

**WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF TAXICAB OWNERS – MILWAUKEE
CHAPTER**

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Red Christensen

Phone: 414-840-8294

Email: red.dwato@gmail.com

**MILWAUKEE TAXICAB OWNERS SUPPORT CITY LEADERS IN QUESTIONING
DECISION OVERTURNING CITY CAB LICENSE REGULATION**
Threatens Future For Cab Drivers and Riders

MILWAUKEE, WI . . . Representatives of Milwaukee’s taxicab industry today stood with the City of Milwaukee and disagreed with the decision by Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Jane Carroll that threatens to overturn the current regulation of taxicab licenses by the City of Milwaukee.

“The leadership of the City of Milwaukee has done an excellent job managing taxicabs for the safety and benefit of city residents and visitors. This decision dilutes their authority to protect the public interest,” said Red Christensen, board member of the Wisconsin Association of Taxicab Owners – Milwaukee Chapter. “Judge Carroll’s decision stands in contrast to city leaders who know best what’s necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of city residents and visitors,” Christensen added.

The decision comes on the heels of a City of Milwaukee panel hearing that reinforced the public’s satisfaction with the service Milwaukee cab owners and drivers currently provide. Testimony also identified the significant problems that have resulted from lifting caps on licenses in other cities.

The lawsuit was brought by an out-of-state law firm ostensibly on behalf of drivers and sought to overturn the City’s long-standing system of issuing permits to operate taxicabs in the City of Milwaukee.

A recent Kansas City federal court decision ([Kansas City Taxi Cab Drivers Assn. v City of Kansas City](#), No. 4:12-cv 00158) ruled that a city ordinance limiting taxicab permits was not unconstitutional since the ordinance, like Milwaukee’s, serves a number of legitimate public purposes, including (1) reducing the number of taxicabs because of a lack of demand, 2) creating incentives to invest in the infrastructure of the taxicab industry, and 3) increasing quality in the taxicab industry.

Christensen pointed to continuing efforts being sought by taxi operators to improve service for cab riders, including adding staging areas along Water Street and other high traffic areas; enhanced customer service training for drivers and furthering the use of technology through the use of GPS to provide faster service and integrating smart-phone electronic hailing through computerized dispatching systems.

“Litigation of this sort does little to advance opportunities for drivers and bring vitality to the taxicab business in Milwaukee. The taxi cab operators of Milwaukee are committed to partnering with the City and stakeholders to improve both the economic climate and the rider experience of our customers,” Christensen concluded.

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