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**Statement of Ron Sherman, President
Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade on the City Council's
For-Hire-Vehicle Legislation**

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In the last few years, Uber and other ride share companies have congested Manhattan streets, deprived passengers in wheelchairs from receiving meaningful service and decimated the lives of immigrant taxi drivers and their families. Several taxi drivers have tragically committed suicide, finding it too difficult to compete with the bullying influence of multi-billion-dollar Silicon Valley mega-corporations.

Finally, the City Council seems poised to do something about it and on behalf of the tens of thousands of taxi drivers that lease or own yellow taxicabs, we applaud the Council for its leadership in standing up for everyday New Yorkers.

As a result of these bold bills, New Yorkers will sit in less traffic, air quality will improve, wheelchair users will get more service, drivers for both taxi and for-hire-vehicles will receive fairer incomes and passengers will get better service that will be spread out in more neighborhoods.

This legislation is long overdue and we have much further to go. However, these bills are a meaningful start. They are the most significant step that has been undertaken so far to reduce congestion caused by the unchecked proliferation of ride-share companies and in improving the lives of deserving hard working immigrant drivers who bought into the yellow medallion dream with promises from the City.

We urge the Council to promptly pass these bills and we urge the Taxi and Limousine Commission to act quickly in implementing these new regulations.

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