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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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August 27, 2020
Start: 11:59 a.m.
Recess: 12:09 p.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: Ydanis A. Rodriguez,
Chairperson

- COUNCIL MEMBERS:
- Fernando Cabrera
 - Andrew Cohen
 - Chaim M. Deutsch
 - Ruben Diaz, Sr.
 - Robert F. Holden
 - Peter A. Koo
 - Stephen T. Levin
 - Mark Levine
 - Carlos Menchaca
 - I. Daneek Miller
 - Antonio Reynoso
 - Donovan J. Richards
 - Deborah L. Rose

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SERGEANT DAUTAJ: Recording is good.

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SERGEANT SADOWSKY: And Sergeant Hope, you may begin with your opening. Thank you.

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SERGEANT HOPE: Good morning. Good afternoon and welcome to today's - one minute sir, I am just on my opening. Good afternoon, welcome to the Committee on Transportation. Would all Council Staff please turn their video on at this time.

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To minimize disruption please place all electronic devices to vibrate or silent. Chair Rodriguez, you may begin.

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CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. Good afternoon and welcome to today's remote hearing of the City Council Committee on Transportation. I am Ydanis Rodriguez, Chair of this Committee. We have been joined by a number of colleagues. I would like the Sergeants to then call their name.

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Today, we will be voting on Proposed Intro. Number 1865-A, a bill that I have sponsored in relation to the creation of a livery and black car task force.

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The task force created under this bill will be charged with starting the numerous challenges this particular sector is currently experiencing. The

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livery and traditional black car industries are in a crisis and the task force will play a major role in identifying suggestions and ideas to rescue them.

In 2014, we had an average of 50,000 livery vehicles operating the city. For the surprise of all of us here, in the whole city of New York, that number went down to 10,000. That's what we have today. A drop of 40,000 livery vehicle loss. Some people were saved but then they go to Uber and Lyft, where some of them didn't but many of them, they lost their job because many of those places such as the one that we have uptown, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island, they were competing against the Uber and Lyft and they lost those drivers and those drivers never went back to them.

These for-hire vehicles has serviced our community for decades. I used to be one of them. I used to be one to of Bailey car service and car service in Manhattan and the Bronx. And we were vital, we were providing vital services for many essential workers also during the height of the pandemic.

It is no secret that for the last ten years livery and black car bases has been losing hundreds

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and thousands, sorry thousands of drivers and many livery bases have been forced to shut it down.

We need solutions that will help this industry to survive. Unfortunately, even at a time when the MTA closed their midnight service, it was not the livery who were invited to be part of providing alternative transportation. It was Uber and it was Lyft, so they are competing in this advantage.

The task force will also study the potential impact of advertising in the buy ability of advertising additional revenue source for drivers in the livery and black car and other for-hire vehicle industry.

No later than 250 days after this bill becomes law, the task force shall issue a report with their finding and recommendations and the TLC Chair should publish such report online. This task force will be similar in the scope to the task force the Council created and the recent study the medallion and the yellow industry.

Unfortunately, we also need to learn from that experience. That task force has with a lot of recommendations, none of them has been implemented.

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I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this piece of legislation [SPEAKING IN SPANISH 4:25-5:21].

I urge my colleagues again to vote yes on this piece of legislation and ask the Committee Clerk to call a vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Good afternoon. William Martin, Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on Transportation Introduction 1865-A. Chair Rodriguez?

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Permission to explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you Chair. It is good to see everybody. I am definitely going to vote aye on this important piece of legislation and taking a look at this industry.

I have voiced concern in the past about sort of this piecemeal approach and I really do feel that this is an industry in need of a you know, a really more comprehensive sort of global examination as to what we could do. You know, every component of this

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industry seems to have real struggles and faces you know, incredible challenges but I do appreciate the Chairs you know, nonstop advocacy, particularly for the drivers. And so, with that, I'm going to vote aye. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye as well.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Affirmative.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I want to thank the Chair for the work that he's been doing to reach out and get a grasp on what's happening in our taxi

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industry. But I also, like Council Member Cohen, believe that we should be doing something more comprehensive and the fact that we haven't at this point is really concerning to me. I do think that is going to be a small step into getting to the bigger picture and in order to encourage that conversation to happen, I'm going to vote no on this legislation until we have a conversation about a comprehensive and complete revamping and reimagining of TLC. So, I vote no.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richards?
Council Member Richards, I believe you are muted. I will come back. Council Member Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richards? Okay, Council Member Richards is present. The vote for the Committee on Transportation Introduction 1865-A is 11 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and no abstentions. Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you everyone and especially the staff who worked on this bill and all

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my colleagues. And with that, this hearing is
adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date AUGUST 31 , 2020