

3/15/20

Dear Councilmen/women

From all of the Yellow Cab Owners/drivers of New York City, we have fought long and hard, these past 6 years, against the changing market and crushing loans; rapidly chipping away at our strengths. Finally, after 6 years, we thought the City Government was awake to tackle our problems; or so we hoped. After 3 months of false hope and nothing but promises, we are finally at our last reserves of strength, and with it hope to make one final stand.

We had hoped that the diversity and immigrant backgrounds of the city council members would help them understand our struggles. All of us come from foreign lands, speak foreign languages, but we call UNITED STATES our home, and live as proud New Yorkers. That's why we never even considered, that our own City Government would swindle us, rob us blind and then blame TLC (one of their own agencies); walking Scot-free from all consequences. We hoped for the City Government to show us a little dignity, for you to show us a little support, as members of the community, but you see us as nothing more than needed labor, and when other options were available in the form of Uber and Lyft; we were not even that.

In just a few days we have gathered close to 300 signatures of support, just from JFK alone. Our process was halted for a moment because of the spread of Cronavirus (COVID-19). But its beginning again, after next week we will have over 2000 signatures and then we will move on to LaGuardia Airport, and finally the rest of the Yellow Cab Owners/Drivers. If City Government will not help the taxi industry out of the ditch, that TLC (with your support) has dug, then we will try to climb out of it ourselves. We as immigrants didn't come to the land of hopes and dreams on luxury ships or candy coated roads but rather after facing countless difficulties and making great sacrifices for our families and their future. As we will continue to do so. We are Yellow Taxi United and together we all ask for your help.

----- Thank you.