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**Ronald Sherman**  
President

**Statement of Ron Sherman, President of the Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade On the Suicide of Douglas Schifter**

**February 5, 2018**

Today we mourn the loss of Douglas Schifter, a well-known professional driver and activist who fought on behalf of New York City's "black car" drivers. In recent years, Douglas has been an outspoken critic of the unchecked threats to the traditional black car and taxi industries. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Douglas clearly suffered great personal loss as a result of uncontrolled shifts in the black car, livery and taxi industries. Driving a taxi, livery or black car is a great profession but it is a tough one, and one that has placed enormous stress on drivers and operators like Douglas, as too many drivers are now competing for a limited pool of passengers on city streets.

We witness the incredible hardships suffered by so many drivers and owners every day in our taxi garages and at our MTBOT Driver Center. The tragedy of Douglas Schifter's suicide should compel all of us to appreciate the hard work of all professional drivers and operators who work the City's streets, and work together to make things better in these incredibly stressful times for our industries.