

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Councilman, Rubén Díaz Sr.

District 18 Bronx County, New York

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Open Letter to Councilman Steven Levin:

Dear Councilman Levin:

I am not writing to say I told you so. I am writing to ask for your support regarding my bill (Intro # 838 ) which passed the For Hire Vehicle Committee, under my Chairmanship, on August 2018.

Councilman as you know “Into 838” was introduced by me as a comprehensive Taxi bill which contained eight pages at the time, including a moratorium provision, which central staff removed reducing my original bill to five pages, based on your idea and carved it out separately.

At that time my counsel, fearing that Uber will sue, asked you and Central Staff to term it a “moratorium” not a cap. Now we have been proven right. Uber’s argument, although silly, is that the Council can impose a moratorium but not a cap. And this is what my council was fearing would happen. Unfortunately, it has. Now what?

Therefore, I suggest that we immediately introduce a bill to impose a moratorium based upon a comprehensive environmental review. You should recall that this was part of my original bill, Intro 838. It was removed from my bill by Central staff as per your request. Because according to you a moratorium would infringe upon your idea of a cap.

Let’s face it the residents living in midtown are choking on the fumes from Uber, Lyft and their 140,000 cars. According to my counsel Uber will win this action. Therefore, let’s save the lungs of those who breathe the air in our City and preserve the right of the TLC to maintain a moratorium. Are you with me?

I hope that you, the Councilmembers and the Speaker move to introduce a moratorium, before it’s too late.

Always at your service:

Respectfully,

Rev. Ruben Diaz Sr.

Councilmember 18th District