

**Testimony of William Heinzen, Acting Commissioner  
New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC)  
New York City Council Committee on Finance  
June 13, 2019**

**Pre-Considered Bill: T2019-4661**

On behalf of TLC, we want to thank Speaker Corey Johnson and Chair Dromm for their advocacy on behalf of our licensees. Medallion taxi cabs currently pay a much higher commercial motor vehicle tax (CMVT) rate in New York City than other vehicles that are permitted to transport passengers' for-hire. The current annual tax is \$1,000 for each taxicab and \$400 for each for-hire vehicle. The tax is borne by the vehicle owner.

Pre-Considered Bill T2019-4661 would enhance equity among the various for-hire industries. To ensure that each vehicle using the streets pays a proportionate share of road maintenance, this bill proposes to equalize CMVT rates for all vehicles that transport passengers in New York City at a rate not to exceed the current rate charged to non-taxicab for-hire vehicles.

The bill would complement other steps that the TLC had recently taken to assist medallion owners. Specifically, the TLC will not collect medallion renewal fees for this renewal cycle from yellow cab medallion owners, accounting for millions in collective savings for the industry.

The City will also create a new driver assistance center that will have on-site staff to help connect drivers with relevant financial and health services including, financial counseling and debt restructuring, referrals to health services and screening for HRA benefits.

TLC is supportive of pre-considered bill T2019-4661 which reduces the tax burden on the taxicab sector. We look forward to working with Council for additional steps the City can take to ensure a vibrant taxi industry.

**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: Bhairavi Desai

Address: 20 E 85th St #14D Bx, NY 10475

I represent: New York Taxi Workers Alliance

Address: 31-10 37th Ave LIC, NY 11101

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