



**Testimony of Aziz Bah
Organizing Director
Independent Drivers Guild (IDG)
Before the City Council Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
February 26, 2024**

Good morning, Chair Brooks-Powers, members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Aziz Bah, I am a for-hire vehicle rideshare driver and the Organizing Director of the Independent Drivers Guild (IDG). I am joined here today by several rideshare drivers in the audience and Andrew Greenblatt, IDG's Policy Director.

As you know, The IDG is a nonprofit affiliate of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), and our organization represents over 140,000 for-hire vehicle drivers in New York State and 300,000 in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Florida and Illinois. The IAMAW is the only union to successfully organize black car workers in New York City and has been doing so for over 25 years.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding a Preconsidered Intro by Council Member Farias that would amend Local Law 33 of 2024 with regard to the compensation received by for-hire vehicle drivers for advertising on the interior of for-hire vehicles.

IDG has long advocated for the right of rideshare drivers to be permitted to place exterior and interior advertising on and within their vehicles ever since TLC's bizarre and unjust decision in August of 2019, when TLC took this revenue enhancing ability away from only app-based rideshare drivers. At the same time, they allowed medallion owners to continue receiving this revenue.

We cannot thank Majority Leader Farias enough for working with IDG on her original bill, Intro 1139-A, that restored a rideshare driver's ability to supplement their income from interior advertising while providing some industry parity for our hard-working rideshare drivers. This amendment would simply address some remaining concerns that were unable to be addressed before the end of the 2023 session.

This pre-considered bill would amend Local Law 33 of 2024 to clarify that any driver of a for-hire vehicle with an approved tablet in their vehicle would receive a “minimum” of 25 percent of the “gross” revenue generated by such tablet in their vehicle.

Inserting the word “minimum” before “25 percent” establishes that drivers will have a regular and predictable minimum share of the revenue while providing the opportunity for the market to play a role in any future increases. As such, it will allow the interior advertising providers to compete for driver services. And inserting the word “gross” before “revenue” would ensure that drivers get a fair share of the total revenue generated without any undue taxes, fees or expenses that drivers should not be held responsible for.

We would also encourage the Council to at some point allow for roof-top advertising on rideshare vehicles, to have complete parity with medallion owners and provide our drivers with much-needed additional income this will also produce.

We again thank Chair Brooks-Powers, Majority Leader Farias and the Members of the committee for all your continued support for rideshare drivers.

Thank you.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 0738 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/26/24

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aziz Bah

Address: [redacted]

I represent: Independent Drivers Guild

Address: 4109 36th St Queens, NY 11101

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. ~~0472~~ 0738 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Andrew Greenblatt

Address: [redacted] South End Ave NYC 10240

I represent: Independent Drivers Guild

Address: 4109 36th St, #3 Queens NY 11101

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 2/26

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christopher Antonia

Address: [redacted] Buffalo Avenue [redacted]

I represent: Self

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms