

From: Carolyn Protz
Date: July 5, 2020 at 4:34:11 PM EDT
To: sundays@cbsnews.com
Subject: Sunday Morning 7/5/20 Taxi Segment by Ted Koppel

Medallion owners watched the show on taxis with great interest. Not to say that it was inaccurate, but, like an iceberg, much of the story, and it's many twists and turns, have not been revealed by the press. The history is long, about 10 years, and perhaps difficult to explain fully to the public.

This letter was sent to Mayor DeBlasio and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson almost 2 years ago. In it, we describe how the medallion franchise was undermined by regulators seemingly captured by those they "regulate." Since the letter was sent the pattern has continued. Each regulation that is changed or ignored benefits a multinational corporate predator that has accrued \$20 billion in losses subsidized by Saudi cash and Russian oligarchs.

Some of those regulators have gone on to work for app companies. David Yassky, former TLC Commissioner, went to work for Lyft. Recently he became NYS Governor Cuomo Chief Policy advisor. Ashwini Chhabra, Head of Policy at TLC went to Uber and then onto Bird. TLC Commissioner Meera Joshi left a few months ago to consult for a Silicon Valley startup, Remix, that seeks to make cities smarter (transportation systems for example) and a visiting scholar at the NYU Rudin Institute, which is funded by large transportation companies(they won't reveal the names). Governor Cuomo's secretary (more like Chief of Staff) Melissa Derosa, is married to Matthew Wing, who now is head of Communications for Uber. Former NYC Deputy Mayor Stu Loeser now lobbies for Uber. And on and on.....

You get the picture - it's very ugly.

If you would like to discuss further, please get in touch.

Carolyn Protz
Member, NYC Taxi Owner Driver Association
Member, YTY (Yellow Taxi United)