MEMBER THOMAS: 3 Present. 4 SECRETARY MIXON: Dotti Wade. 5 MEMBER LOVE-WADE: Present. 6 SECRETARY MIXON: Anthony Wash. MEMBER WASH: 7 Present. 8 MIXON: I have determined SECRETARY 9 that there is a quorum so we may proceed with the 10 meeting. 11 INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS 12 DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Excellent, thank I would like to ask each member of the 13 you. 14 For-Hire Vehicle Advisory Council to introduce 15 themselves to the public and share a little bit 16 about their background, if they wish, starting from left. 17 18 MEMBER WASH: I'm Anthony Wash. I'm 19 a fourth generation Washingtonian, a business owner in the District of Columbia for 20 years 20 21 and I am anxious to just move forward with improving and making needed changes, necessary 22

changes and listening to the comments from
 vehicle-for-hire operators to see how we can make
 this a better experience for all.

Hello. I'm Dotti Love MEMBER WADE: 4 5 Wade. I'm also a native Washingtonian. Ι represent six generations of Washingtonians, 6 including my four. 7 I have two great 8 grandchildren. So I'm also a retired Public 9 Administrator. I am the current 10-term ANC Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and a former 10 11 State Board of Education representative for Ward 12 1. And I have a lifetime of service to the District of Columbia and to the residents. 13 I am 14 also a member of the past Taxicab Commission, so I've been working with you guys for a while now, 15 16 trying to understand and mitigate some of the 17 problems that you're experiencing and trying to 18 improve your overall career options. 19 MEMBER ANTHONY: Good morning

20 everyone. My name is Anthony Thomas. I'm a 5th 21 generation Washingtonian. I currently work as a 22 full time driver with Lyft and I'm also an

advisor and a consultant to the rideshare 1 2 service. I've been with Lyft - I just celebrated two year anniversary. I'm going into my third 3 4 year and I'm really excited to be here with you 5 all today. I also operate for-hire transportation in the District of Columbia as 6 7 well, so I thank you all. Good morning. 8 MEMBER SCHAEFFER: 9 Jeffrey Schaeffer. I'm the owner of 19 public vehicles for hire companies in the District. 10 I'm 11 honored to be here representing my fellow fleet 12 owners and the drivers we represent. I will 13 bring input to DFHV in an effort to increase taxi 14 trips for drivers and help save the taxis. 15 MEMBER PATTERSON: Good morning, Evian 16 Patterson, representing the District Department 17 of Transportation, as a member of this Committee. 18 I'm the Citywide Parking Manager and responsible 19 for access to our public space, curbside, 20 curbside management and ground transportation. 21 We've been building a partnership with the Department of For-Hire Vehicles and I'm 22

particularly interested in learning the 1 2 operations of this agency and its members so that we are working in consort to ensure that we have 3 more service on our District streets. 4 5 Good morning. MEMBER MOSES: My name is Eric Moses. I'm Senior Vice President, 6 7 Managing Director of the Sports, Entertainment 8 and Special Events at Events D.C., which is the 9 Washington Convention and Sports Authority. I am 10 happy to serve on this body as someone who is 11 interested in continuing to make Washington, D.C. 12 the premier destination in the world for visitors 13 and guests. 14 So anything that I can do to help represent the hospitality industry and the events 15 industry to make it easier and more enjoyable for

represent the hospitality industry and the events industry to make it easier and more enjoyable for our residents and our visitors to access our city and to get around our city, is essentially what I'm interested in doing.

20 A lawyer by training, and former 21 Director of the Department of SECRETARY MIXONall 22 and Local Business Development, so I appreciate

what these organizations and these bodies do for 1 2 our public and our constituents, so thank you. DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: 3 Ernest Chrappah. I would like to think most of you know me by now. 4 5 I'm the Director of the Department. My interest with this procedure and also this Advisory 6 7 Council membership rallies around the idea that having diverse perspectives can only contribute 8 9 in making informed decisions. We have a very fragmented taxi market 10 and we have a growing private vehicle-for-hire 11 12 market but if you look at the transportation 13 ecosystem overall, we have to forward thinking to 14 make sure that we create economic opportunities 15 for people, people can have access to safe, 16 affordable and accessible transportation options. 17 So I'm particularly excited to be 18 working with a large group members of different 19 interest groups, who bring different perspectives 20 that will also help the department in moving 21 forward with regulations -- not to add burdens to drivers, but to actually reduce the cost of doing 22

business in the District and to enhance their
 livelihoods. Thank you.

MEMBER JOLLY: Good morning. 3 Mу name's Linwood Jolly. I am President of a 4 5 DC-based information technology firm, former Taxicab Commissioner with the old commission. 6 My 7 interest is in utilizing technology to look at 8 innovative ways to not only level the playing 9 field, but look for opportunities in this new environment that we all find ourselves in. 10 11 I'm always interested in talking about 12 other technology solutions that other 13 municipalities have tried, some that have worked, 14 some that have not, but remain interested in talking with taxi drivers, as well as operators 15 16 of vehicles-for-hire. Thank you. 17 MEMBER FERGUSON: Good morning. 18 Elliott Ferguson with Destination DC, a private 19 organization focusing on promoting DC as a 20 convention and tourism destination. My primary 21 goal, former DC Taxicab Commissioner for about In this capacity still focusing on 22 five years.

1. increasing the number of visitors that come to 1 2 Washington and 2. Making sure that they have a great experience be it for a convention, leisure 3 4 travel, and, well whatever the reason, as well as 5 making sure they have options in terms of getting around the city. 6 7 One of our goals is to try to 8 encourage visitors to not rent cars and to take 9 public transportation and/or have access to vehicles or services that are offered by 10 11 Washingtonians' programs, so happy to serve 12 again. 13 MEMBER BEKELE: Good morning. My name 14 is Hana Bekele. I am a DC resident. I operate 15 limo and taxi. 16 MEMBER ARVANITES: Hi, my name is 17 Jason Arvanites. I'm the General Manager of Via, 18 here in Washington, DC which is a TNC or PSV 19 platform. As a company, we are totally focused on a true ride-sharing platform and we are 20 21 excited to be part of the conversation to help 22 the public transportation evolve as it moves

forward and provide safe, reliable and efficient
 transport template.

3	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Thank you very
4	much. Now we'll proceed to the action items for
5	today's meeting, starting with the election of a
6	Chairperson, which may be any member other than
7	myself, or DDOT's representative. Members may
8	nominate themselves. The secretary for today's
9	session could also recall or recount, if there
10	are any people who've expressed an interest.
11	So let's start with that. Do you have
12	any nominations yet before I ask the members if
13	they want to nominate anybody? .
14	SECRETARY MIXON: I have the
15	nomination on an interest of Dotti Love Wade.
16	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Okay. Do we have
17	any of our members who want to be considered for
18	the Chairperson? We have another nomination?
19	MEMBER SCHAEFFER: Linwood Jolly.
20	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: All right. For
21	the record, we have two nominations. Linwood
22	Jolly and Dotti Love Wade. Any other

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1	nominations? All right. So we'll give each one
2	a few minutes to make their speech to the public
3	and also the voting members. Going in alphabetic
4	order, starting with Dotti.
5	MEMBER WADE: Alphabetic.
6	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: I just went with
7	the D, yes. Ladies first.
8	MEMBER WADE: Good morning everyone.
9	As you know, I'm a life-long Washingtonian and
10	I'm a committed public servant. I've served this
11	board faithfully since nominated and appointed by
12	our Mayor. I have attended every meeting. I
13	have a strong commitment for the taxicab and
14	vehicle-for-hire industry. My whole family, in
15	fact, were cab drivers. All of my uncles on both
16	sides of my family, except my father, drove
17	taxicabs. And I rode with them. I also am a
18	user of the cabs in the streets. But what I
19	bring mostly to this body, is my administrative
20	leadership. I have been Chairman of the Advisory
21	Neighborhood Commission for five different terms
22	at 1A and one term as Chairman for 1B. I've

served 18 years in total on the Advisory 1 2 Neighborhood Commission and I'm into my 19th and 20th year of this term I was just elected to. 3 Also, I'm a member of the State Board 4 5 of Education, where I served our city and our country on the Congressional Education Committee 6 7 where we met with Congress to try to work with 8 them with the No Child Left Behind Act and 9 several other major acts that were, in fact, amended to reflect the input from the State Board 10 11 of Education. I'd like to have kind of influence 12 with the Council to help make sure that the needs of our drivers and our riding public are met and 13 14 that we have a coordinated effort in this city with transportation, not just with the drivers 15 16 but with the street, with access, with parking 17 lanes for cabs, with wait stands. There are a 18 number of things that I know are very important 19 But, again, what I bring is to you. administrative leadership and promulgating rules 20 21 and regulations and setting up standards for 22 operations.

1	So I would love to serve our community
2	further by helping to develop this Board, this
3	Council, which is a very new Council and we're
4	looking at what the legislation says and what we
5	must then do. So I think I bring that type of
6	experience and commitment to this body.
7	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Member Jolly.
8	MEMBER JOLLY: Hi. I'd like to
9	MEMBER WADE: And I'd appreciate your
10	vote.
11	MEMBER JOLLLY: I'd like to just recap
12	my role position here as a former
13	Commissioner. This industry is in a challenging
14	position right now. We've got a lot of tough
15	questions to ask. And I joined this Commission
16	at a time when taxicab drivers were at the height
17	of frustration. A lot of good ideas but not a
18	lot of means to implement them. I've ridden with
19	the enforcement team. I've ridden with taxi
20	drivers. I've ridden with Uber, Lyft all of
21	them. And I've heard the concerns many. I
22	think going forward, where we are today is we

1	really do have to let the data that the former
2	Taxicab Commission and the current public
3	vehicle-for-hire organization has generated. We
4	have to let that data tell us what we need to do
5	in the future. That's part of the equation.
6	And the other part of the equation is
7	you have to continue to listen to drivers who, by
8	the way, are business owners, independent
9	business owners, and have their input, and need
10	to continue to provide their input. But we have
11	to put all that together and come up with a
12	roadmap of how we're going to move this industry
13	forward.
14	There are many drivers now who do two
15	trips a day. They sit and they do two trips a
16	day, whereas maybe five years ago, they did 15
17	trips, 20 trips. There are many drivers who sign
18	up for Uber and they think they're going to make
19	a lot of money, and they don't. Some of them who
20	crossed over from being taxi drivers and now they
21	want to go back. And many drivers who were taxi
22	driver businesses for years who may have had a

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1	death in the family, had to go back to their own
2	country, and now can't get their H-tag back.
3	So there are a lot of concerns but,
4	look, a lot of that is where the industry has
5	been up to this time. We've got to figure out
6	where we're going. And we've got to do that
7	together. And that's what I see as our biggest
8	challenge. Thank you.
9	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Thank you, now we
10	will vote for the Chairperson. Each
11	For-Hire-Vehicle Advisory member shall have only
12	one vote. You have index cards, where you write
13	the name of the person you want to vote for as
14	Chairperson. And Juanda Mixon will come around
15	to collect them and tally up the vote.
16	ELECTION FOR CHAIRPERSON
17	SECRETARY MIXON: The Chairperson of
18	the FHVAC is Linwood Jolly, by vote of 8 to 3.
19	So, Mr. Jolly, if you would please swap seats
20	with Director Chrappah.
21	CHAIRMAN JOLLY: First let me thank my
22	fellow advisors and, of course, thank Dotti Love

Dotti and I came in here together and 1 Wade. 2 we're going to leave here together. And both of us are going to be active in our roles together, 3 4 along with our new advisors. So with this 5 transition, I think the first thing we should 6 look act is for today, having the assistance of 7 general counsel as we move through a lot of these 8 administrative issues. So if you would just kind 9 of wing us, wing it today, I would appreciate 10 that. 11 And if we continue with the agenda, 12 the election of the Secretary, the advisors met earlier and I think the consensus of all of us 13 14 was that we would retain Ms. Mixon as the 15 Secretary, who's been doing an outstanding job over the past few years. And we would ask that 16 she be nominated as our Secretary. Is there a 17 18 procedure that we should be aware of So I'd like 19 to call for a motion that Ms. Mixon be our 20 Secretary. 21 MEMBER FERGUSON: So moved. 22 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Is there a second?

1	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: I second.
2	SECRETARY MIXON: Okay, you
3	CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Accepted by unanimous
4	consensus.
5	ELECTION OF SECRETARY
6	SECRETARY MIXON: Accepted by
7	unanimous consensus, Ms. Mixon will be Secretary.
8	CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Thank you Ms. Mixon.
9	So Jacques, if you could walk us through the
10	determination of Chairperson's term.
11	GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: The next item
12	on the agenda is to determine the Chairperson's
13	term. The term of the Chairperson's serves for
14	it's a two year term for service as
15	Chairperson and then, since there are a number of
16	terms available to all the community members, and
17	the Chairperson is one of those members, he, in
18	this case, would serve either two or three and
19	that'll be determined by lot, by the Secretary
20	now. So will you call for that?
21	SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. I'll draw
22	from Envelope A. The one number that I have

1	pulled out is three. So a term of three years.
2	CHAIRMAN JOLLY: All right. So next
3	we're going to move to the determination on the
4	community members. We're going to follow the
5	same process?
6	DETERMINATION OF TERM LENGTH
7	GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Other than
8	the chair. Other than the chairperson. And
9	these actually, I'll abstain. These are the
10	assignment of the remaining terms. The terms are
11	one, two or three years. One of the three-year
12	terms has now been set aside for the Chairperson.
13	So now the remaining terms to be assigned again
14	by the Secretary, are three one-year terms, three
15	two-year terms and two three-year terms. Those
16	are the possibilities and they will now be
17	assigned at random by the Secretary.
18	SECRETARY MIXON: All right. Just one
19	moment while I draw from Envelope B. And I will
20	go in the same order as we did before, starting
21	on the left, so this is for Anthony Wash. His
22	term of service is one year. Next, Dotti Love

Wade, term of service, two years. Next, Anthony 1 2 Thomas, term of service, one year. Next, Jeffrey Schaeffer, term of service, one year. 3 Next, I have Erik Moses, term of service, two years. 4 We already have three for Linwood Jolly, our new 5 Next, Elliott Ferguson, two years. 6 Chairperson. 7 Next, Hana Bekele, term of service, three years. 8 And next, we have Jason Arvanites, term of 9 service, three years. 10 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Thank you, Ms. Mixon. 11 SECRETARY MIXON: You're welcome. 12 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL'S SCHEDULE 13 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Next item on the 14 agenda is the determination of the Council's schedule for future meetings. We also met 15 16 earlier and we had some consensus around that. 17 And why don't you, Jacques, why don't you review 18 that. 19 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Ι Sure. 20 believe the consensus was that there would be 21 three more meetings for the balance of calendar 22 year 2017 in order to have quarterly meetings, as

required by the statute and fulfill the requirement of scheduling in a basic sense. There would be a meeting in June, a meeting in September and then, to avoid the holiday rush, a meeting in November. Is that correct? Believe so. So then, with respect to the specific days, given the large number of folks here, and the many things that they do in the District, the specific days would actually be determined and put in the public notice but those are the months when the meetings will be held for the balance of 2017.

13 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: So now we go to our 14 public comment period. But let me take a minute 15 to just lay out where we are or where I think we 16 are. And I'm going to be just a little 17 presumptuous and speak on behalf of my 18 colleagues here on the dais. This is a new 19 This Advisory Board is new, as organization. 20 you've seen today, so we will need some time to 21 meet together and come up with some slight changes that I believe a lot of people want to 22

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see.

2	As a Commission, the administrative
3	structure is obviously different. In some ways,
4	it was very good, because we had to move along
5	rule makings. We had to have public comment,
6	discussion and we had to do all of that in a bit
7	of a constrained time period.
8	Now we mainly are here to listen to
9	you. And I think what you'll see is some changes
10	in terms of the time allotted for speeches or for
11	discussions or for presentations. More
12	interactivity from the members of the panel here,
13	my colleagues, with you on topics. And also,
14	some of the changes that you'll see is Dotti Love
15	Wade wants to see us establish some
16	subcommittees, which we attempted to do under the
17	Commission structure, but we just ran out of time
18	with legislation which reorganized the Commission
19	into this agency, so you'll see some changes in
20	that way.
21	I think, also, we'll have to determine
22	communications, how we continue to communicate

with you. Now that this is a separate agency, I 1 2 think we also, you will see us still rely on Director Chrappah and his able colleagues and his 3 4 staff, to help us. Now -- okay, got it. 5 Yes. Okay. So as we move into the public comment period, all of 6 7 my colleagues here will also provide their input on some of the topics here. Right now I only see 8 9 one, and I don't even see Larry Frankel here. Is he here? 10 11 Mr. Frankel's the only person that's 12 registered to speak. So, with that being said, 13 are there any persons who wish to speak at this 14 moment? 15 MR. BUTT: I can say something. 16 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Okay, Ms. Mixon. 17 Will you handle? 18 PUBLIC COMMENT 19 SECRETARY MIXON: Yes sir. Would you 20 please approach the podium, state your name, 21 spell your name for the Court Reporter and you 22 will have, how many minutes, Mr. Chairperson?

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1	CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Let's go with three
2	minutes today.
3	SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. Three minutes
4	so say your name, spell it and then we'll start
5	the time.
6	MR. BUTT: Thank you very much.
7	Congratulations to our new Chairperson for this
8	organization. We always love Mr. Ernest Chrappah
9	as the Director of our industry. Good to see
10	everyone at the Board. My name is Mohammed Butt,
11	M-O-H-M-M-A-D. Last name B-U-T-T and I represent
12	one of the cab companies in DC. It's called
13	Democracy Cab and DC Connect Cab.
14	My concern to speak to you guys about,
15	not many things, so I just catch the opportunity
16	to speak because we do have some issues in taxi
17	companies. So there's just one of the issues I
18	wanted to talk about it, and just try to suggest
19	or request about wheelchair ramps that we run in
20	the industry. I think people know here and there
21	that it's very hard for drivers in the company to
22	keep up with the wheelchairs right now.

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As a taxi company, I have 14 1 2 wheelchairs in my fleet and each of them cost around \$33,000 approximately. And the monthly 3 4 payment I pay, almost \$700 some dollars, along 5 with insurance. And out of those 14 cabs, I have almost 10 sitting in my parking lot. So the 6 reason I wanted to talk about wheelchairs is 7 this, that I know it's running, sometime they're 8 9 on the road, they are not. 10 So my request is to, Mr., new Chairman but I really wanted to request Mr. Director, Mr. 11 12 Chrappah about this. Dispatch for wheelchairs --13 it's really costing the drivers and the company 14 at the moment. As we all know, we only have two dispatch companies in the DC, Transport DC and 15 16 the Yellow Cab, so they all cost to have your 17 vehicles in their dispatch fleet for whatever 18 business they have. 19 But my concern is, this wheelchair we 20 are providing for the wheelchairs -- I mean 21 handicapped people, the government plans for Transport DC. So can I just request Mr. 22

Director, to you especially, can you just please 1 2 do something about it, that drivers or company does not have to pay weekly dispatch fees for 3 Transport DC, you know? 4 I mean, it's hard, you find the 5 drivers for those cabs and on top of that when 6 you have drivers, you have so many expense on 7 So you have to pay a wheelchair car, so my 8 that. 9 request is if you can just look for this, that --10 drivers should not pay or companies should not 11 pay for Transport DC. We are spending money and 12 spending time. We are suffering to compete with 13 this compliance and compete with all these rules 14 and regulations. So if you can just free this, there's 15 16 only, not many wheelchair cabs in the town, maybe 17 a few hundred, and those dispatch company has 18 many cars. One company charged \$45 a week, the other one does \$75 a week and when drivers pay 19 20 \$200 for rent and \$75 dispatch fees, that's \$275. 21 And I think you know more than me how much the 22 drivers make these days. If they are making \$300

or \$400 a week, they are paying \$275 for the cab companies.

3 They don't want to even see my face. 4 They don't want to even rent my car for \$100. 5 And I have to pay \$700 to \$800 to \$900 a No. month from my pocket, which is very hard for me. 6 7 So, please, if you can consider that, free the 8 wheelchair rents for Transport DC, please. 9 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Thank you very much 10 for your testimony and at this time, I'm going to 11 pass the mike to the Director to respond. 12 I appreciate that, sir. MR. BUTT: 13 Thank you very much. 14 DIRECTOR CHRAPPRAH: Mr. Butt, it's 15 very nice to see you. It's been a while. How 16 are you doing? 17 I'm doing okay, sir. Thank MR. BUTT: 18 you. 19 DIRECTOR CHRAPPRAH: I'm very 20 sympathetic to the economic conditions, not only 21 on the driver perspective but also the company 22 perspective. The wheelchair mandate is not

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something that was adopted by regulation for the purpose of just putting that requirement out there. It is something that is a statutory requirement. City Council passed law requiring 6 percent, 4 percent and 20 percent, so that is something that we all have to live by.

7 If there are some concerns around that 8 legislation, there's a process to get that 9 addressed and we are working with the Mayor's 10 office to rationalize the wheelchair 11 accessibility requirement.

12 However, on the dispatching 13 requirement, that is purely a marketplace 14 dynamics. Our position in terms of the 15 department, is not to interfere in private 16 contracts and to encourage the private sector to 17 find ways to make things work. However, if you 18 are facing some economic hardship or you know 19 specific drivers who are facing some economic 20 hardship because of the cost associated with a 21 dispatch, we can take a closer look at it and ask 22 the dispatching companies what they can

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collectively do in this challenging environment. 1 2 But the solution really comes down to By having a vehicle that is 3 economics. 4 dispatchable, the driver can now have access to fare opportunities and Transport DC has been a 5 savior to the industry. 6 7 So while I cannot unilaterally say we should ask people to, you know, get away from 8 9 their contracts, what we will pay attention to will be the economic conditions that exist and 10 11 find ways to increase fare opportunities for 12 drivers, so that the cost of dispatching becomes 13 something that is more palatable or something 14 that it can absorb. 15 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: So before we wrap up, 16 are there any other folks that wish to speak? 17 Ms. Mixon, there's one more. 18 SECRETARY MIXON: All right. 19 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Two more. And we'll 20 continue with the three minutes. 21 SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. So, again, if you would state and spell your name for the Court 22

Reporter. You have three minutes. I'm going to stick to that three minutes time.

MR. RAIDA: Thank you. Good morning. My name Gamal Raida, G-A-M-A-L, Raida, R-A-I-D-A. I'm representing, as I am with Georgetown Cab. First of all, I congratulate Mr. Chairman and having made the opportunity to be dynamic in the engagement and concisely, I just would like to see two things.

10 One of them is just the fairness, the 11 justice and kind of logic and mass, and as you 12 initiated that is, you were going to apply this 13 kind of studies. Because, I would like to see 14 something that is very convincing by logic, when 15 you are applying laws, regulations.

16 The other side of that, also, Mr. 17 Chairman, earlier, when he came to the office, he 18 came with the idea to revamp the regulation. We 19 didn't see a significant impact to the moment 20 when the environment became unpleasant. And even 21 everybody noticed that. That the environment is 22 not a pleasant environment for the driver, even

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1 for the company. Thank you sir. 2 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, would you like to --3 oh, Mr. Director? DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Gamal, it's nice 4 to see you too. As far as the environment we are 5 in, I didn't get a specific question, but I think 6 7 your comment asks for things that the Department, perhaps, has done to help the industry, if I'm 8 9 sort of like, interpreting it correctly. While there's been significant 10 11 investments made by the Department to the 12 industry, a few come to mind. 13 One is we've spent over a million 14 dollars providing grant opportunities with no 15 interest, no repayment requirements and the 16 grants have gone towards acquisition of 17 wheelchair accessible vehicles, acquisition of 18 electric vehicles. There are several individuals 19 who have been able to get into the for-hire 20 industries and start their own business as a 21 result of those grant programs. 22 Grant programs range from \$5,000,

\$10,000 and it's been quite significant. The report we get from the public and the driver community and the company community is that that million dollar investment helped. Without that, they would soon been gone. Some of the investments also went towards reducing the cost of renting the vehicle and while there's a fixed amount of grants in business we can make, we also recognize that, it's not just about putting money to the industry.

But an equally important component is 11 12 creating opportunities for drivers to make more 13 money. Last year we did a number of pilot 14 projects. We did a pilot project that allowed 15 the average driver to be an on-demand driver, be 16 it scheduled deliveries or on-demand delivery. 17 We also made investments in technology that 18 enabled the DC taxi cab to go to beta mode and we 19 moved for that with our government by giving that 20 technology for free to the taxi industry 21 cooperative.

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We have also looked at ways to reduce

the cost for drivers in terms of operating. So you will recall that prior, a driver had to go for inspection twice a year. While that process started before my time, it was during our time together, that that became final. So instead of having to go to DMV for inspection twice a year, it's only once.

And an additional area where the 8 9 Department has helped the industry is around the vehicle age limits. Prior to final regulation of 10 vehicle age limits, if you go buy a brand new 11 12 Toyota Camry, standard gasoline, you get only 13 four years, when most people pay off their car in 14 5, 6, sometimes 7 years. So the Department adopt 15 a regulation that actually gives four more years 16 to a vehicle.

17And I would like to think if you are18an investor, getting four more years to pay off19something, helps compared to the status quo.20There have been other initiatives to help the21industry that are subliminal but very22consequential.

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1 For example, we've adopted a 2 regulation that says it is okay to have electronic proof of insurance. 3 Instead of 4 struggling to pay tickets that you would get if 5 you cannot show proof of insurance. Same with electronic manifest. So the thing here is that 6 7 the Department is committed to leveraging technology to not only reduce the cost of being 8 9 in service, but also to expand economic 10 opportunities. And that treatment is not going 11 to change. 12 What we do recognize, though, is that 13 there's an uneven playing field as a result of 14 years of legislations and years of regulations. So it becomes very important for us to work 15 16 collaboratively to figure out what should be the 17 right regulatory environment. And that's why I'm 18 very excited about the new body we have, to get 19 different viewpoints and to make sure that 20 working in the for-hire industry as a way of 21 making it to the middle class. 22 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Okay, I think we have

one more person that indicated they want to 1 2 speak. Ms. Mixon? SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. I didn't see 3 4 the person. 5 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Okay. We'll take you and that will be our last one. 6 7 MR. BIZUAYEHU: Thank you. 8 SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. So again, You will have three 9 state and spell your name. minutes. 10 11 MR. BIZUAYEHU: Okay, ma'am. Good 12 morning everybody. My name is Haimanot 13 Bizuayehu. H-A-I-M-A-N-O-T B-I-Z-U-A-Y-E-H-U. 14 For a start I would like to say congratulations to all of you here. Since this is a newly formed 15 16 body, I don't have much to say, other than saying, other than reminding you that today, when 17 18 I see the notice, the meeting notice here today, 19 I came here to attend this meeting because I know 20 that, you are, all of you are going to swear in 21 today. 22 So, as I heard the words by the

Director, when each of you was swearing in, I ask you to keep that promise to do a fair and constructive job for the vehicle hire, for-hire industry.

I know that, I've been a former 5 company representative of one of the leading 6 7 companies in Washington, DC and I've also been a cab driver for 20 years. And I've been 8 9 participating all of the previous meetings with the previous body. They did a lot of things. 10 Τ don't want to blame anything. But there are a 11 12 lot of things that were just time-wasting, 13 resource-wasting and all of that. Because now 14 this body's poised to do or to remove, relieve the burden with the vehicle for-hire industry is 15 16 experiencing today, these days. But in the past, 17 the governing document which regulates, which 18 used to regulate the taxi industry, has been rewritten, I don't know, a number of times. 19 That 20 is waste of resource, waste of time and a burden 21 to the taxi industry in general.

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So when you do business - I'm not

telling you what to do, how to do your job, but 1 2 I just want to keep this, you to keep this in When you do that, please, think thoroughly 3 mind. before -- writing a regulation is a very simple 4 Putting in a book, a governing document 5 thing. is a very simple thing, but you have to also 6 realize the consequence to the driver, the 7 industry and the city that wastes the money for 8 9 rewriting and rewriting over and over again. I would like to thank the, I don't 10 11 want to say, I don't want to leave this podium 12 before saying that the Chairman, the former 13 Chairman or the Director, as he said, he did a 14 lot of things for this industry. For instance, 15 changing the vehicle age for the drivers, the 16 inspection requirements and all that, but here 17 what we have to see is there is a taxi industry 18 which is heavily, heavily regulated and there are 19 other competitors with no regulation, or just a 20 little regulation.

21 We are competing for the same customer 22 base. It's just like putting two boxers in the

ring, one tied, his hand tied behind him, one 1 2 without, free. If you put me in the ring with Tyson I can't knock the hell out of him. 3 So 4 that's what we have to see here. There is the 5 heavily regulated industry and there is one without regulation or with little regulation. 6 We 7 are competing with the same customer base. Thank 8 you sir. 9 The new Chairman, you mentioned a very 10 difficult, a very important point. There are cab 11 drivers out there. They pick only two, three 12 fares a day. 13 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Yes. 14 MR. BIZUAYEHU: Okay? 15 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Thank you for your 16 comments. So in your comment, I'm going to ask 17 the Director to just give us an update on where 18 we are with the rewriting of Title 31, because 19 you've mentioned that so many times. 20 Thank you very much. MR. BIZUAYEHU: 21 DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: Good to see you, 22 hello. Thank you Chairman.

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1	MR. BIZUAYEHU: Thank you.
2	DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH: The Title 31
3	rewrite is pending publication in the DC
4	Register. A copy has also been posted on our
5	website. By going beyond just revision or a
6	rewrite, what we've done is consolidate all the
7	rulemakings into one single document so that
8	there will be transparency. We can know what is
9	pending, what has been finalized, so that when
10	you are making comments it can be germaine to a
11	specific item.
12	But rewriting of Title 31 is not by
13	itself going to solve the industry woes. There
14	are fundamental problems with how we govern the
15	for-hire industry that you've alluded to
16	having a different set of rules for one segment
17	and a different set of rules for another segment.
18	And the opportunity that we all face today, not
19	just as members of the For-Hire Advisory Council,
20	but also stakeholders who are regulated by the
21	general public, is to provide constructive and
22	direct recommendations about how to achieve that

parity or how to achieve that level playing field.

And any idea that has merit will be 3 4 considered and any idea that can lead to a better outcome is likely to be implemented, so we want 5 to go beyond just that Title 31 rewrite and look 6 7 at the overall ecosystem and say what we want the vehicle for-hire industry to look like two years 8 9 from now, ten years from now. If you've been following the media, 10 there's been talk of automated vehicles. 11 There's 12 also talk about managing the congestion. There's 13 also talk about ensuring that people with a 14 disability can participate in the for-hire industry. We have to weigh all these issues and 15 16 balance that with how much the average driver, if 17 such a thing even exists, makes. Because if 18 minimum wage is going to get to \$15 an hour at 19 some point, people in the for-hire industry 20 should not need to go on minimum wage. It's a 21 very interesting job and you have to earn a fair

22 return on your labor hours.

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1	And the only way we can move forward,			
2	really, is through having these sort of			
3	conversations and now partnering with all			
4	stakeholders to move the industry in the			
5	direction it needs to be.			
6	MR. BIZUAYEHU: Thank you.			
7	CHAIRMAN JOLLY: So that being said,			
8	I'm going to ask my fellow advisory members if			
9	they have any final comments and we'll start with			
10	Mr. Wash, then on down. Ms. Wade?			
11	MS. WADE: I'd just like to thank you			
12	for coming out and for your continued support.			
13	Hope to see you in June.			
14	CHAIRMAN JOLLY: Any comments down			
15	here? So finally, I'd like to thank Director			
16	Chrappah for his work. He is always on point for			
17	everything and you catch a lot of flack, but you			
18	do love him. You really do profess very well.			
19	But thank you and to your team and your			
20	colleagues and we look forward to continuing to			
21	work with you.			
22	Even though they changed the			

structure, as all of you all know, Director 1 2 Chrappah is a wealth of knowledge and a lot of the questions that you do have will inevitably be 3 related to projects that he's currently underway 4 5 working on. And I just would say, personally, that this structure here probably will now allow 6 7 us to move faster on responding directly to what 8 we hear, versus the administrivia of the old 9 Commission. So, that's good --and you look a little more relaxed sitting there as well. 10 11 **DIRECTOR CHRAPPAH:** Yes. 12 ADJOURNMENT 13 CHAIRMAN JOLLY: With that being said, 14 it is 12:03 and this meeting is adjourned. Thank 15 you. 16 (Whereupon, the above -entitled matter 17 went off the record at 12:03 p.m.) 18 19 20 21 22

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## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Advisory Council Meeting

Before: DC Dept. of For-Hire Vehicles

Date: 02-08-17

Place: Washington, DC

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