

It's Déjà Vu All Over Again!

— WHAT ABOUT THE DRIVERS ??? —

When I was driving a yellow cab back in the 1990's we had a boisterous meeting at a West Side public school, after a big, rolling taxi demonstration. There were a few public officials who were basically thrown to the wolves to tell us how things were gonna get better, and they had a bunch of plans for taxi service to help improve the business — for the riding public.

From waaaay in the back of the auditorium, one of the attending cabbies loudly shouted out: "Hey!! What about the drivers ???"

Fast forward over twenty years later, it's basically the same question. Why is it so difficult for many of the self-annointed powers-that-be (INCLUDING a few so-called 'leaders' from within our OWN ranks !!) to figure out that a HEALTHY yellow cab business in New York City needs to do everything they can to KEEP their drivers financially healthy in order for everyone to survive and thrive?!?! I mean.... HELLO?!?!

And HOW do you do that ?? All together, class!

You give the professional drivers of the yellow cab industry a fair chance to earn a LIVING WAGE in one of the richest cities in the WORLD!!!!

Unfortunately, THAT little bit of common sense hasn't been on the radar for the last few years. We've seen GROSS mismanagement by Mayor de Blasio's City Council and his inner circle of political flunkies, with app companies apparently being the "tail that wags the dog" down at City Hall — **yellow cab drivers be damned !!**

The drivers AND the City of New York are now being systematically ruined (*by design?*) and the Taxi & Limousine Commission has been of little help under this current "regime."

Yeah, yeah, I know... Bloomberg... Bloomberg... Bloomberg...

But who's been running the TLC for the last SIX YEARS???

Who was at the helm when 75,000 app cars were foolishly unleashed onto Manhattan streets (within just five years !!), turning the City into a gridlocked, filthy and polluted "Wild West" ??? And who

was running the City when EVERY NYC YELLOW CAB MEDALLION lost over 80% of its value ??? And who NEVER approved ANY metered fare increase specifically for the most important part of this industry, the DRIVERS???

Well folks, it was good ol' Mr. Progressive himself, "President" Bill de BLAH-BLAH-BLAH-ZZZZZZeee...YO!!

His administration does everything it can to keep his pathetic political base of "working poor"... POOR!!!!

("President" de Blasio is also the man who "won" his first Mayoral Democratic Primary by a 'whopping' .81% — that's POINT eighty one percent — and cowardly rejected a run-off against a GREAT African-American New Yorker, Bill Thompson !!)

NOW let's talk about FINALLY getting more money into the yellow cab drivers' pockets — for EVERYONE'S sake!!

An EASY place to start would be to drastically improve OUR taxi app business... IMMEDIATELY!!!

I mean, I was driving a yellow cab on NEW YEAR'S EVE, in Manhattan, and couldn't get a yellow cab "app job."

So, uh.... JUST EXACTLY WHAT THE F==K ARE WE DOING OUTHERE??!

Where are the commercials and/or basic promotions for the yellow cab app dispatch companies?

While we're at it, where are the ads/promos for yellow cab ACCESS-A-RIDE calls?!?! I've picked up many patients from doctor offices and other health care facilities in the City who know nothing about yellow cabs having the ability to get dispatched right to their door — and their DOCTORS also know very little about any taxi dispatch "plan." WHY???

Gee, that's funny. I remember when the yellow cab industry was being VILIFIED at several Taxi Commission meetings with the "Taxis For All" routine on a regular basis. Then, when the Commission finally went OVERBOARD (as usual, at our expense !!) and

FORCED us to buy a slew of new "taxi vans" — POOF!!! The "Taxis For All" crowd apparently moved on down the road and WE were left holding the bag with THOUSANDS of bulky, new "taxi vans" that many drivers hated. And then WE were left wondering once again, WHERE ARE THE DISPATCH CALLS???

So the average "taxi van cabbie" went through all that drama and guilt for a measly four or five calls.... PER WEEK???

AGAIN.... After aaaaaall the drama and bullsh-t, WHERE ARE THE F=ING CALLS??

It's time to hit the reset button and get back to work!!

We — the career drivers AND our valued customers — want a taxi app that WORKS! In MY opinion, speaking as a driver, the CURRENT yellow cab app dispatch systems — for WHATEVER the reason(s) — aren't providing substantial new sources of driver revenue in New York City. WHY??? What the hell happened?

We also want a FAIR fare increase specifically for THE CAREER YELLOW CAB DRIVERS. THAT will be for the financial benefit of ALL concerned because THOUSANDS of idle cabs will start rolling again after presenting a FINANCIAL INCENTIVE for the drivers to come back to the yellow cabs — and the public will be happier with better taxi availability. EVERYONE in the business will FINALLY be making M-O-N-E-Y again!!

On another but related note, there has FINALLY been some talk about a "bailout plan" for cab drivers who are going belly-up financially with their huge medallion loans.

And, as of this writing, a measly so-called "offer" has been introduced for some of those drivers to MAYBE help them keep their heads above water.

Hey, we can only hope!!

Anyhow...until next time, let's be careful out there...and remember...

There are lies, and then there is... THE TRUTH!!

In Other News

The recent Cuomo-M.T.A. "SUICIDE SURCHARGE" of an additional \$2.50 per trip (in most of Manhattan) has yellow cab drivers hauling in MILLIONS OF DOLLARS PER MONTH — for everyone but themselves!!!

How did that nightmare happen?? Where is that money going??

We've also just heard (via the latest MTA labor negotiations) that 65% of bus and subway "fare box revenue" goes to MTA labor costs.

LABOR COSTS??? Ergo...\$1.79 of every new \$2.50 PER TAXI TRIP SURCHARGE is being sent to the MTA for THEIR labor costs, instead of the gutless MTA Board raising THEIR fares by just twenty cents, from \$2.75 to just \$2.95 per ride. That's the math, folks!

Why the frack are cabbies, fleet owners AND our passengers sending that money into the MTA???

WE, the taxi industry, should NOT have to pay for the MTA'S GROSSLY MISMANAGED "PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION" DEBACLE!