

November 19, 2013

Comments from Ali Mohamed, Yellow Cab Cooperative

To Milwaukee Public Safety Committee

ON BEHALF OF Yellow Cab Coop of Milwaukee I AM HERE TODAY TO urge you to amend the ordinance before you by eliminating the language arbitrarily adding 100 new taxicab permits at a time when the taxicab business in Milwaukee is struggling. With that amendment, our 99 members urge you to pass the remainder of the ordinance that will improve and modernize the taxicab industry in Milwaukee.

Unlike other cab companies operating in Milwaukee, Yellow's drivers operate through hotel and hail business. While the loss of medical rides didn't hurt our members directly, the indirect hit has reduced everybody's income. AS IT STANDS TODAY, WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY 40% less business than last year. AS YOU WILL HEAR FROM OTHERS WHO TESTIFY TODAY, THESE CONDITIONS RESULT IN WAITS OF WELL OVER AN HOUR BY CABS LOOKING FOR FARES AT HOTELS, THE AIRPORT AND AMTRAK STATION. IT HAS RESULTED IN THE IDLING OF LARGE PORTIONS OF TAXI FLEETS – THERE SIMPLY IS NOT ENOUGH BUSINESS AND THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH DRIVERS TO DRIVE THE IDLE CABS SINCE THEY CANNOT GENERATE SUFFICIENT INCOME. I am passing out photos for you that demonstrate the long lines that now exist at downtown hotels and the Inter-Modal station. Imagine these lines with 100 more cars on the street.

TO ADD ONE HUNDRED NEW CABS INTO AN ALREADY GLUTTED MARKET WILL FURTHER DECREASE INCOME FOR DRIVERS. IT WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT UPON WORKING DRIVERS WHO ARE ALREADY STRUGGLING TO MAKE A LIVING.

SIMPLY PUT, ADDING ONE HUNDRED NEW CABS IS A JOBS KILLER. Experience and evidence in the record also shows it will:

☒ AN INCREASE IN HIGHWAY CONGESTION, ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION;

☒ AN INCREASE IN RATES;

☒ A DECLINE IN DRIVER INCOME;

☒ AND A DETERIORATION IN SERVICE.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE RIGHTS OF HARDWORKING PEOPLE WHO HAVE INVESTED TIME, MONEY AND SWEAT INTO THEIR SMALL BUSINESS THAT IS REPRESENTED BY THEIR OWNERSHIP OF A TAXICAB LICENSE.

DRIVERS MAKE MODEST WAGES WITH FEW BENEFITS. THE LICENSE THEY OWN REPRESENTS THEIR NEST EGG. FLOODING THE MARKET WITH NEW LICENSES WILL DEVALUE THEIR LICENSE AND RESULT IN AN UNJUST HARDSHIP FOR RETIREES WHO WOULD OTHERWISE FUND THEIR RETIREMENT BY SELLING THE LICENSE INTO THE OPEN MARKET. OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW DRIVERS SHOULD NOT COME AT THE COST OF THE PRESENT OWNERS.

We urge you to use this new ordinance to measure the demand of the market BEFORE you make any decision to add new permits.

Thank you

Ali Mohamed







