

**New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission
Chair Nominee - Meera Joshi**

**Opening Remarks
Before the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections
April 3, 2014**

Thank you very much, Speaker Mark-Viverito, Chair Lander and Transportation Chair Rodriguez, and members of the Committee for this opportunity to appear before you and answer any questions you may have. I would also like to thank Mayor de Blasio for the great honor and privilege of being nominated to the position of Chair and Commissioner of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. I appreciate the magnitude of the position and am certain I have the skills and experience necessary to fulfill it.

The people and businesses licensed by the TLC are responsible for moving over one million passengers in New York City every day, third only to the City's subway and bus systems. I have a deep understanding of the rules and laws that govern them and I am well-versed in the often competing concerns of these industry stakeholders. I have also more than a decade of New York City management and oversight experience, with a focus on uncovering abuses of power and I have earned a reputation for fairness, sound judgment and fact-based decision making. Having served the public for the majority of my professional life, I have an appreciation for earning and keeping the public's trust. If I am confirmed, my priority goals are to set a new bar for driver and vehicle safety, provide equal access to for-hire transportation services, ensure that drivers can earn a sustainable income, and provide passengers with seamless service. I look forward to working closely with all segments of the industry and the Council, on behalf of its constituents, to further elevate New York City's world class for-hire transportation system



**Testimony of Cira Angeles
Spokesperson of the Livery Base Owners
Association
Before**

**The Council of the City of New York
Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections**

**Hearing – Appointment of Meera Joshi as a Chair of the
New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission**

April 3, 2014 10:30 a.m.

Good morning Mr. Chairman, members of the committee and industry colleagues. My name is Cira Angeles, spokesperson for the Livery Base Owners Association, composed of 125 base owners with approximately 12,000 affiliated vehicles throughout New York City.

I want to thank Chair Brad Lander and the Members of the New York City Council Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections for holding this hearing on the appointment of Meera Joshi as Chair of the Taxi and Limousine Commission (“TLC”) today and for the opportunity to testify.

Members of Livery Base Owners, Inc. and I have fought to protect the rights of livery drivers and base owners in our communities – we have been a vocal advocate for the industry that employs hundreds of immigrants in our communities for over 40 years. We work closely with the TLC every day to help livery drivers on a range of issues including proactively working on new legislation and programs.

The next TLC Commissioner will preside over the realization of the five-borough taxi system, modernization of the compliance system and improvements for wheelchair riders among many other issues. We are looking for a Commissioner who will unify the industry, who truly understands each component and entity, who will objectively resolve issues and who proactively protect and educate drivers – I cannot think of a better person to do that than Meera Joshi.

Ms. Joshi has served our City for over a decade. In that time she has spent a third of it at the TLC as the General Counsel and Deputy Commissioner of Legal Affairs. While at the TLC Ms. Joshi came to be known as a powerhouse, leading many multiparty contract negotiations and settlement agreements. Through it all she has always strived to protect our drivers, combating fraud and prosecuting responsible parties always seeking advice and consideration from us along the way.

As spokesperson for the Livery Base Owners Association, Ms. Joshi invited me and members of the organization to discussions on legislation that impacts the industry. During her time at the TLC Ms. Joshi participated in several town hall meetings and forums to help educate drivers on

new regulations – each and every time she included us – giving a voice to the livery industry’s unique needs that we’ve never had before.

Over the past four years we’ve come to know Ms. Joshi as a person who has helped us, understood us and gracefully navigated negotiations to come to fair and equitable solutions that grow our industry as a whole while not harming any entities economic viability.

Under Ms. Joshi’s guidance I am confident that the TLC will make smart improvements that help and protect drivers and riders, launch new initiatives that help our City and seek remedy for any wrongdoing on behalf of drivers or riders. I know Ms. Joshi will continue to include us in any changes, new initiatives or conversations about our industry and I strongly believe that she is the best choice to serve as the next TLC Commissioner.

I again want to thank Chair Lander and the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections for holding this hearing. I look forward working with Ms. Joshi when she is appointed as TLC Commissioner.

**Testimony from Carolyn Castro, Executive Director of the Livery Roundtable
Before the Rules Committee on the appointment of Meera Joshi for
Commissioner of the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission**

April 3, 2014

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Good morning Members of the Council, I won't take up too much of your time as our appearance here is merely to share in the good nature of this nomination. My name is Carolyn Castro and I work on behalf of the Livery Roundtable. The Livery Roundtable's mission is to work on behalf of the livery industry in promoting dialog that enhances fairness, innovation, and empowerment amongst our cohorts. We congratulate Ms. Joshi on this promotion and have no doubt she will approach this position, as she did when General Counsel, with fairness, patience and logic for all involved. We firmly believe the best person was chosen to lead the industry in this next administration and are looking forward to scheduling meetings with Ms. Joshi in the near future.

Thank you



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Spokesperson of the Livery Base Owners
Association
Before**

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**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: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Meera Joshi

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bhairavi Desai

Address: _____

I represent: New York Taxi Workers Alliance

Address: _____

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in favor in opposition

Date: 04/1/14

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Name: José R. JAEN

Address: 1804 RAMPALL AVE. BT NY

I represent: NY State Federation of TAXI

Address: _____
DRIVER

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Date: 4/3/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cira Angeles

Address: _____

I represent: LiveryBASE Owners

Address: _____

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Name: Bill LINDAUER

Address: 250 Fifth Ave. NY NY

I represent: NYTWA

Address: _____

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Name: Candyn Castro

Address: 43-23 35th St

I represent: Livery Roundtable

Address: _____

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Name: Dan Ackman

Address: 222 Broadway - 15th fl, NYC 10038

I represent: ~~tax~~ attorney for tax drivers

Address: _____

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Name: Nelson Julio Rodriguez

Address: 186 W 180th Bronx NY

I represent: Coalition of Taxi Drivers of NY
General SE

Address: _____

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Name: Victor A. Medina

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I represent: _____

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Name: Arthur Goldstein (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Toxicol Service Assn

Address: _____

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Date: _____

Name: Beresford Simmons (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 250-5th Ave

I represent: TWA

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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in favor in opposition

Date: 4/2/14

Name: MANNING HARRIS (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: NY TWA

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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