

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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OFFICE OF THE D.C. TAXICAB COMMISSION

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GENERAL COMMISSION MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2015

+ + + + +

The Commission met at 2235 Shannon
Place, S.E., Washington D.C., at 10:00 a.m.,
Ernest Chrappah, Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

ERNEST CHRAPPAH, Chairman
ANTHONY MUHAMMAD, Commissioner
STANLEY TAPSCOTT, Commissioner
LINWOOD C. JOLLY, Commissioner
DOTTI LOVE WADE, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

JACQUES P. LERNER, ESQ., General Counsel
JUANDA MIXON, Secretary to the Commission
PEDRO AGOSTO, Acting Chief Information
Officer

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Adjournment

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 10:14 a.m.

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Good morning.

4 Welcome to the General Commission meeting. My
5 name is Ernest Chrappah, Chairman of the D.C.
6 Taxicab Commission. We are located in Public
7 Hearing Room 2023 at 2235 Shannon Place
8 Southeast, Washington, D.C. Today is Wednesday,
9 November 18, 2015. The time is 10:15. We have
10 nine Commission action items for today, which
11 once again reflects my commitment to applying
12 innovation to solving complex problems.

13 Over the last five months, we've made
14 great progress in reducing the regulatory burdens
15 and improving passenger experience. If we take
16 stock, you will notice that we've proposed
17 reductions in fines, we've made the DC Taxi app
18 available through the App Store and the Android
19 Store, we are giving free disability sensitivity
20 training and training to drivers on how to
21 operate a wheelchair accessible vehicle, we are
22 encouraging more competition within the PSP

1 market, we've completed audit of all taxicab
2 companies and associations, we are giving a nod
3 through proposed regulations to date to have
4 digital insurance cards.

5 We are also creating a pathway for
6 owners to get H or L-tags. We've retrained our
7 enforcement personnel and we've created a
8 feedback form for the public and drivers to tell
9 us about their experiences with our vehicle
10 enforcement officers. But there is more we can
11 do together. With our new Commissioners, who
12 will be sworn-in today by Steve Walker, Director
13 of the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments,
14 and continuous support from the industry, I am
15 really excited about the many more things we will
16 be able to accomplish together. But first,
17 please join me in observing a moment of silence
18 to honor our brothers and sisters who suffered
19 and some who are no longer with their families,
20 all related to the incident that happened in
21 Paris.

22 (Moment of silence.)

1 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: At this time, I
2 welcome Director Walker to take us through the
3 swearing-in ceremony for our two Commissioners.

4 MR. WALKER: Mr. Chairman, good
5 morning.

6 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Good morning.

7 MR. WALKER: First of all, I just want
8 to thank all of you for the hard work that you're
9 doing as members of the D.C. Taxicab Commission.
10 And I want to congratulate Chairman Chrappah, who
11 is now no longer acting. So congratulations
12 Chairman.

13 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you.

14 MR. WALKER: And to you, Commissioners
15 Wade and Jolly, would you both please stand,
16 raise your right hands, repeat after me. I,
17 state your name --

18 COMMISSIONER WADE: I, Dotti Love Wade
19 --

20 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: I, Linwood C.
21 Jolly --

22 MR. WALKER: -- having been appointed

1 and confirmed --

2 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- having been
3 appointed and confirmed --

4 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- having been
5 appointed and confirmed --

6 MR. WALKER: -- as a member of --

7 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- as a member of
8 --

9 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- as a member of
10 --

11 MR. WALKER: -- the District of
12 Columbia Taxicab Commission --

13 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- the District of
14 Columbia Taxicab Commission --

15 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- the District of
16 Columbia Taxicab Commission --

17 MR. WALKER: -- do solemnly swear or
18 affirm that --

19 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- do solemnly
20 swear or affirm that --

21 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- do solemnly
22 swear or affirm that --

1 MR. WALKER: -- I, state your name --

2 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- I, Dotti Love

3 Wade --

4 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- I, Linwood C.

5 Jolly --

6 MR. WALKER: -- will support and defend
7 the Constitution of the United States --

8 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- will support and
9 defend the Constitution of the United States --

10 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- will support
11 and defend the Constitution of the United States

12 --

13 MR. WALKER: -- and the laws of the
14 District of Columbia --

15 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- and the laws of
16 the District of Columbia --

17 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- and the laws of
18 the District of Columbia --

19 MR. WALKER: -- to the best of my
20 ability --

21 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- to the best of
22 my ability --

1 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- to the best of
2 my ability --

3 MR. WALKER: -- without fear or favor
4 --

5 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- without fear or
6 favor --

7 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- without fear or
8 favor --

9 MR. WALKER: -- that I will exercise my
10 best judgment --

11 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- that I will
12 exercise my best judgment --

13 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- that I will
14 exercise my best judgment --

15 MR. WALKER: -- and consider each
16 matter before me --

17 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- and consider
18 each matter before me --

19 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- and consider
20 each matter before me --

21 MR. WALKER: -- from the viewpoint of
22 the best interest --

1 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- from the
2 viewpoint of the best interest --

3 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- from the
4 viewpoint of the best interest --

5 MR. WALKER: -- of the District of
6 Columbia --

7 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- of the District
8 of Columbia --

9 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- of the District
10 of Columbia --

11 MR. WALKER: -- as a whole --

12 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- as a whole --

13 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- as a whole --

14 MR. WALKER: -- and I will faithfully
15 discharge these duties.

16 COMMISSIONER WADE: -- and I will
17 faithfully discharge these duties.

18 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: -- and I will
19 faithfully discharge these duties.

20 MR. WALKER: Congratulations.

21 COMMISSIONER WADE: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Thank you.

1 MR. WALKER: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Welcome
5 Commissioners.

6 COMMISSIONER WADE: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank. So now I'm
9 really, really excited because we have two new
10 Commissioners who, at some point they will give
11 you a sense of their view on the industry and the
12 unique abilities that they bring to the table.
13 It's great to have diversity of opinion and
14 thought so that when we propose rules or we take
15 actions for the benefit of the industry, it's
16 embracive and it takes a holistic approach.
17 First --

18 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Excuse me,
19 Chairman. May I ask a question. What panel are
20 they on, if I may ask?

21 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: None, not any
22 panel.

1 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: It's no more
2 panels on the Commission?

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Not at the moment.
4 No active panels at the moment.

5 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: No, the law has
6 been that two people from the industry have to be
7 on the panel.

8 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: But there's no
9 active panel now.

10 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: The two panels
11 that are in the statute have been --

12 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: He's asking
13 what industry do they represent.

14 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Right.

15 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Well, they --
16 there is no panel at this time.

17 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: There's no panel
18 that they represent.

19 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: But are they
20 public industry --

21 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: First, good
22 morning and welcome to the new Commissioners. In

1 the past, there was two panels, one rates panel
2 and one judiciary. And there's supposed to be
3 two members from the taxicab industry, drivers or
4 -- had to be on the panel. Is that still
5 standing or has that been eliminated or what?

6 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: If I may?

7 Thank you, Commissioner. The two panels -- or
8 the Panel on Adjudications and the Panel on Rates
9 or Rate Making, I believe, both of those were
10 abolished in the Service Improvement Act of 2012.
11 We more recently have had the Panel on Industry,
12 of which of course you've been a member and in
13 fact you were the chairman when it met the last
14 time, but at the moment, it's not active and
15 there are no active panels and there are no
16 permanent panels any more. So the new members
17 are not on any panels.

18 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Thank you,
19 General Counsel Lerner.

20 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: He's talking
21 about on the Commission, not on a panel. What --

22 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: I think --

1 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: -- industry do
2 they represent.

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Commissioner
4 Muhammad, a couple of things that we can address.
5 Commissioner Tapscott had the opportunity to ask
6 his question directly. If there are other things
7 you would like us to address, we can do that.
8 But there's other business I would like us to
9 stick to. So at this point, I'm going to ask
10 Secretary Juanda Mixon for the determination of
11 the quorum.

12 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
13 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

14 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Present.

15 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
16 Muhammad?

17 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: Here.

18 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?
19 Commissioner Tapscott?

20 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Here.

21 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

22 COMMISSIONER WADE: Here.

1 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
2 Chrappah?

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Present.

4 SECRETARY MIXON: We have a quorum with
5 five represented.

6 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. The
7 first agenda item is rulemaking updating our
8 administrative procedures to bring more
9 efficiency. And in a nutshell, it calls for and
10 authorizes a vote by simple majority of
11 Commissioners present. Is there anything that
12 you'd like to add, Counsel Lerner?

13 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: No, that's
14 essentially it. It streamlines voting and
15 explains quorum determinations, it updates some
16 of the language. That's pretty much it. Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Do any of the
18 Commissioners have questions or comments
19 regarding the first agenda item?

20 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Yes, I have
21 one. I'm a little confused about the -- good
22 morning to the public -- about the proxy voting.

1 Last meeting, we had a telephone conversation,
2 I'd call it a proxy vote. Is that standard now?

3 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Can I answer
4 it?

5 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes, Counsel.

6 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Yes. Actually
7 what happened at the last meeting was not a proxy
8 vote, that was actually presence under the rules.
9 A Commissioner may participate by telephone,
10 which constitutes presence. I don't believe
11 proxies are allowed, but we haven't been asked to
12 look into that and I don't think they are. And,
13 as far as the future goes, I guess that's
14 something that perhaps can be arranged through
15 the Commission where it's necessary in
16 coordination with the Chairman on something
17 perhaps the Commissioner would want to talk to
18 him about.

19 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Okay. Thank
20 you.

21 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: I have a

1 question. And good morning. I was wondering why
2 I was not called for a vote last week at the same
3 time that another Commissioner, who never is
4 here, was called, but I, who am here, who wasn't
5 here that present time because my mother was in
6 the hospital, I was not contacted for the vote.

7 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you,
8 Commissioner Muhammad. With respect to any
9 accommodation that was necessary for
10 participation, once we have confirmation that you
11 will not be making the meeting, we decide to have
12 you take the opportunity to do the thing that you
13 wanted to do. If you had expressed an interest
14 in participating in the meeting, we would have
15 made accommodations for that. But your point has
16 been well noted and if the opportunity presents
17 itself in the future, we'll certainly accommodate
18 that. Any further questions? Do I have a
19 motion?

20 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: I make a motion
21 that we accept the rulemaking, Chapter 1.

22 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Can I get a motion

1 to call for the vote?

2 COMMISSIONER WADE: Call for a vote.

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: We need a second.

4 COMMISSIONER WADE: Second it.

5 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you.

6 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: No, we need a
7 second on it.

8 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: I'll second it.

9 There you go.

10 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Madame Secretary,
11 can you call the vote?

12 SECRETARY MIXON: Yes. Commissioner
13 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

14 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

15 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
16 Muhammad?

17 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: No.

18 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?
19 Commissioner Tapscott?

20 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Yes.

21 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

22 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

1 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
2 Chrappah?

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

4 SECRETARY MIXON: We have four yes, one
5 no.

6 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you, Madame
7 Secretary. The second agenda item is final
8 rulemaking so that our rules align with the
9 Innovation Act. Counsel Lerner, is there
10 anything you want to add to it?

11 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Thank you.
12 This is comprehensive final rulemaking to conform
13 all of Title 31 to the requirements of the
14 Vehicle for Hire Innovation Amendment Act of
15 2014. As many of you know, that Act, which was
16 effective on March 10 of this year, overhauled
17 the code sections that are for the Taxicab
18 Commission Establishment Act. They create what's
19 now called the Vehicle for Hire Industry, which
20 is divided into public and private vehicles.

21 And all the private sedans that you
22 see on the road, they're all legal and they're

1 subject to minimal regulation, but they're still
2 subject to regulation and within the jurisdiction
3 of the Commission. And many, many other changes
4 were made to the Code. So in order to make sure
5 that the regulations that we have do not run
6 afoul of the law, we spent some time, a little
7 time, making changes throughout the entire Code
8 to conform to the law. That's what this is,
9 these are final rules, if approved.

10 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Do any
11 of the Commissioners have questions or comments
12 regarding the second item?

13 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I do. This is
14 just an overhaul of Title 31, is that correct?

15 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: That's correct,
17 Commissioner Tapscott. Commissioner Muhammad?

18 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: Will we be
19 calling Mr. Ferguson for vote today?

20 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Commissioner
21 Ferguson was called up earlier on in this
22 meeting, so please take note of that.

1 COMMISSIONER WADE: I have a question.

2 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes?

3 COMMISSIONER WADE: I was wondering
4 about the penalties that are affixed for the
5 taxicab industry, but not for the private for
6 hire vehicles. Page 5, wait a minute, sorry, not
7 5, I just dropped it. No, not 5, I just had it,
8 excuse me, oh, Page 9.

9 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Yes, we
10 see that. And what's the question, please?

11 COMMISSIONER WADE: So, I was
12 wondering. The rate applied to the taxicabs for
13 hire, but not to the private vehicles for hire?

14 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Actually, I
15 believe that these in Section 8, Chapter 8,
16 anything in Chapter 8 would apply only to
17 taxicabs by definition. Any fines for the
18 operation of private vehicles, the actual
19 operation would be in the new chapter for those
20 vehicles, not here.

21 COMMISSIONER WADE: Okay.

22 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: The only other

1 thing that would apply to them, would be fines
2 under Chapter 7 for failure to obey a compliance
3 order, for example, in the street if a Hack
4 Inspector ordered a private sedan operator to
5 pull the vehicle over and hand them the keys or
6 hand her the device and they failed to comply,
7 there might be a fine under Chapter 7. I can't
8 think of anything else in the Title that would
9 apply to a private sedan operator, but if you
10 want to discuss more we can, I could think about
11 it.

12 COMMISSIONER WADE: Well, I just wanted
13 clarification.

14 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Yes. These
15 fines that you're referring to, correct, they're
16 amending the fines already in or maybe making
17 corrections. I don't actually know that they
18 changed levels, but they do only apply to taxicab
19 operators.

20 COMMISSIONER WADE: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Any
22 further questions? Do I have a motion to call

1 the second item for vote?

2 COMMISSIONER WADE: So moved.

3 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Madame Secretary?

5 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

6 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

7 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

8 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

9 Muhammad?

10 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: No.

11 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?

12 Commissioner Tapscott?

13 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Yes.

14 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

15 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

16 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

17 Chrappah?

18 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

19 SECRETARY MIXON: The vote is four yes,

20 one no.

21 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. The

22 third agenda item is final rulemaking for each

1 PSP, payment service provider, to pay its own
2 integration cost after the rules become final.
3 Each PSP must also integrate with the DC Taxi
4 app. And one of the policy objectives behind
5 this rulemaking is to reduce the cost of doing
6 business if you are a driver. We think having
7 three different phones, paying three different
8 data plans to have three different apps on your
9 device is not the most efficient or the best way
10 of doing business.

11 And we also want to make the rules
12 clear that PSPs must integrate with the app so
13 that drivers don't end up in a situation or
14 vehicle owners don't end up in a situation where
15 they got to have multiple devices in their
16 vehicles that are not necessarily integrated. Do
17 any of the Commissioners have questions or
18 comments regarding the agenda item? Do I have a
19 motion to call the item up for vote?

20 COMMISSIONER WADE: So moved.

21 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Madame

1 Secretary?

2 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

3 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

4 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

5 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

6 Muhammad?

7 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: No.

8 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?

9 Commissioner Tapscott?

10 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Abstain.

11 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

12 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

13 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

14 Chrappah?

15 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

16 SECRETARY MIXON: The vote is three
17 yes, one no, one abstain.

18 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: The fourth agenda
19 item is final rulemaking enhancing customer
20 service standards and professional service
21 standards for taxicab companies, associations,
22 and independents. Based on the lessons we've

1 learned from the audits and based on feedback
2 we've received from drivers, vehicle owners, and
3 some of the companies and associations, we find
4 it prudent to outline what our expectations are
5 in no ambiguous terms as it relates to customer
6 service.

7 We think it is necessary for every
8 company, association, or independent to have a
9 phone number that works that customers can reach
10 you. We think companies and associations should
11 have an office that is clearly marked that
12 drivers can go for service if necessary. So what
13 we are looking at ultimately achieving here is a
14 system where there is courtesy, there are
15 professional standards and rules that people have
16 to follow, and when people go wayward we look at
17 what the regulatory structure calls for to bring
18 accountability. Do any of the Commissioners have
19 any questions or comments regarding this item?

20 Do I have a motion to call the item up for vote?

21 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Call the item for
22 vote.

1 COMMISSIONER WADE: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Madame
3 Secretary?

4 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
5 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

6 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

7 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
8 Muhammad?

9 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: Yes.

10 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?
11 Commissioner Tapscott?

12 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Yes.

13 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

14 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

15 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

16 Chrappah?

17 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

18 SECRETARY MIXON: The vote is five yes.

19 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: The fifth agenda

20 item is proposed rulemaking to allow non-

21 residents to register vehicles with District-

22 based businesses when vehicle licenses are made

1 available by the Commission. As you may recall,
2 there was a panel that undertook a study on H-
3 tags. H-tags, co-ownership, titling issues have
4 been an issue in the industry for quite some time
5 now. And one of the commitments that our
6 administration did up-front was to create some
7 framework for those who need to get H-tags to
8 have their H-tags. This is where the rubber
9 meets the road.

10 What we are proposing is a set of
11 rules that creates a clear pathway for people who
12 want to get H-tags to get so and for those who
13 want to get L-tags to get that as well. So we'll
14 certainly encourage the industry to pay close
15 attention to the proposed rules, provide
16 feedback, and provide robust engagement so that
17 when we get to a point where we are going to make
18 the rules final, there's not going to be an
19 incident or lingering feelings that I wasn't
20 aware that there's proposed rules, I wasn't
21 following the rules.

22 This is one of the single biggest

1 issues facing the industry and we welcome
2 everyone to participate, knowing very well that
3 there needs to be a balance between stability,
4 entrepreneurship, and freedom. What I also want
5 to make clear is that this is proposed
6 rulemaking, we are not giving out H-tags. So
7 some of you usually talk to me and now you'll
8 also be talking to your Commissioners, I want to
9 get an H-tag. This is not what we are doing
10 here.

11 We are proposing the rules and the
12 framework for how H-tags will be given and this
13 is the necessary step following acceptance of the
14 Panel on Industry. We are much closer than we've
15 ever been. The finish line is within sight. So
16 I would encourage you all to read the details,
17 understand the implications, so that we can move
18 forward in solidarity. Is there anything you
19 want to add, General Counsel Lerner?

20 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: No.

21 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Any questions,
22 comments on --

1 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Just one
2 second if I may?

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Sure.

4 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: I'm sorry.
5 Yes, I would just like to add one additional
6 thing. And that is that the rulemaking would
7 provide an almost identical path for L-tags, it's
8 just that the licensing there is open, folks can
9 get L-tags, they have been for, I think, at least
10 a couple of years at this point. So it's a
11 similar path, but it addresses obviously
12 different policy concerns.

13 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: And one of the
14 items also that is a slight nuance, but I think
15 is equally important for the industry, is that if
16 a driver or a vehicle owner has a dispute with a
17 company as it relates to titling, now the
18 Commission is clearly stating that we'll be happy
19 to mediate on that dispute because we acknowledge
20 and recognize efforts that some drivers took in
21 the past to deal with some of the co-titling
22 issues, but years have gone by.

1 And we want to make sure that when
2 this issue is resolved, it's resolved once and
3 for all. So share with your colleagues, if they
4 have some issues or disputes, they can very well
5 come to the Commission and we'll help mediate to
6 get an equitable solution. But, again, if either
7 party is not happy with the mediation results,
8 they can go to the court system. That's one of
9 the beauties of the American system. With that
10 said, do I have a motion to call the item up for
11 vote?

12 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Just for
13 clarification, Mr. Chairman. Is this what the
14 Commission I was chair worked on about H-tags?

15 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Say that again?

16 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Is this
17 involved in the chairmanship that I worked on for
18 H-tags for people who had lost H-tags?

19 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes, so this
20 creates the framework for people to get H-tags.
21 There are no rules in place now to give people H-
22 tags. What we are proposing is a set of rules

1 for people to comment on that when it ultimately
2 becomes final, people will know how to get H-
3 tags. Is there a grey area? Okay, please
4 elaborate.

5 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: On the panel
6 that I recently was a chairman of, I thought we
7 was mostly looking at if people has turned in
8 tags and not got them back, then we was made a
9 recommendation that those people would be given
10 their tags back.

11 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: That's one of the
12 many issues. If we focus only on those who
13 turned in their H-tags, there's a significant
14 number of people who have never had an H-tag, but
15 want an H-tag, and there are other segments of
16 the population where there are co-titling issues.
17 So we don't think it's best to solve this in a
18 piecemeal, but rather propose a comprehensive
19 framework. So wherever you fall on that spectrum
20 of wanting an H-tag, whether you went home for
21 three months and you came back or you got sick
22 and you lost your H-tag or you've been renting

1 for ten years, you want an H-tag, there has got
2 to be a pathway that is transparent and fair.
3 And that's what we are attempting to resolve
4 here. Any other questions?

5 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: I have one.
6 What is the purpose of setting up a panel to
7 establish rules if it's going to be overwritten
8 by the General Counsel of this agency?

9 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: The General Counsel
10 has not overwritten any rules and, Commissioner
11 Muhammad, I'll encourage you to be judicious
12 about some of these statements you make around
13 this sort of audience. Do I have a motion to
14 call the item up for a vote?

15 COMMISSIONER WADE: I will call the
16 item.

17 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: I'll second.

18 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Madame
19 Secretary?

20 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
21 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

22 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

1 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

2 Muhammad?

3 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: No.

4 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?
5 Commissioner Tapscott?

6 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Abstain.

7 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

8 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

9 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

10 Chrappah?

11 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

12 SECRETARY MIXON: The vote is three
13 yes, one no, one abstain.

14 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. The
15 sixth agenda item is proposed rulemaking to
16 replace the general vehicle retirement rules with
17 simplified rules requiring retirement at seven
18 years or 315,000 miles, whichever is earlier.
19 And this is driven by very practical application.
20 If today I buy a standard Toyota Camry, not a
21 hybrid, just a regular fuel, not wheelchair
22 accessible, I get only four years. We think

1 that's a problem. You buy a brand new Toyota
2 Camry, not wheelchair accessible, you only get
3 four years.

4 And there is a chart in our current
5 vehicle age retirement rules that requires some
6 calculation. I'm not that good at math, but
7 sometimes you look at a table, you have to figure
8 out whether that is four years, six years, eight
9 years, ten years, 12 years. So after hearing
10 from the industry, what we are proposing here is
11 a very simplified vehicle retirement rules so
12 that you know if you go by years, it's 7 years,
13 if you want to go by mileage, 315,000. Everybody
14 can understand that. So that is what we are
15 proposing.

16 And through the rulemaking process,
17 we're looking forward to hearing your comments so
18 that we can strengthen the industry and make the
19 public vehicle for hire much stronger than it is
20 today. Are there any questions from
21 Commissioners regarding this item? We will wait
22 a little bit before calling this item up for

1 vote, but in the meantime, I also want to share
2 some of the feedback we heard from drivers around
3 vehicle age retirement.

4 One was the cost of buying a vehicle.
5 Some for financial constraints are not able to
6 buy a new vehicle, even though they want to
7 replace their existing vehicle that they have.
8 So, we put forth grants that encouraged and made
9 direct financial support to individuals or
10 vehicle owners who were interested in acquiring a
11 new vehicle. Some of you probably have heard of
12 the Transport D.C. Expansion Grants where \$2,500
13 in blocks were given for those who want to rent,
14 \$7,500 for those who wanted to retrofit a
15 vehicle, up to \$12,500 for those who wanted to
16 buy a brand new wheelchair accessible vehicle.
17 And not too long ago, 14 drivers received their
18 keys.

19 So as an agency and as a Commission,
20 we will continuously look for opportunities to
21 reduce the burdens of regulation on drivers and
22 make brand new or newer vehicle acquisition a

1 much simpler proposition. With that said, I
2 would like to call the Secretary to call the item
3 for vote.

4 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: I make a motion
5 that we vote on it.

6 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes. Thanks for
7 that reminder. Do I have a motion?

8 (Laughter.)

9 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Motion.

10 COMMISSIONER WADE: Second.

11 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Madame
12 Secretary, can we call the vote on this?

13 SECRETARY MIXON: Sure. Commissioner
14 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

15 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

16 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
17 Muhammad?

18 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: No.

19 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?
20 Commissioner Tapscott?

21 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Abstain. I'll
22 change that, yes.

1 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

2 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

3 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

4 Chrappah?

5 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

6 SECRETARY MIXON: The vote is four yes,
7 one no.

8 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you, Madame
9 Secretary. The seventh item -- yes?

10 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I'd just like
11 to let the public know the reason why I'm
12 abstaining on some of these items and sort of
13 leery on others, I was not at the meeting last
14 Thursday that we generally look over these things
15 and have an idea of what we're doing. I was not
16 at the meeting, I was out of the country. And
17 that's why I'm a little wary of some of the
18 things I'm abstaining on. I just want the public
19 to know why I'm abstaining on these items, and
20 the Chairman. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you,
22 Commissioner Tapscott. The seventh agenda item

1 is final rulemaking to modify vehicle retirement
2 rules to accelerate removal of non-conforming
3 vehicles by the end of 2016 and modify the
4 vehicle extension rules. Counsel Lerner, could
5 you elaborate?

6 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Yes. If
7 approved, this is a final rulemaking that would
8 amend another part of the same rule for vehicle
9 retirement. First of all, it would end the
10 grandfathering of non-conforming vehicles, non-
11 conforming with the existing rules, so that all
12 of them would be phased out by the end of 2016.
13 And the other thing that it would do is make some
14 small changes in the vehicle extension rule,
15 previously called waivers, it's actually now
16 called vehicle extensions.

17 Extended vehicles, if granted, there
18 could be one extension as before, but they only
19 would be eligible for one, which is already
20 what's being done, discretionarily by the office.
21 That would be the only thing available even under
22 the regulations and there would be some other

1 minor changes, which are conforming changes. And
2 that's it.

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. So, for
4 the record, it's important for the public and
5 drivers to know that there is an opportunity to
6 get an extension if your vehicle is in excellent
7 condition. That opportunity is still there. Any
8 other -- do any of the Commissioners have any
9 questions or comments regarding this agenda item?
10 Do I have a motion to call it up for vote?

11 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: I make a motion to
12 call it up for vote.

13 COMMISSIONER WADE: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you.
15 Secretary Mixon?

16 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
17 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

18 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

19 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
20 Muhammad?

21 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: No.

22 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?

1 Commissioner Tapscott?

2 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Abstain.

3 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

4 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

5 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

6 Chrappah?

7 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

8 SECRETARY MIXON: The vote is three

9 yes, one no, one abstain.

10 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. The
11 eighth agenda item is proposed rulemaking to
12 allow operators to produce electronic insurance
13 cards. One of the things that we've heard from
14 drivers is that sometimes they do have insurance,
15 they just happen to forget the insurance card at
16 home. And I'm sure some of you have seen the
17 Geico commercial where the pig shows the officer
18 his digital ID card.

19 So to be consistent with the idea of
20 leveraging technology or applying innovation to
21 solve some of the problems, what we are proposing
22 here is it is okay to have a digital insurance

1 card so that if for some reason you don't have or
2 you forgot your ID at home, when you are pulled
3 over, you can show the proof of insurance. But,
4 furthermore, we would also through this
5 rulemaking process provide vehicle enforcement
6 officers the opportunity to verify insurance
7 electronically. So this is a convenience and an
8 opportunity for drivers to go about their
9 business with one less thing to worry about. Are
10 there any questions or comments regarding this
11 matter from fellow Commissioners? Do I have a
12 motion to call the item up for vote?

13 COMMISSIONER WADE: Call the item,
14 please.

15 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: I'll second.

16 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Madame
17 Secretary?

18 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
19 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

20 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

21 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
22 Muhammad?

1 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: Yes.

2 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?
3 Commissioner Tapscott?

4 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Yes.

5 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

6 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

7 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner
8 Chrappah?

9 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

10 SECRETARY MIXON: The vote is five yes.

11 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: The last Commission
12 action item is final rulemaking to modify the Co-
13 op rules to allow flexibility in the Co-op's
14 business structure and to enhance disclosure
15 requirements for directors and officers. Counsel
16 Lerner, is there a preamble that you'd like to
17 provide to the audience?

18 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Yes. This is
19 final rulemaking which largely expedites the
20 formation of the Co-op. There has been pending
21 emergency, they're still in effect actually, to
22 expedite the Co-op. This would put those changes

1 into the final rules and into the regulations.
2 It does a number of things, including most
3 importantly requiring that the Co-op ensure that
4 there's participation by a broader spectrum of
5 industry participants and folks who are eligible
6 to participate.

7 While it's true that drivers will be
8 mandated to at least have the app present in
9 their vehicles, they actually have to use it.
10 They do not have to do more than that. They do
11 not have to participate in the administration of
12 the app, but if they wish to, they can. And
13 making sure that, that happens, is available, is
14 a priority and that's reflected in the rules.
15 And a number of other things which are listed in
16 the preamble, which I encourage the public to
17 read.

18 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Do any
19 of the Commissioners have questions or comments
20 regarding this matter? Do I have a motion to
21 call the item up for vote?

22 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Motion to call the

1 item for vote.

2 COMMISSIONER WADE: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Madame
4 Secretary?

5 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

6 Ferguson? Commissioner Jolly?

7 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Yes.

8 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

9 Muhammad?

10 COMMISSIONER MUHAMMAD: No.

11 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Smalls?

12 Commissioner Tapscott?

13 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Abstain.

14 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner Wade?

15 COMMISSIONER WADE: Yes.

16 SECRETARY MIXON: Commissioner

17 Chrappah?

18 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes.

19 SECRETARY MIXON: The vote is three
20 yes, one no, one abstain.

21 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Okay. We'll move
22 to the fifth segment of today's meeting. And

1 this is about government communication and staff
2 reports. But we'll start with having the General
3 Counsel report on the status of a pending appeal.

4 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Yes. This is
5 not an action item, this is an item placed on the
6 agenda by a member of the public. Mr. Simms,
7 whose presence I see today, asked to have this
8 item placed on the agenda and it is so placed.
9 I'm responding to it. This is a pending appeal
10 from a denial of license by the Office of
11 Taxicabs. It's been pending now for I think
12 about six months, but it is continuing to be
13 pending.

14 And at this point, it will be briefed
15 to all of the Commissioners, including the new
16 Commissioners, and we will be presenting them
17 with a recommended decision and they will be
18 making a decision. It's a judicial matter, this
19 is not a matter that gets called and voted on in
20 this kind of a sense like a rulemaking, but there
21 will be a publicly issued decision. And it's, I
22 have said this name wrong before and I apologize,

1 it's Gebremariam versus DCTC, and as I said,
2 that's pending at this time.

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. Now I
4 would invite Pedro Agosto, a member of staff at
5 the Office of Taxicabs, to give a brief
6 demonstration on some of the things that were
7 covered in the newsletter, but we also want to
8 make sure drivers are aware of. It ranges on a
9 number of things from a way to give feedback to
10 the Commission in a way that is transparent and
11 the public can also comment on your comment to
12 some of the online learning materials that are
13 now available to our driver community at no
14 charge. So, Pedro, are we ready?

15 MR. AGOSTO: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Do you need a
17 microphone?

18 MR. AGOSTO: Yes. Okay. Good morning,
19 everyone. What I wanted to do is briefly show
20 you a couple of things ready to align with the
21 initiatives that the Commission is moving forward
22 with. The first one is the ability to provide

1 feedback, again in alignment with the intent of
2 Office of Taxicab to solicit feedback for all of
3 its services. What we have now in place is, for
4 the enforcement group, the ability to provide
5 feedback.

6 So from the main website, which is
7 easily accessible, there is now, on the Services
8 page, there is now a new item, new section, for
9 the Enforcement Team. And simply by clicking on
10 this area here, the public will now have the
11 ability to provide feedback on the Enforcement
12 Team. And I would suggest it's for the team as a
13 whole, the process for how the Enforcement Team
14 goes about its duties, and any other items that
15 you feel, suggestions, feedback, commendations,
16 any bit of information that you feel the
17 Enforcement Team can find useful.

18 And it's as simple as, from the
19 website, you can just click on the link here or
20 use this email address, which is dctc-
21 inspector.feedback@dc.gov. By selecting this
22 link or using this email address, communication

1 for feedback will go to the office and it will be
2 addressed and acknowledged by the Enforcement
3 Team and they will greatly take any feedback
4 that's provided and it will be an aid as they
5 look to improve their services. So it is a very
6 convenient way to get that information that up
7 until this point hadn't existed. And we're doing
8 the same for other areas.

9 As you may well be aware of, I'll
10 digress here for one second, there is also the
11 ability to provide general feedback. The office
12 does provide suggestions that we're soliciting
13 feedback on. And there is a quick and easy way
14 to be able to provide suggestions, to respond to
15 suggestions that are posted, and this is reviewed
16 and moderated on a daily basis. Any questions on
17 how to provide feedback for the Enforcement Team?
18 Yes?

19 PARTICIPANT: Sometimes it's different,
20 the page on your phone.

21 MR. AGOSTO: Okay. So you're asking
22 whether -- well, sometimes the display on your

1 phone, so on the mobile device will be different
2 than what's on the page.

3 PARTICIPANT: Yes. And when you
4 comment, when you put your comment, you are not
5 able to post from your iPhone.

6 MR. AGOSTO: Okay. For this
7 particular?

8 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

9 MR. AGOSTO: Okay. Can we note that
10 and I can follow up with some research? The page
11 should be responsive, meaning that it should
12 display and functionality should work with mobile
13 devices. So we will look into that. Any other
14 questions? Yes?

15 PARTICIPANT: I'm still having problems
16 on downloading the app. And it runs into
17 problems where when you -- I tried it again today
18 for probably the tenth time and it fails. I have
19 an Android phone. So I don't know if it's an
20 Android problem or a --

21 MR. AGOSTO: Okay. So the purpose of
22 this session right now is to go over a couple of

1 the items, the initiatives. One was the feedback
2 initiative for the Enforcement Team. And the
3 second item is the eLearning Portal that's up.
4 So that's the scope of this particular session
5 right now. Thank you. Yes?

6 PARTICIPANT: Will this feedback be
7 looked in the website as well or can it be
8 answered as well or not? If we write a feedback
9 --

10 MR. AGOSTO: Oh, yes.

11 PARTICIPANT: -- will it be
12 acknowledged or will it be shown in the website
13 as well?

14 MR. AGOSTO: So right now for the
15 Inspector feedback, that's going to be sent via
16 email to an email box that is worked. We will
17 log the feedback item and then acknowledge the
18 feedback and then also take the information
19 regardless of the category of that feedback, the
20 type of feedback that's being provided. Right
21 now, that information will not be placed on the
22 website, but it is going to be tracked and

1 logged.

2 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Could you go to the
3 section where people actually comment on
4 feedback? Because there are two channels here.

5 MR. AGOSTO: Yes.

6 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: One is a direct
7 email that is a private message and then the
8 second is a public conversation. So you have
9 both options depending on what you want to give
10 feedback on. So Pedro will show you an example
11 of a public conversation around a feedback topic.

12 MR. AGOSTO: Yes. Now, this is the
13 public feedback forum here. For any of the items
14 that have been put out there for feedback, any of
15 the suggestions that have been placed -- and I
16 will open up one here. Okay. This is the for
17 hire vehicle feedback. And, again, I'll just go
18 through this as an example. The suggestion, the
19 question that was posed to the public is, what do
20 you like about vehicles for hire in D.C.? How
21 often do you ride in a for hire vehicle? What
22 improvements would you suggest?

1 And, as the Chairman mentioned, since
2 this is a public forum, you are welcome to
3 provide comments and those comments will be made
4 public as well as any comments made by any other
5 individual. The reason we're doing this is
6 because we feel that making these comments
7 transparent, we're going to get that discourse,
8 the interaction that we want from the public. So
9 you can respond to what someone else has
10 responded. We will then get a good dynamic and
11 be able to engage the opinions of the public by
12 having it out here in an open forum.

13 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you.

14 MR. AGOSTO: Any other questions on the
15 feedback mechanisms?

16 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Can we see the
17 online learning --

18 MR. AGOSTO: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: -- available to
20 drivers?

21 MR. AGOSTO: The second item I wanted
22 to discuss with you all today is the eLearning

1 Portal, the portal that's been established. And
2 at this point, we have the wheelchair accessible
3 eLearning course out there. This is with the
4 intent to provide easy, self-paced eLearning for
5 taxi drivers. And what I will do is go through -
6 - first of all the URL, the website, for this
7 portal is <https://dctc.inquisigr4.com>, and I'll
8 provide that for you, Madame Secretary.

9 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: And it was in the
10 newsletter, so if you are like me, you don't want
11 to remember a whole lot of things, just go to the
12 newsletter and click on the link.

13 MR. AGOSTO: Yes. It's an active link,
14 it will take you here. This is available for all
15 drivers. So it's part of the availability for
16 all drivers. You will be required to register.
17 And it's very simple to create an account. We're
18 going to ask for particular information, name,
19 email. You can create your own user name and
20 your own password. What we will use to verify
21 that you are a driver, you will provide your face
22 card ID. If your face card ID is current and

1 active, you will be able to create your account.
2 So this is available for all drivers right now
3 who are eligible to drive within the District.

4 I will log in myself here and I can
5 show you what you will see as far as the course
6 catalog. Okay. When you log in, you will see
7 the course catalog. At this time, as you notice,
8 there is one eLearning course and that's the
9 wheelchair accessible vehicle eLearning, which is
10 available for all drivers. And there is the
11 intent right now to add more eLearning courses to
12 the catalog, so we'll have an extensive catalog
13 of different items as they get developed and are
14 published out on the course catalog. And, again,
15 as the Chairman did mention, this is a free offer
16 for all eligible drivers. Simply going into the
17 website, registering, and being able to have
18 access to your course catalog. Yes?

19 PARTICIPANT: Can you share the URL
20 again?

21 MR. AGOSTO: Yes. So the URL, and it
22 will be in the notes, I'll go through it again,

1 it's also in the newsletter, so if you received
2 the newsletter, the link is there, but the
3 website is <https://dctc.inquisigr4.com>. And that
4 will take you to the landing page which will
5 allow you to register. Any other questions?
6 Yes?

7 PARTICIPANT: Will you be using a
8 profile?

9 MR. AGOSTO: Will you be using a
10 profile or --

11 PARTICIPANT: If I log in?

12 MR. AGOSTO: Yes. So, as part of the
13 -- and the reason we do have the profile, for two
14 main reasons. One is we're validating that the
15 person registering for this is an active driver.
16 Secondly, yes, the information will be available.
17 So as an individual, you can go in and see what
18 courses you've taken, courses completed, courses
19 that are in progress. And then also, in support
20 of any future initiatives, if there's a
21 requirement or pre-requisite for you to take a
22 course for some certification that's outside of

1 this scope right now, but again forward thinking,
2 we will have that ability to check off that you
3 as a driver did finish the pre-requisites that
4 allow you for other certifications or other
5 courses.

6 PARTICIPANT: So, it's not going to be
7 against you?

8 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: No, no, no, no, no.
9 This sort of like similar to conspiracy theory,
10 like somebody's saying like -- no, no, no, no,
11 no. This is a convenience. And this is
12 important for the industry. In the past, to get
13 trained on disability sensitivity or how to
14 operate a wheelchair accessible vehicle, you
15 would spend up to about \$400 of your own money.
16 What the Commission is saying is, we want to
17 reduce the cost of doing business. We want to
18 make our drivers more savvy and responsive to the
19 needs of passengers.

20 Go online, as long as you have a legit
21 Face ID, you can take the course, they have some
22 interactive quizzes, and at the completion of the

1 course, it's going to be noted, and you can go
2 for the in-person training currently being
3 provided at training school. It is for your
4 benefit. This is all a gift. There's nothing
5 that will put the Commission in a position to use
6 this against you. I just cannot see that. So
7 it's great that you say this, but talk to your
8 colleagues about this as well. There's no
9 conspiracy theory to make things difficult for
10 people. This is a gift, quite frankly.

11 MR. AGOSTO: Any other questions? All
12 right, thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you, Pedro.
14 All right. We're going to move to the sixth
15 section of the agenda and that is the public
16 comment period. I believe we have a few
17 registered speakers and others who would come up
18 last minute. Could you take us through the
19 process, Madame Secretary?

20 SECRETARY MIXON: Yes. Thank you,
21 Chairman. We have three who have registered
22 ahead of time. If you will come up please when

1 your name is called, state your name for the
2 record and spell it, also sign in on the sheet.
3 You will be given five minutes to speak, I have a
4 little timer here, which will give you five
5 minutes. Please also give me your written
6 statement. Then at that conclusion, we will have
7 time for a few additional speakers. You will be
8 given two minutes each. Also, we ask that you
9 say and spell your name for the record. Once you
10 begin to talk, I will start my timer, two
11 minutes. We ask you to please abide by the two
12 minutes and also sign in. So our first speaker,
13 would you like me to call the names, Mr.
14 Chairman?

15 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Yes. The first
16 speaker is Ms. Heidi Case? Did I get it right?
17 Is it Heidi or -- okay.

18 MS. CASE: Perfect.

19 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: All right.

20 MS. CASE: Good morning, Chairman
21 Chrappah and fellow Commissioners. My name is
22 Heidi Case, H-E-I-D-I C-A-S-E. I'm a Transport

1 DC rider and advocate. And I appreciate the
2 accommodations to speak, thank you very much.
3 I'm also a member of the Taxicab Commission's
4 Accessibility Advisory Committee, but my comments
5 today are my own and not that of the AAC. I hope
6 that all or at least many of you heard the Martin
7 Di Caro radio broadcast on WAMU, where I was
8 interviewed and did my best to be an advocate for
9 Transport DC and the taxi industry and the
10 drivers that face the unfair competition from
11 TNCs, which are basically unregulated.

12 First and foremost, I want to thank
13 the Chairman and Commissioners for supporting
14 such a wonderful new transit option for people
15 with disabilities in D.C. Also a special thank
16 you to Karl Muhammad for all his hard work and
17 commitment as well as the important and essential
18 drivers of taxis used for the Transport DC
19 program. Please remember that the work you all
20 do is improving the quality of life for many
21 people with disabilities, including myself. A
22 heartfelt thank you.

1 I intend to testify at WMATA's board
2 meeting tomorrow that they must not even consider
3 partnering with TNCs unless they want to see an
4 all-out protest by people with disabilities
5 against Metro. At the Disability Awareness Expo
6 last week, I happened to be sitting at the table,
7 tabling for the WMATA Riders Union, next to the
8 Transport DC table. So I could add all my own
9 positive experiences as they were sharing
10 information about this.

11 But a lawyer who works for Metro, who
12 is blind, came up and he reported that at a
13 recent national conference for the blind they had
14 member complaints located here in D.C. that Uber
15 and Lyft refused to transport people with service
16 animals to the event. I was told Lyft even
17 included a link to Transport DC on their website
18 if you wanted to use a service animal because
19 they refused to do it. And of course, we know
20 they also have no wheelchair accessible vehicles
21 of their own to allow service to people who use
22 wheelchairs that don't fold up in this region.

1 This last week, Carol Tyson, the Chair
2 of the Taxicab AAC, had a conversation on Twitter
3 with a D.C. WMATA Board Member educating him on
4 the discriminatory practices of TNCs. He
5 officially tweeted that Uber was a great business
6 model. But by the end of the conversation, he
7 said, if this is true, shame on Uber. We all
8 need to work to educate the public on the service
9 limitations of TNCs because many people are not
10 aware.

11 Transport DC is growing so rapidly, at
12 the rate of about 20 percent increase in trips
13 each month. I wanted to get the number of trips
14 for October, I haven't been able to find that, I
15 knew there were over 10,000 in September. This
16 is a wonderful number and scary number because
17 more than 25 percent of the WAVs are not on the
18 street providing rides. I personally, and
19 several of my friends, are seeing longer wait
20 times for WAVs because it is so popular and so
21 many more people -- the word is spreading like
22 wildfire in the disability community. Which is a

1 wonderful blessing and a challenge. You've got
2 to have all those vehicles available.

3 I'm afraid if we don't take action
4 quickly to ensure an adequate number of WAVs are
5 on the street and Transport DC can continue to
6 provide dependable transportation in a timely
7 manner that, that 20 percent increase monthly may
8 begin a slow decline. I'd like to suggest a few
9 things to ensure that the Transport DC program
10 continues to grow. First, release those H-tags,
11 I understood what you said about it, but I
12 believe you need to prioritize wheelchair
13 accessible vehicles in that release. Also,
14 extend the retirement age of the WAVs. That is
15 an important incentive to get drivers to choose
16 that vehicle.

17 And last, I will suggest to the two
18 new Commissioners and everyone, please read the
19 report of the Taxi AAC. We have spent a year and
20 it includes all stakeholders, drivers are in
21 there, taxi company people are in there, the
22 Teamsters are there, disability advocates were a

1 part of this, and government officials were a
2 part of it. Read our recommendations. You have
3 things that were on the agenda today that we have
4 specific recommendations about. Thank you very
5 much.

6 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you very
7 much, Ms. Case.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: And there's
10 something I want to say in a comment. I'm not
11 sure if it was a function of time that you didn't
12 get to and that's a note about a regional open
13 house. When exactly is that?

14 MS. CASE: Oh, yes. One of the things
15 we think gets in the way of people, sometimes
16 drivers wanting to drive a WAV, is just
17 unfamiliarity with people with disabilities. And
18 so we're working with Montgomery County starting
19 their pilot program with Metro. We want to
20 partner with them and create an open house, an
21 opportunity for everyone who's even thinking
22 about getting a WAV to come, interact with us,

1 talk to us. We can share our stories of how
2 important it is to us --

3 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Okay.

4 MS. CASE: -- so that hopefully that
5 will be another encouragement and at least
6 educational about what they're getting into.

7 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Okay. Thank you.
8 I'd like to thank -- Karl Muhammad is dialed in,
9 so if there's anything we can do to support that
10 effort, please let Karl know and I'll make sure
11 that my fellow Commissioners are also aware of
12 it. Thank you.

13 MS. CASE: Thank you so much.

14 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: The next speaker is
15 Laurence Frankel. Laurence, are you here?

16 MR. FRANKEL: Thank you.

17 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Is that
18 microphone turned on?

19 SECRETARY MIXON: It isn't.

20 GENERAL COUNSEL LERNER: Okay.

21 SECRETARY MIXON: And, Mr. Frankel, if
22 you and the other speakers can speak up, for

1 whatever reason, the microphone appears to be
2 off.

3 MR. FRANKEL: Well, I'm a very loud,
4 disgruntled cab driver and continue to be, so I
5 have a lot of words, thank you.

6 SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. You may start
7 by stating and spelling your name.

8 MR. FRANKEL: Laurence Frankel,
9 Laurence, L-A-U-R-E-N-C-E, Frankel, F-R-A-N-K-E-
10 L. Oh, I'm sorry. I'm sorry I came in late. I
11 didn't hear the explanation by General Counsel
12 Lerner. But I think we're still not on the same
13 page. I filed a complaint with the government of
14 open office. They took the complaint, I was told
15 that after a small investigation, they send it to
16 the lawyers at the Justice Department, and that
17 they were still doing the investigation, that I
18 would be notified of those results. So I have
19 not been notified of those results, so I take it
20 that my complaint is still valid.

21 Open government and transparency does
22 not exist in this agency. This Commission is

1 ridiculous, insulting, and continually trying to
2 operate contrary to democratic process and
3 American ideals. Commissioner Ferguson was not
4 present at the last Commission hearing on October
5 14, 2015, but voted. The transcripts do not show
6 that he was physically here in the room, but let
7 stand his answer of being present. I could not
8 tell, I know the man, I've spoken to him, I know
9 his voice, I could not tell that this was him
10 voting. I was -- the Commission did not announce
11 that he was somewhere else. He wasn't
12 introduced, he voted yes and no, and I couldn't
13 tell that it was him and nothing shows when he
14 left the meeting.

15 I demand the transcripts reflect these
16 things, the proposed regulations he voted on be
17 stricken down so they can be properly voted on,
18 and an official apology be issued. Final
19 regulation 102.6 allows for closed, executive
20 sessions. This is what was voted on today.
21 These meetings are in direct violation of the
22 Sunshine Act. They have been used by former

1 Chairman Linton to illegal conspire and defraud
2 cab drivers and my business. I demand that
3 concise and accurate records of these meetings --
4 legislating around havoc and not recording these
5 meetings is just undemocratic and un-American. I
6 have a right to know what you are discussing
7 behind closed doors.

8 Three, 702.8(c) and (e) voted on today
9 seems to be in conflict. I interpret this
10 regulation to suggest a vehicle inspection
11 officer could take possession of any equipment
12 operating in the cab. The whole sub-chapter is
13 absurdly written and conflicts with the next sub-
14 chapter, which is (e), there's no (d), which is
15 ambiguous. As an example, I have the right to
16 privately record any of these inspections without
17 hindrance, confiscation, or retaliation.

18 Four, Chapter 825, fines of, this is
19 minor, but this is my point, I'm getting here so
20 many times on this little point, fines of \$50 for
21 loading or unloading in a crosswalk. Some
22 handicapped vehicles must load or unload in

1 crosswalks. And sometimes a crosswalk is the
2 only safe place for any cab to load or unload.
3 These exceptions must be included.

4 Commissioners Jolly and Wade, I saw
5 you at your council hearing, and I'm sorry to be
6 slightly disgruntled on a personal level, I'm
7 sure you're nice people, with no experience and
8 no apparent experience with professional driving.
9 I can only view your appointments as an extension
10 of bad mayoral policies intent with destroying my
11 small business. Your appointments dilute the
12 vote against professionals on this Commission.
13 Please do not vote until you understand the
14 issues completely. Thank you. Oh, by the way, I
15 found this insulting, I hope you find it
16 insulting. This is the way -- Mr. Ferguson, I
17 didn't know it's him, didn't know if it was
18 Ferguson or not. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: I think he would
20 like to leave that for us though. Thank you,
21 Larry. I'd like to welcome the next speaker, Ms.
22 Tyson.

1 MS. TYSON: Thank you. My name is
2 Carol Tyson and it's spelled C-A-R-O-L T-Y-S-O-N.
3 Ready? Okay. Chairman Chrappah and other
4 distinguished members of the Taxi Commission,
5 thank you for the opportunity to offer public
6 comment regarding accessible vehicle for hire
7 service in the District. Welcome and
8 congratulations to the new Commissioners. I am
9 the Director of Disability Policy for United
10 Spinal Association. Founded in 1946 by paralyzed
11 veterans, United Spinal is the largest
12 disability-led non-profit organization serving
13 and representing the interests of more than a
14 million Americans living with spinal cord
15 injuries and disorders.

16 I would first like to thank the
17 Commission, taxi companies, and operators for
18 your continued efforts to provide accessible taxi
19 service in the District. Ensuring access
20 improves the quality of life for individuals, but
21 also reflects the District's priorities and makes
22 D.C. a better home and destination for all.

1 United Spinal commends the Commission on its
2 successful grant program and thanks the taxi
3 companies and operators who have purchased
4 vehicles or applied for the rental or training
5 grants. Thank you to the Commission for working
6 to ensure disability service training is provided
7 for everyone. United Spinal looks forward to
8 working with the Commission and other
9 stakeholders to address ongoing challenges, such
10 as ensuring new wheelchair accessible vehicles
11 are on the road providing service.

12 Regarding proposed rulemaking for the
13 newly created Chapter 20, thank you for assessing
14 a fine on private sedan companies who do not
15 comply with the zero tolerance anti-
16 discrimination policy. Taxi drivers and
17 companies must comply with similar anti-
18 discrimination requirements under the D.C. Human
19 Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities
20 Act. The fine sends a strong message to private
21 sedan operators that discrimination will not be
22 tolerated in the District.

1 Regarding the proposed rulemaking for
2 Chapter 10 and Chapter 18 to expand the Transport
3 DC program, United Spinal supports regulations
4 that increase the number of wheelchair accessible
5 taxis participating in Transport DC and
6 compliance with the percentage requirements for
7 DC taxi companies. We recommend extending the
8 provision of wheelchair accessible H-tags to
9 independent owner-operators as well. It is
10 United Spinal's hope that taxi companies would
11 view participating in the Transport DC program as
12 an opportunity to provide vital transportation to
13 a traditionally underserved community.

14 Transport DC fills a large gap in
15 service that is reflected in the ever increasing
16 ridership numbers each month. True demand
17 responsive service was out of reach for many in
18 the District until just this year. Thank you to
19 everyone. Section 1806.15 of the Chapter 20
20 rulemaking states that each trip shall be
21 "between a MetroAccess approved location or
22 facility in the District and another location in

1 the District or vice versa." United Spinal is
2 concerned that the trip pick-up and drop-off
3 location would be subject to MetroAccess rules
4 versus allowing passengers to travel anywhere
5 within the District.

6 A recent academic study of MetroAccess
7 sustainability suggested a gatekeeper approach to
8 MetroAccess trips whereby each trip would need to
9 be approved. United Spinal is concerned that
10 this approach could be implemented in Transport
11 DC. Transport DC passengers requesting demand
12 responsive service in the District should be
13 provided service to and from locations of their
14 choosing.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to
16 participate in the DCTC Accessibility Advisory
17 Committee. And Heidi already mentioned this, but
18 as many of you know, the Committee submitted its
19 third report on the state of accessible for hire
20 vehicle service in the District and other
21 jurisdictions. Thank you to the staff for
22 posting the report on the Commission website. We

1 hope, if you haven't already, that you will take
2 the time to read the report, most especially the
3 first section which addresses the need for
4 accessible service and highlights Committee
5 Members' stories.

6 I'm just going to mention a few things
7 that aren't written here, but that have come out
8 of the meeting today. Thank you for the app,
9 first off, and thank you for making it possible
10 for District residents to request a wheelchair
11 accessible vehicle on the app. It's been pretty
12 exciting, I've opened it up a couple times just
13 to look at it and try to find the wheelchair
14 accessible taxi, so it's great. Thank you.

15 And on the proposed rulemaking to
16 change the vehicle retirement rules, United
17 Spinal is extremely disheartened and
18 disappointed. Extending the vehicle retirement
19 rule for wheelchair accessible vehicles was
20 something that was recommended in the first
21 Accessibility Advisory report, it's one of the
22 great incentives that we do have and I hope that

1 you will consider that in the next vote that you
2 have. Also, it's my understanding that, that
3 seven years is still five years less than what a
4 private sedan operator is allowed to have. So
5 please consider that as you go forward in your
6 discussions.

7 United Spinal thanks the Commission
8 for its continued efforts and dedication to
9 ensuring accessibility to vehicle for hire
10 service in the District. We will continue to
11 work in partnership with all stakeholders and
12 advocate for an accessible fleet, both public and
13 private, that will benefit drivers and all who
14 visit, live in, and work in the District. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Ms. Tyson, before
19 you depart, could you elaborate a bit on the trip
20 pick-up and drop-off rule that I think
21 MetroAccess is considering? If you have any
22 information on that.

1 MS. TYSON: Yes. I'll share the
2 language from their sustainability report. I
3 don't know that they're moving forward on it, but
4 I'm very concerned.

5 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Okay.

6 MS. TYSON: The gatekeeper approach
7 would allow for anyone who's requesting a
8 MetroAccess trip for there to be one individual
9 who works for MetroAccess to say yes or no,
10 whether or not they could make that trip. And
11 the history of accessible transportation in the
12 U.S. was that before we had the Americans with
13 Disabilities Act, people who would request
14 service would have to go through a similar
15 process. And there were many times where
16 decisions were made about where people could go
17 that I think most of us in this room would be
18 shocked around whether or not, well, should he be
19 allowed to go to the mall today? Is that really
20 important versus getting to a doctor's
21 appointment? And that's why the language
22 concerns me and I've just been trying to raise it

1 to make sure people were aware of it.

2 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Okay. Thank you.

3 MS. TYSON: Thanks.

4 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Madame Secretary,
5 do we have any speakers last minute?

6 SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. I see one hand
7 up. And that will be our two minute sessions.
8 So I see a second hand. Okay. So first, Mr.
9 Massoud. Then the second hand, sir, in the grey.
10 The third hand, sir, with the glasses. Are there
11 any others? Mr. Schaeffer, that's four. And
12 Evelyn Ruiz-Muy, five. Okay. So, remember that
13 order. So, first speaker up, say your name
14 place. Come on up to the front. Say it and
15 spell it and then we'll start the time. And also
16 sign in.

17 MR. MEDGHALCHI: Are we ready?

18 SECRETARY MIXON: Did you sign in?

19 MR. MEDGHALCHI: Oh, I see the sign-in
20 sheet. Thank you.

21 SECRETARY MIXON: Thank you.

22 MR. MEDGHALCHI: Good morning. My name

1 is Massoud Medghalchi, M-A-S-S-O-U-D, last name
2 is M-E-D-G-H-A-L-C-H-I.

3 SECRETARY MIXON: Okay.

4 MR. MEDGHALCHI: Good morning to the
5 Commissioners and the two new members. This is
6 not going to be very welcoming to the new
7 members, not because I have anything against you,
8 it's what this body has done since chairmanship
9 of Mr. Swain. It's been nothing but a cabal.
10 Behind the door meetings, making deals, and then
11 coming in and taking votes. I urge you not to go
12 along with that. One of these days, the jig's
13 going to be up.

14 Mr. Muhammad and Mr. Tapscott,
15 especially Mr. Muhammad for today, I commend you
16 for standing up against this body. People need
17 to speak up, their hearts and their minds,
18 instead of going along with what they're told.
19 That's been the trend, especially under Mr.
20 Linton, all the deals were made behind closed
21 doors. From what I drew from Chairman Chrappah's
22 statement, we're not going to have industry

1 members out there as Commissioners. I don't know
2 if that is the case or not.

3 I would remind you we had a lawsuit in
4 federal courts, there were three items that were
5 agreed by D.C. government so the case would be
6 remanded to superior court. One of them was for
7 us to get our full membership out there. It
8 still has not happened. And I'll tell you, that
9 case was dismissed without prejudice, it was our
10 choice. We can pick it up whenever we want to.
11 Be aware of that. Have a good day.

12 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Next speaker.

13 SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. In the grey,
14 sir.

15 MR. SHIFA: Good morning. I'm Mr.
16 Shifa. My first name is M-U-S-B-A.

17 SECRETARY MIXON: You have to hold the
18 microphone, I know it's a little high.

19 MR. SHIFA: Sign right here? Okay.

20 SECRETARY MIXON: Sir, yes, if you
21 would say and spell your name, then start, sir.

22 MR. SHIFA: Okay. My first name's M-U-

1 S-B-A and my last name is S-H-I-F-A. Good
2 morning, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple questions
3 for you. I understand you're a new Chairman. My
4 first question stems from the agenda that you
5 have today. On Chapter 5, you're working on how
6 to establish operating requirements for taxicab
7 and associates and independent taxicab owners.
8 It is a shame that you don't have this operating
9 requirements so far when our competitors like
10 Uber, you get your car today, they put you on the
11 street next day, and they've been working hard,
12 taking over the business, pushing over the cab
13 drivers, and we just here sit and talk about how
14 you're going to establish requirements. Isn't
15 too late.

16 Even if there's requirements, how we
17 have been giving away H-tags, any chance of that?
18 And the other question is the number of
19 wheelchair drivers is it fit for the disabled
20 people live in the District, the number of the
21 wheelchair cars? And the other thing is since
22 you're trying to improve the -- coming up with

1 the app, trying to make an improvement, do you
2 believe your office has transparency? And do we
3 have the marketing people, the professions work
4 in marketing?

5 The last comment is, when you're
6 giving away these thousands of Face ID and even
7 those who have used those, people keep it at home
8 and doing something else, I understand why, do we
9 want them to go rent the car and pay for the
10 companies and ended up working? Don't you think
11 they do have the right to spend the money that
12 they earn driving ten to 12 hours whether to rent
13 it or to earn, it isn't right. Thank you.

14 SECRETARY MIXON: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you. People
16 who comment at this time, I would encourage you
17 to at least send written comments so they can get
18 answered. The Commission doesn't sit here and
19 answer questions in the public comment forum.
20 So it may be high time for you to get caught up.
21 But again, send written questions and get your
22 responses. Okay? Next speaker?

1 SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. Next we have,
2 sir, in the glasses.

3 MR. ZELEKE: Good afternoon. My name
4 is Alemseged Zeleke, A-L-E-M-S-E-G-E-D, last name
5 is Zeleke --

6 SECRETARY MIXON: A little too fast.

7 MR. ZELEKE: All right.

8 SECRETARY MIXON: Say it again, please?

9 MR. ZELEKE: Last name is Zeleke, Z-E-
10 L-E-K-E. Actually, most of my question has been
11 asked, but I'm going to ask one more time. It's
12 going to be about Uber of course. We're a
13 citizen in this country -- of course, most of us
14 foreigners, we believe in America. This country,
15 we believe that this is a country of law, a
16 nation of law. So we follow rule of law in this
17 city as cab drivers. We know we have rule and
18 regulation to follow and we're trying to provide
19 as drivers whatever the city is asking us to
20 improve this service.

21 But this has been really unfair for
22 cab drivers here in District, all over United

1 State of America, about Uber. This Uber have no
2 law to follow, they don't know the street, they
3 don't know the city, they don't nothing about
4 driving at all as professional drivers. But they
5 are here, thousands of them, every day, day in,
6 day out. Is D.C. doing any research at all,
7 study, about this city, about the traffic, about
8 the accident, incident, what's going on in the
9 city? Of course not. They are not included in
10 the process.

11 We, the cab drivers, we have to pay
12 the fees and they have to take our jobs. Is it
13 really as a government of District of Columbia
14 fair to the cab drivers? We also are citizens,
15 we're going to say something about it when we see
16 a wrong. Other cities taking measures, some has
17 been stopped, some cities, some countries like
18 Germany, France, other countries, where they
19 begin Uber, they're stopping them. What is D.C.
20 doing? Anything? Anything done at all? Thank
21 you very much.

22 SECRETARY MIXON: Okay. Thank you.

1 All right, Mr. Jeff Schaeffer, please?

2 MR SCHAEFFER: Jeff, J-E-F-F,
3 Schaeffer, S-C-H-A-E-F-F-E-R. And I just wanted
4 to put on the record that the Transport DC Grant,
5 in the RFA, under Question Number 9, asks how you
6 will provide a \$5 receipt, which I know the
7 Commission has had some concern on. And receipt
8 cards in the vehicles are illegal. And they made
9 this some years back, I think they were concerned
10 about the drivers not giving out a meter receipt
11 which had all the identifying information for the
12 PVIN number, the tag number, the complaint
13 number. So they made it illegal for receipts.

14 So what I'm requesting is, the best
15 way to do it is to allow Transport DC drivers for
16 a Transport DC trip to give out a receipt card.
17 That way we could advertise Transport DC on the
18 card, on the flip-side have all the receipt
19 information. Presently, a passenger must ask in
20 advance and the driver gets the \$3.50 drop, the
21 \$3.25 and the quarter, and adds \$1.50 on it, but
22 that alters the fare and shows it by \$1.50 more.

1 So two things must happen, they must request in
2 advance and then it sways the numbers a little
3 bit. So, my observation, the best way to do it
4 would be to allow Transport DC drivers the
5 ability to have a receipt card, which would work
6 as an advertisement for the passenger to pass on
7 to someone else and have the receipt information
8 on the flip-side. Thank you very much.

9 SECRETARY MIXON: Thank you. All
10 right. We're going to have Ms. Ruiz-Muy and then
11 I just see one additional hand, so, sir, you will
12 be the last one.

13 MS. RUIZ: Thank you. Hi. My name is
14 Evelyn Ruiz, E-V-E-L-Y-N R-U-I-Z. Let me start
15 right now with this Chapter 6 and 99 proposed
16 rulemaking to replace the general vehicle
17 retirement rules with simplified rules to require
18 retirement at seven years or 315,000 miles,
19 whichever earlier. In my humble opinion, we
20 should consider more on the mileage, 315,000
21 miles of the vehicle, not on the model year. I
22 just want to give you two examples.

1 This driver is a student. He got a
2 2014 Toyota Prius hybrid. He also drive a
3 private car. He bought it brand new. He's now
4 driving it for a year and he only consumed or put
5 10,000 miles on the vehicle after one year. So
6 in my computation, after seven years, it will
7 only be 70,000 miles. I think it does not make
8 any sense and it's not practical to retire this
9 car at 70,000 miles.

10 My second example is my husband is
11 also a cab driver. So at this time, he is now
12 driving a 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan. He started
13 driving three months ago. And because he's a
14 full-time mechanic as well, he can only work
15 maybe once or twice a week at night time. Within
16 three months, he only put 1,500 miles on it. So
17 it's going to inspection again after three
18 months, because we got the six months inspection.
19 So in my computation, after six months he will
20 only going to have 3,000 miles on it. So, again,
21 it does not make any sense to retire vehicle with
22 low mileage with these part-time drivers. So we

1 have to put that in consideration. Thank you.

2 SECRETARY MIXON: Thank you. Okay. My
3 last speaker, sir.

4 MR. RASHID: My name is Rafiq Rashid,
5 R-A-F-I-Q R-A-S-H-I-D.

6 SECRETARY MIXON: Thank you.

7 MR. RASHID: And really it's about what
8 most of the people have -- well, some of the
9 people are talking about Uber. And it seems like
10 we have some rules against us that are kind of
11 antiquated. When there are Uber drivers with
12 Illinois tags, Pennsylvania tags, Miami tags,
13 tags from all over, but we have a residential
14 requirement or restriction on us. We can't live
15 but a few counties outside the city. And it
16 seems like for today, that's kind of antiquated.

17 The way people are moving in and out
18 that we should be able to, because we're making
19 actually less money, so we should be able to live
20 where we want to live at instead of being
21 required to live in PG County, Montgomery County,
22 I think you can live -- I don't even know if you

1 can live in Loudon County and be a cab driver in
2 this city. So, that was all my suggestion.

3 Thank you.

4 SECRETARY MIXON: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you, Mr.

6 Rafiq. That concludes the public comments period
7 by all our speakers. At this point, I will turn
8 it over to Madame Secretary to take us to the
9 fact check from previous meetings.

10 SECRETARY MIXON: Thank you. There's
11 just a few things that were said at the October
12 14, 2015 meeting that we would just like to have
13 clarity about. There was a speaker who says that
14 he needs an H-tag, he can't find business. We do
15 want to make everybody aware that the D.C. Taxi
16 app is available to all D.C. licensed drivers.
17 The advantage of this app over other apps is your
18 customer may change payment methods. All you
19 need is a smartphone. You may also use any other
20 app that is available on the market, and I know
21 Chairman today did address that with the
22 integration issue, but those options are

1 available to you.

2 There was another speaker who
3 mentioned how the driver's income has dropped,
4 there's no extra passenger fee, truck or luggage
5 fees, no shared rides. And part of that answer
6 is the drop rate did increase from \$3.00 to \$3.25
7 to help increase the driver's income when the
8 fees were eliminated. Another driver stated that
9 the PSP audit should be made public. And that
10 audit is available on the DCTC website. And
11 additionally, as it was stated in the meeting,
12 the Commission may increase or decrease the
13 number of PSPs based on the audit findings,
14 that's one reason why it was conducted.

15 And then, also, the speaker mentioned,
16 while happy to see the H-tag report, a bit
17 disappointed that veteran drivers -- has
18 arbitrary made policy without being input from
19 the driving public, et cetera. This H-tag report
20 was made with input from more than 1,000 drivers.
21 It has not been accepted by the full Commission
22 and today proposed regulations, well, that's been

1 voted on, to create a pathway for H-tags. So
2 there were several hundred man hours that went
3 into accumulating that report.

4 Another speaker stated that messages
5 could not be changed on the dome lights. They
6 can be changed by going to a certified dome light
7 installer. And then also, there needs to be
8 clarity on the snow emergency issue. It's a
9 declared snow emergency fee, a \$15 flat fee.

10 When a snow emergency is declared, DCTC makes it
11 clear to the public that the \$15 is on top of the
12 standard meter fare. Also, there was a speaker,
13 and some of this was addressed today, about the
14 insurance issues with the cards. So DCTC has
15 pending regulation, as you heard today, to accept
16 the electronic insurance information to alleviate
17 these types of matters. But it's proposed right
18 now.

19 And then also there was a comment made
20 that there's no enforcement by this office on
21 black cars. The DCTC vehicle inspection officers
22 aggressively pursue all violations of Title 31

1 regulations, notwithstanding the type of vehicle
2 driven. Another speaker did bring up insurance
3 issues and the cost of it, saying that the
4 company may be buying it for \$22 or that's their
5 cost and sells it to the drivers for \$36. There
6 are only four companies to buy from. So Chairman
7 did state that the Commission will look into the
8 insurance issue for the appropriate action, so it
9 is under advisement.

10 And lastly, there was a speaker who
11 mentioned losing five months when their face card
12 was renewed due to the change now being on their
13 birthdays. Chairman in that meeting replied for
14 that particular driver to speak to Special
15 Assistant Thedford Collins. I'm not sure if that
16 particular speaker did, so if you're still here,
17 please do that. But we do want you to know and
18 everyone else that the Office of Taxicabs is
19 addressing that matter of face card renewal dates
20 so that a driver receives a full two years. So I
21 certainly appreciate that and from this meeting
22 here, we will do the same thing next meeting.

1 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you, Madame
2 Secretary. One of the things that we left for
3 the last part of this meeting is to have newly
4 minted Commissioners give you a word or two about
5 their view on the industry and certainly how
6 they'll be working with us to improve the
7 industry.

8 COMMISSIONER WADE: Good morning
9 everyone. My name is Dotti Love Wade. I'm a
10 native Washingtonian. And my family grew up as
11 cab drivers. I grew up all of my uncles were cab
12 drivers on both my mother's side of the family
13 and on my father's side of the family. And I
14 have been actively involved with taxicab drivers
15 my entire life. As well as a passenger, I worked
16 in federal government for 23 years and oftentimes
17 I took the cabs.

18 My background is that of a public
19 advocate. I'm a former D.C. School Board
20 Representative for Ward 1. I am a nine term
21 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner serving my
22 residents in Ward 1. I've been committed to this

1 city through my public outreach activities. I
2 care deeply for the cab drivers and the public.
3 So I'm an advocate for you and I'm advocate for
4 the ridership.

5 And my role here is to try to make
6 your careers a better career, your experiences
7 with our passengers a better experience, and also
8 for our passengers to have a better experience.

9 I share your angst over the new vehicles for hire
10 and I have concerns, they are being addressed,
11 and I will keep my voice loud and vocal on your
12 behalf. So I'm excited to be here, I look
13 forward to serving each of you. My information
14 will be available on the website I'm sure very
15 shortly. And feel free to reach out to me.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 COMMISSIONER JOLLY: Good morning
19 everyone. My name is Linwood Jolly. I'm a
20 resident of Ward 4. I've been living in
21 Washington, D.C. for over 25 years. I think a
22 lot of you probably are sitting there saying,

1 okay, he isn't a taxi driver. I'm not from your
2 industry, but let me talk to you about what we do
3 agree on and where I do come from. I left
4 Corporate America in 1998 and I started a
5 technology firm. I've been running that same
6 technology firm up until 2014 when I sold it and
7 I've started another one.

8 My background is in small business,
9 I'm a small business owner. I understand what
10 you all are going through, I've been there, and
11 I'm still there. I understand what it takes to
12 lobby, to get legislation to support you. I
13 understand what it takes to level the playing
14 field. But here's something else that I
15 understand, technology has changed the way we all
16 do business, regardless of what sector you're in.
17 I think we all agree on that. And one of the
18 things I hope to bring to this Commission is that
19 understanding of technology and how it's applied
20 to business, how it can work to equalize or level
21 the playing field, but also how it can generate
22 new opportunities.

1 I think a lot of you probably are
2 wondering, well, these guys are sitting here
3 voting and this is their first meeting. Well,
4 no, this is our first Commission meeting, but
5 Commissioner Wade and I have spent a lot of time
6 in this building and we do appreciate the Taxicab
7 Commissioner and his staff for getting us up to
8 speed on a lot of issues that we voted on today.
9 I do understand generally what we voted on today
10 and I have an appreciation for how it applies to
11 your industry. I have listened.

12 Both Commissioner Wade and I in our
13 confirmation hearings said publicly, and we will
14 continue to do so, that we will listen and learn.
15 Commissioner Wade said, she's an advocate for the
16 taxi drivers. I'm an advocate for this industry.
17 And we will listen and learn and, yes, it will
18 take some time to get up to speed, so you can't
19 quiz me on every rule and every subset of a rule,
20 but I am here to learn. I chose to take this
21 appointment and I take this appointment
22 seriously. Commissioner Wade and I have had long

1 discussions about what value we can bring. We
2 look forward to working with you and I appreciate
3 your time and attendance. Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you very much
6 Commissioner Wade and Commissioner Jolly.
7 Commissioner Muhammad or Commissioner Tapscott,
8 anything to add before we wrap this meeting up?

9 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I'd just like
10 to reiterate my position today on voting, that I
11 was not present at our regular Committee meeting
12 and I was reluctant, but I do support this
13 Commission.

14 CHAIRMAN CHRAPPAH: Thank you.
15 Muhammad, any other word? All right. On that
16 note, I would like to thank you all for making
17 the time. And as we look to improve the
18 industry, it's only cooperation that is going to
19 get us there. So, thank you and have a great
20 rest of the week. Meeting adjourned.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 12:07 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript


In the matter of: Commission Meeting

Before: DC Taxicab Commission

Date: 11-18-15

Place: Washington, DC

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