

**The Truth About Former NYC Taxi and Limousine Commissioner
Meera Joshi
Nominee For Administrator of FMCSA**

Meera Joshi US Senate Confirmation Hearing 9/15/21

As NYC taxi owners, we were dismayed to see that Meera Joshi, the previous NYC Taxi & Limousine Commissioner, seems to be poised to advance to a higher position in government as Administrator of FMCSA.

What you may not understand is that medallion owners in NYC paid billions of dollars to New York City to purchase medallions which are a defacto franchise and widely recognized as property. We read very carefully all of the written material that Ms. Joshi submitted to the committee and would like to point out things she left out.

The written material she submitted is in these links:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yk00d0ZwqSGJKJDiiKcWNmrzvDskpr6S/view>

<https://www.commerce.senate.gov/services/files/2704328F-6FB9-495C-870C-3BDCEFACEE28>

Mainly, that she was at TLC as General Counsel from 2011-2013 and then as Chair from 2014-2019. During that time, every step of the way, the path forward for taxis was stymied while at the same time every break possible was given to our competition, Uber Lyft Via who basically succeeded by flooding the streets with 10s of thousands of vehicles, which created many knock on effects.

She left out a lot to put it mildly. The suicides, the bankruptcies, destruction of \$15 billion in equity, destruction of all the credit unions, the 62% increase in greenhouse gases, the 600% increase in crashes, driver poverty, discouragement of the use of public transportation, the huge losses to taxpayer, losses of \$700 million to NCUA insurance fund due to medallion debt writeoffs non stop lawsuits against her and her agency, the huge increase in congestion due to the more than tripling of for hire vehicles(40K to 130K) in New York City, the bending, breaking, ignoring & changing of her

agencies rules always benefitting one player over all others.

<https://www.creditunions.com/blogs/commentary/the-ncua-spent-15-billion-of-member-funds-wheres-the-transparency/>

There is a great deal of anger and sadness over Ms. Joshi's tenure as TLC Commissioner. After one of the many suicides she decided to crash a memorial service for the driver who had thrown himself in front of a moving subway train. What happened next is indicative of how drivers feel about her. Here is the link to video of what occurred that day.

<https://gothamist.com/news/tlc-commissioner-accosted-at-vigil-following-another-for-hire-driver-suicide>

The following video is a record of an April 2017 TLC hearing on industry economics over which Ms. Joshi presided. Under Commissioner Joshi's leadership since 2014, and before that as Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs from 2011-2013, the entire industry had been upended despite the Commission having had the tools to remediate the problem of tremendous oversupply of for hire vehicles. These are the testimonies of 81 participants, some crying, some begging, some screaming for someone to help them.

https://www.nyctaxinews.com/tlcmeet4_6_17.html

Since April 2017, \$15 billion in equity has been destroyed, all the credit unions that financed the taxi industry have gone under and there have been 10 suicides that we know of.

The only thing that came out of this hearing was a rule to allow ride share drivers to be tipped. None of the underlying issues have been addressed to this date.

We hope that you will take all these facts into account when you consider Joshi's nomination. If there is a more formal way to send testimony to the committee please let us know.

**The Members of NYC Taxi Medallion Owner Driver Association
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