

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

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July 13, 2017  
Start: 10:58 a.m.  
Recess: 11:24 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

BRAD S. LANDER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Daniel R. Garodnick  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Margaret S. Chin  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mark Levine  
The Speaker (Council  
Member Mark-Viverito)  
Steven Matteo  
Mark Treyger

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Thomas Sorrentino

Nominee

NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission

2 [sound check]

3 [pause]

4 [background comments]

5 [gavel]

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you, good  
7 morning. Welcome to the New York City Council  
8 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections. I'm  
9 Brad Lander, chair of the Committee and we're joined  
10 this morning by members of the Committee -- Council  
11 Member Jumaane Williams from Brooklyn, Council Member  
12 Margaret Chin from Manhattan, Council Member Debi  
13 Rose from Staten Island, and other members will  
14 likely join us as well. Thank you. I would like to  
15 acknowledge the Committee Counsel, Elizabeth Guzman  
16 and thank the staff members for the Investigative  
17 Unit who, as always, have prepared us well with lots  
18 of good background research for the hearing -- Chuck  
19 Davis, our Director of Investigations, as well as  
20 Andre Johnson-Brown and our Legislative Intern,  
21 Joseph Anderson.

22 In a letter dated June 16, 2017, Mayor  
23 Bill de Blasio formally submitted the name of Thomas  
24 Sorrentino to the Council for our advice and consent  
25 regarding the recommendation by the Brooklyn

2 Delegation of the City Council for appointment to the  
3 New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. If  
4 Mr. Sorrentino, who is a Brooklyn resident, receives  
5 the advice and consent of the Council and is  
6 subsequently appointed to the TLC, he will be  
7 eligible to complete the remainder of a seven-year  
8 term expiring on January 31, 2022; this is filling  
9 the seat which was made vacant with Frank Carone, who  
10 was the previous Brooklyn rep on the TLC, resigned.

11 I won't go into its whole TLC authorization,  
12 creation, responsibilities, history, and future, but  
13 it's a pretty interesting set of laws and rules and  
14 questions right now; actually, they're doing a  
15 hearing this morning over at the TLC on whether to  
16 require app-based companies like Uber to offer a  
17 tipping option. It was just reported that they are  
18 considering some new accessibility rules that would  
19 require for-hire vehicles, in some percentage, to  
20 offer accessibility, as yellow taxis already do; some  
21 folks know that the State created a new autonomous  
22 vehicle testing program, so I suspect before too long  
23 the TLC will have to turn to the question of  
24 driverless for-hire vehicles, so it is an important  
25 policy-setting body and also, as Council Member

2 Williams and others have looked at, things like  
3 commuter vans and issues that make a big difference  
4 in our neighborhoods. So an important role and we're  
5 grateful to the members who serve, and I will note  
6 that other than the chair, which is a salaried  
7 position, the other members of the TLC don't receive  
8 any compensation for their service, so we're grateful  
9 to those who do it without compensation and we are  
10 grateful to have Mr. Sorrentino here, whose  
11 nomination was put forward by the Brooklyn Delegation  
12 and then submitted formally by the Mayor, with us  
13 this morning; he'll make an opening statement and  
14 then we can ask some questions; I'll also call to  
15 members' attention that he submitted responses to  
16 written questions prepared by the Council in advance,  
17 which are in your materials, as well as other  
18 background materials on him.

19 So Mr. Sorrentino, we ask folks who  
20 appear before us to swear or affirm that they're  
21 going to tell the truth, so if you'll raise your  
22 right hand, our counsel will swear or affirm you in.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Good morning..

24 [crosstalk]

25 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Good morning.

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Do you swear or  
3 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth?

4 THOMAS SORRENTINO: I do.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you; you can  
7 now proceed to give your opening statement.

8 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Okay. Good morning.  
9 I would like to thank all the members of the  
10 Committee for having me here today; it is my pleasure  
11 and honor to be with you regarding my potential  
12 appointment to the New York City Taxi and Limousine  
13 Commission. I am looking forward to serving on the  
14 Commission and serving the City of New York, a city  
15 which I have called home my entire life. As a  
16 lifetime New Yorker, I believe that I bring a certain  
17 hometown understanding and perspective that will  
18 provide me with some helpful insights with regard to  
19 the views of the residents of our city as they  
20 pertain to the transportation issues and related  
21 matters that we all deal with on a daily basis,  
22 particularly those related to taxi cabs and other  
23 for-hire vehicle services, both here in Manhattan and  
24 in the outer boroughs.

2 By way of background, I am a lifelong  
3 resident of Brooklyn, New York, where I grew up and  
4 have also raised my family. I am a graduate of New  
5 York University and I am a licensed certified public  
6 accountant in New York and New Jersey. I am a  
7 partner with the firm of PKF O'Connor Davies LLP here  
8 in New York City, where I have practiced for over 30  
9 years.

10 Over the years I have been involved in a  
11 variety of professional, business, civic and  
12 charitable organizations and associations which has  
13 provided me with the privilege and honor to have met  
14 and served with a broad array of individuals and to  
15 work on a multitude of projects and events.

16 More recently I have served as a member  
17 of Community Board 18 in Brooklyn and on its  
18 Transportation Committee and currently serve as a  
19 member on the Executive Committee on the Board of the  
20 Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. These experiences have  
21 allowed me to hear the concerns and issues that are  
22 important to the everyday lives of individuals who  
23 live, work and do business here in our city. One of  
24 the most constant and repeated points of interest for  
25 almost everyone that I come into contact with in

2 these settings are transportation-related matters,  
3 whether they relate to mass transit issues, car  
4 transportation issues such as accessing a cab or  
5 other for-hire vehicles, traffic and infrastructure  
6 concerns, etc.; these topics seem to impact every New  
7 Yorker in some fashion on both a person and a  
8 business level. As such, I believe that I am  
9 somewhat in tune with an important set of issues that  
10 affect so many people. I would consider serving on  
11 the Commission a privilege that would allow me to try  
12 and bring some measure of life and professional  
13 experience to work in collaboration with other  
14 dedicated individuals who serve on the Commission  
15 along with a dedicated and professional staff to deal  
16 with the issues and matters that impact all the  
17 stakeholders within the purview of the regulatory  
18 oversight of the TLC.

19 I realize that there are many issues and  
20 matters that need to be addressed and resolved as it  
21 pertains to this industry and new policies to be  
22 formulated to meet the challenges of an ever-changing  
23 landscape and business environment, with the ultimate  
24 objective of providing service to the riding public  
25 that is safe, reliable and accessible to everyone.

2 We must also keep in mind that the drivers and owners  
3 who provide these services are equally and vitally as  
4 important to the success and ability to provide the  
5 public with the level of service that one would  
6 expect in our great city.

7 I thank you again for this opportunity  
8 and can only say that if I am afforded the chance to  
9 serve on the Commission I will put forth the  
10 necessary effort and energy to be a productive  
11 member. I look forward to answering any questions  
12 you may have for me.

13 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you very much.  
14 I'll ask just a question or two and then turn it over  
15 to my colleagues if they have questions.

16 You alluded to some of this in your  
17 testimony and to some of the answers you submitted to  
18 us in advance, but obviously there's, you know, just  
19 a whole series of hot button issues in this general  
20 field these days -- the tipping question at the  
21 hearing this morning; we talked about accessibility  
22 issues; it's a rapidly evolving field as a result of  
23 technology, you know, the changes that were made  
24 around green taxi cab almost instantly felt out-paced  
25 by just the pace of change. You know, how will you

2 evaluate what policies are appropriate and necessary  
3 in such a fast-moving field to determine what's the  
4 right and fair balance for customers' safety, for  
5 drivers, for the city?

6 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Well you touched upon  
7 quite a bit of items and I'm aware that this whole  
8 sector is a very fast-changing sector, and for the  
9 reasons that you've just mentioned, and I think one  
10 of the things I could try to bring to the Commission  
11 is my ability to listen, to try to hear all sides, to  
12 hear different perspectives and to really try to come  
13 up with a balance that serves both the general public  
14 as well as the drivers and the owners; I think  
15 there's gotta be some type of relationship where  
16 everybody -- it works for everyone, with the primary  
17 aspect of trying to make the transportation for the  
18 city residents and visitors safe, reliable and  
19 accessible.

20 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Okay and I suspect  
21 my colleagues will drill down on some of those issues  
22 in their questions and I can come back to some of  
23 them as well.

24 I just want to ask; I know that you have  
25 some involvements in civic and political life that,

2 you know while they aren't conflicts of the sort that  
3 they embed you in the TLC industry are prohibited by  
4 the various rules that govern; if you could just go  
5 over what those current involvements are and affirm  
6 your plans to resign or step back from them in ways  
7 that would remove those conflicts... [crosstalk]

8 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Certainly. I am a  
9 member of my Community Board, which is Community  
10 Board 18 in Brooklyn; my term I believe concluded in  
11 June of this past year; I will not be seeking to be  
12 reappointed on that, so I will not be a member going  
13 forward into the new year which starts in September,  
14 so that should be fine, and if I need to, I will  
15 certainly resign from that.

16 I also act as a treasury for a political  
17 committee for the Kings County Chairman, which I will  
18 be resigning from very shortly; I have one filing to  
19 do for the July 2017 period end; once that's  
20 concluded, I will be resigning from that position.

21 I am also the treasurer on a dormant  
22 committee for a former State assemblyman that I will  
23 be... we're working to close that committee out and the  
24 account on that. My intention is to resign from that  
25

2 as soon as we conclude that process, which hopefully  
3 will be very shortly.

4 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: And just to clarify  
5 on this final one, 'cause we had a little chance to  
6 talk in advance; on that third issue, that's a long  
7 dormant committee from a prior election and that you  
8 would be open to resigning or stepping back from it  
9 but the State wants it to get closed and resolved and  
10 obviously, since you were the treasurer once, to  
11 conclude it with you; as I understand, at least the  
12 intention of the prohibition or the conflict is to  
13 make sure that appointees with significant policy  
14 discretion, like the TLC commissioners have, don't  
15 engage in fundraising and so since that committee is  
16 dormant for a past election, it is not engaging in  
17 any fundraising; is that correct?

18 THOMAS SORRENTINO: That is correct, that  
19 is a dormant committee; the person who I am the  
20 treasurer for has not been in office for several  
21 years now; there are no fundraising activities of the  
22 like and there's no intention to do anything going  
23 forward with that except close it out.

24

25

2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: So you would not be  
3 engaging in any political fundraising while you're  
4 in... [crosstalk]

5 THOMAS SORRENTINO: That's correct.

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: this position, as  
7 required by the Charter. And I'll just let members  
8 know; we're asking for some legal guidance and  
9 clarity, just to clarify, assuming that is a  
10 prohibition on fundraising we're totally in the  
11 clear; if there is a more technical issue that needs  
12 to be explored, we'll figure it out and get that  
13 addressed with Mr. Sorrentino.

14 Let me welcome -- we've also been joined  
15 by a member of the Committee from Manhattan, Council  
16 Member Mark Levine and though not a member of the  
17 Committee, the co-chair of the Brooklyn Delegation,  
18 whose nominee this is, Council Member Mark Treyger.  
19 Good morning and welcome to both of you.

20 Alright, let me turn it over to  
21 colleagues if they have questions or statements now,  
22 and I may come back with a couple of... [crosstalk]

23 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Okay.

24 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: questions at the  
25 end. Council Member Williams.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Chair. Thank you, sir for being here. I see  
4 you have served on Community Board 18; so did I; I  
5 don't know if we were there at the same time, but  
6 it's a pretty good Community Board, and you have a  
7 good resume, so thank you. I do wanna just get an  
8 idea what made you interested particularly in TLC?

9 THOMAS SORRENTINO: I'm sorry; I didn't  
10 hear that.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: What made you  
12 interested particularly in TLC, in the  
13 transportation?

14 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Well as I mentioned  
15 in my opening statement, I've lived in Brooklyn my  
16 entire life; I'm a lifelong New Yorker, and I access  
17 transportation, you know either mass transit -- I  
18 still take the subways these days -- and I do use the  
19 medallion services in Manhattan and I also use the  
20 green cabs in Brooklyn, which I think was a great  
21 addition when that first came out, because one of the  
22 things I experienced being a Brooklynite is that, you  
23 know, that was always underserved from a taxi point  
24 of view and having the green cabs, the green hail  
25 service available was a great addition. So to me,

2 you know I think being a New Yorker, understanding  
3 the transportation needs of the boroughs, the outer  
4 boroughs especially, I think would be something that  
5 I could add a perspective to and hopefully I can.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: When I was on  
7 Community Board 18, I was usually against the grain  
8 -- surprise to not many folks -- but this one was on  
9 dollar vans, also called commuter vans, and we've  
10 come a long way in trying to make sure that they are  
11 more mainstreamed; thankfully, this TLC in particular  
12 and this Administration, we found ways to make sure  
13 that the public knows who is licensed, who is  
14 insured; there are still some issues that we have to  
15 work through, the former rep from Brooklyn, we didn't  
16 always see eye to eye on it; thankfully he didn't do  
17 much to block it, but I don't know if he was  
18 particularly into pushing it, so I wanted to know  
19 what your position is on the commuter van industry  
20 and how we can make them more mainstream and bring  
21 them more into the fold of transportation in the  
22 city.

23 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Well I think commuter  
24 vans are an important aspect of transportation,  
25 especially in the outer boroughs and living in

2 Brooklyn, I do know that it's a vital way for people  
3 to get around and I think the most important thing is  
4 to ensure that the vans that are out there are  
5 licensed, they're legal and they're safe. I  
6 understand that there are vans that operate that are  
7 not licensed and I think that's a safety concern to  
8 the public. So to me, I think the resources of the  
9 City and the TLC should be devoted to trying to get  
10 that van service, if you will, properly working where  
11 it could serve the community. I think it's an  
12 important aspect of transportation, in Brooklyn  
13 especially.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Well I

15 appreciate that, particularly coming from Community  
16 Board 18 and I don't know; maybe they've changed  
17 their tune now; I haven't been there discussing this  
18 issue in a while and I don't know when you served,  
19 but I'm just glad to hear that you have that point of  
20 view; I guess times are changing and people are  
21 really beginning to see the benefit of -- and the  
22 City has seen it for a while; every time there's a  
23 crisis, they go straight to the commuter vans and  
24 after the crisis, they kind of regulate them back to  
25 the way they were, but hopefully we can work together

2 to continue to make sure that they're licensed and  
3 they're insured, and this body actually has done a  
4 lot to pass legislation to make sure that they're  
5 moving properly. We too want to step up enforcement  
6 on those that aren't insured and do not have licenses  
7 and I'd love to do whatever we can to try to get some  
8 of those rogue ones off the road, because -- I know  
9 everyone wants to make money, but if something  
10 happens, the passengers are not protected at all.

11 My last question just has to do with the  
12 L train; there has been some of the industry people  
13 in the commuter vans trying to see if they can  
14 provide their service there; there's a bit of a  
15 kerfuffle, for lack of a better word, now on what's  
16 gonna happen there; I guess until folks figure out  
17 some other things, but in the meantime, more  
18 established companies -- Uber and Lyft -- although  
19 they're trying to say they don't want anything in  
20 that lane, I guess, until they figure out what's  
21 gonna happen; the more established companies, I  
22 should say the bigger and richer companies, are  
23 already making headway and some of the smaller guys  
24 and the immigrant folks are not being able to,  
25 particularly the commuter vans, who want to work,

2 whosever [sic] guidelines are being set; do you know  
3 much about it; do you have opinion on how we can make  
4 sure that everybody has access to that area if we're  
5 going to provide an alternative?

6 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Well the one thing I  
7 can say; I do actually take the L train myself, so I  
8 am an avid rider of the L train; I actually started  
9 from the Canarsie point, first stop, so I'll be  
10 personally facing that issue myself in the next year  
11 or so, once they do break down the stops for the work  
12 they're going to do. So I realize that's gonna be a  
13 major need for a lot of people who take that train  
14 line, so there's gotta be some alternative  
15 transportation methods that could serve everybody,  
16 because I understand the L train is one of the, if  
17 not the most, traveled lines in the city; it's gonna  
18 cause a lot of havoc for a lot of people and also for  
19 the businesses and the residents along those lines.  
20 So to me, I think that's an area that needs to be  
21 looked at very closely from all parts of the city,  
22 from mass transit as well as the TLC, so I think... you  
23 know I would be open to anything that would work and  
24 be manageable for everybody.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So some of the  
3 sentiment is that they want to provide I guess less  
4 cars I guess as an alternative; they're trying to  
5 find some other ways, which I think is fine; my only  
6 thing is that if we're going to provide alternatives  
7 that uses gas, I guess, for lack of a better word, I  
8 just wanna make sure that all industries have access  
9 to it, including the commuter van, so is that  
10 something that you would think makes sense or would  
11 agree to?

12 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Yes, I would be open  
13 to anything you know that would be manageable and  
14 taking those considerations into play as well, yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very  
16 much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you. Welcome  
18 Council Member Garodnick. Are there other members  
19 with specific questions for Mr. Sorrentino? Council  
20 Member Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, I... Thank you  
22 and thank you, Mr. Sorrentino for willing to serve.  
23 I was just looking at some of your questions.  
24 Because the industry is changing; I know that the TLC  
25 -- follow-up on what my colleague, Council Member

2 Williams has said -- TLC has been very supportive of  
3 the commuter van industry and has worked, you know,  
4 in my district, with me and also with Council Member  
5 Koo, because we have a commuter van that goes back  
6 and forth between Chinatown and Brooklyn and Flushing  
7 and we work really hard on finding legal, you know  
8 stops for them so that people know where to find them  
9 and so we just wanna make sure that TLC continues to  
10 really work with this industry and help them improve,  
11 because I think I remember from the Commissioner at  
12 some of the hearings, they actually need more  
13 drivers, and that is something that I think we do  
14 need to support because it's affordable,  
15 comparatively to car service and things like that.  
16 My question as relates to the traditional industry of  
17 the yellow cab and the expansion of the green cab in  
18 the outer boroughs, 'cause now there are all these  
19 competitions from these, you know, Uber and all these  
20 folks; we have to make sure that somehow we don't  
21 lose the cab industry, because we did so much to try  
22 to expand it to the outer boroughs and as you mention  
23 in your answers, even the green cabs, they're not  
24 everywhere, right... [crosstalk]

25 THOMAS SORRENTINO: That's correct.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: and even yellow  
3 cabs, it's only in certain areas, more or less, but  
4 we have to still find a way to make sure that they  
5 can survive, because they're the ones that are  
6 working with us to make their cabs accessible versus  
7 the app industry, they're not, and I know that the  
8 TLC Commissioner has made some demands and sort of  
9 some percentage of accessibility going forward, but  
10 what is your opinion in terms of really finding a way  
11 to make sure that we don't lose the cab industry, the  
12 yellow and the green?

13 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Well I would agree  
14 with you that, you know from my perspective as a New  
15 Yorker, yellow cabs have been a staple of the city  
16 and you know, it's just something that you would  
17 never want to lose, so you know, in my judgment, in  
18 my opinion, if I was to serve on the Commission, I  
19 would do everything that would be possible to have an  
20 open mind to do everything to regulate the yellow in  
21 a fashion that would be fair to them, fair to the  
22 owners, fair to the drivers, and allow them to  
23 flourish as well. I know there's been a lot of  
24 challenges lately to the whole industry, for a hose  
25 of reasons, but I would be a proponent for trying to

2 make the yellow cabs viable as well as the green  
3 cabs, which I had mentioned in my responses I thought  
4 was a great addition to the outer boroughs and I just  
5 personally wish they were more accessible throughout  
6 the boroughs, because you know, in certain location  
7 -- the high business areas, the events areas -- you  
8 see them, but in the outer parts of the borough you  
9 don't, and that's where you really need them, but I  
10 would be open to that certainly.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I look forward to  
12 working with you on that. Thank you. Thank you,  
13 Chair.

14 THOMAS SORRENTINO: You're welcome.

15 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you, Council  
16 Member Chin. We had some guests in the gallery and  
17 now they're heading out; we'll say farewell to them;  
18 we're not entirely sure who they were, but.

19 Alright, Council Member Williams and then  
20 I... [interpose]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Just really  
22 quickly, sorry. I just wanted to shout-out, Council  
23 Member Daneek Miller for all the work that he did  
24 with me as well on the dollar van issue.

2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Okay. Council  
3 Member Treyger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you, Chair  
5 Lander, for your leadership. And I just wanna just  
6 make a brief statement of support and to say how you  
7 know that Mr. Sorrentino earned the overwhelming  
8 majority of the Brooklyn Delegation, the largest  
9 delegation in the City Council. And I also wanna  
10 just note that your resume is very strong, your  
11 professional credentials very strong, but the thing  
12 that I really appreciate is your connections to  
13 community, your civic credentials. I think sometimes  
14 folks in government, whether you're on TLC or any  
15 type of board or a group, sometimes people get lost  
16 in a bubble, but you've never lost your roots to the  
17 community, being a member of Community Board 18,  
18 being a part of so many different organizations, in  
19 providing you know pro bono, just volunteering your  
20 time and I think that that's important, because  
21 that's where you hear real concerns, real issues come  
22 up and so I just wanna really credit you on that.

23 I also just wanna note that, you know are  
24 replacing someone, the previous member from Brooklyn,  
25 Frank Carone, who really spearheaded the issue of

2 accessibility for all, and that's something that I  
3 just think we need to continue to encourage, making  
4 sure that our transportation services are really  
5 complying with all laws but really just continuing to  
6 champion the issue and making sure that we are  
7 accessible for all people; that is something that I  
8 know Mr. Carone took very serious; we take very  
9 serious, and we hope that you will continue and your  
10 answers have been spot-on on that issue and we  
11 appreciate you and wish you continued success and  
12 congratulations.

13 THOMAS SORRENTINO: I thank you for that  
14 and just to your point about accessibility, I do feel  
15 strongly about that as well; I believe it's very  
16 important that we continue on that path, so I will do  
17 my best to continue that.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,  
19 thanks so much.

20 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you, Council  
21 Member Treyger. I'll just add one comment here and  
22 this kind of builds off my first question, but I  
23 think it goes to some of these as well; this is just  
24 more like my hope for your service, and I'll extend  
25 what Council Member Treyger said, obviously this is a

2 position without a lot of glamour or glory or any  
3 compensation, so we appreciate your doing it. And I  
4 very much appreciate the style of kind of listening  
5 and stakeholder balancing that you have done in your  
6 career and commit to do here; I do think... I'm  
7 encouraged by the way the TLC has been stepping up a  
8 little more aggressively on some of these issues like  
9 accessibility, like tipping and I'm eager to see that  
10 continue, even as we look to balance all the  
11 stakeholders, you know I do have concerns with the  
12 way that some of these big new entrants, I mean Uber  
13 especially, but you know that's a big corporation  
14 with a lot of reasons to be concerned that their  
15 interests don't match the public interests in New  
16 York City, whether that's thought of as the riders,  
17 people with disabilities, their drivers, our  
18 neighborhoods; much less, obviously, the incumbent  
19 actors in the system, who, as Council Member Chin  
20 said, you know in the case of the yellows, are  
21 important for achieving service. So while I  
22 appreciate your tenure of sort of balance, I would  
23 just urge ambitious and aggressive action in pursuit  
24 of the public interest, and it's not always easy to  
25 ascertain what's the public interest, because

2 existing drivers in all the different systems are New  
3 Yorkers and we care about them and want them to have  
4 a decent living; people who rely on all kinds of  
5 these different systems, neighbors who are dealing  
6 with some of the challenges of the commuter vans, you  
7 know it's a diverse public interest, but really  
8 ambitiously advocating for those public interests and  
9 being willing to regulate private actors, especially  
10 the big corporate ones who might not share those  
11 goals; that's important for all of us, so that's just  
12 sort of a personal soapbox, but inasmuch as we'll  
13 very likely be recommending and nominating you to the  
14 TLC, I hope that's the disposition that you'll bring.

15 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Yes, I certainly will  
16 keep my mind open and try to consider all the aspects  
17 and all the stakeholders with the public interests in  
18 mind especially, certainly.

19 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you. Unless  
20 any other members have questions, we'll go ahead and  
21 close the public hearing. We don't, as we explained  
22 in advance, vote at the first time in this committee;  
23 we recess the hearing and it'll be pulled out of  
24 recess on the day of next week's Council's Stated  
25 Meeting; that'll give us some time to follow up on

2 this one issue that we talked about around that  
3 dormant state-level committee and just confirm that  
4 because you're not doing any fundraising for it  
5 there's no issue there; be able to recommend and vote  
6 this out of committee next week at the State Meeting  
7 and bring it to the floor of the Full Council and  
8 then send it over to the Mayor for appointment.

9 THOMAS SORRENTINO: Okay. Thank you very  
10 much.

11 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: With that we close  
12 this public hearing and we put the Rules Committee  
13 into recess. Thank you.

14 [gavel]

15 [background comments]

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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 July 17, 2017