

## **STATEMENT FROM MEDALLION OWNERS**

**The disability community and the taxi medallion owners of NYC stand united in advocating the following basic principles in regard to the efforts by the Metropolitan Transit Authority to reform the existing Access-a-Ride system for people with disabilities with the inclusion of companies like Uber and Lyft.**

**Until Uber and Lyft offer services without any discrimination whatsoever to all New Yorkers-and not just to people who can walk-no public agency should give them a contract and certainly not a contract for paratransit.**

**The advocacy of people with disabilities created Access-a-Ride and the accessible green and yellow taxis. Uber's success has taken accessible taxis off the road; increasing demand for Access-a-Ride. In addition Uber and Lyft are free riders, not contributing any money into the mass transit system and the accessibility program. So in addition to the disqualifying nature of their discriminatory behavior, they should not be rewarded with a contract that is partially paid for by its taxi competitors-and by the taxpaying public.**

**Any collaboration currently entered into by the MTA with any of these companies needs to cease and desist immediately-and efforts to connect taxis with paratransit need to be redoubled so that people with disabilities have the most convenient and efficient services possible.**