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3	NEW YORK CITY
4	TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION
5	PUBLIC HEARING
6	VISION ZERO AND LIVERY RECOVERY VEHICLE
7	
8	March 12, 2025 10:03 a.m.
9	Held Remotely via Zoom
11	
12	BEFORE:
13	SHERRYL ELUTO, General Counsel
14	Board of Commissioners:
15	CHAIR DAVID DO
16	THOMAS SORRENTINO
	SARAH KAUFMAN
	KENNETH CHAN
	ANDREA BIERSTEIN
	ELISA VELAZQUEZ
	KENNETH C. MITCHELL
24	Julia M. Speros Court Reporter
25	
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	CHAIR DAVID DO THOMAS SORRENTINO SARAH KAUFMAN KENNETH CHAN ANDREA BIERSTEIN ELISA VELAZQUEZ KENNETH C. MITCHELL Julia M. Speros

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    S P E A K E R S:
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    Keith Kerman, DCAS
    Thomas Alps, Chief, NYPD
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5
    Shama Tirukkala, FDNY
    AJ Gogia
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7
    Kim Wiley-Schwartz, DOT
8
    Bhairavi Desai, NYTWA
9
    Zubin Soleimany, NYTWA
10
    Andrew Greenblatt, IDG
    Jean Ryan, Disabled In Action
11
12
    Joe Rappaport, Brooklyn Center for the
    Independence of the Disabled
13
    Jehiah Czebotar
14
    Adalqisa Payero Diarra, UTANY
15
    Eman Rimawi-Doster, Disability Justice Program
16
    Eric McClure, StreetsPAC
17
    Anwaar Malik, IDG
18
    Jacky Lin, IDG
19
    Sonam, IDG
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    Larbi Aitaabou, IDG
21
    Michele Dottin, IDG
22
    Pedro Acosta, IDG
23
    Hector German
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    Wilfredo Disla
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    SPEAKERS CONTINUED:
3
    Raza Gondal
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    Evan Yankey, Brooklyn Center for the
    Independence of the Disabled
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    Soji Adu, BILS
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    Amr Elnaggar
7
    Mamadou Diallo
8
    Saif Aizah
9
    Kuber Sancho-Persad
10
    Ahmad Bilal
11
    Dinara Zanpasova
12
    Fazal Saboor Ali
13
    Christopher Garcia
14
    Farrukh Jarav
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    Robert Mansa
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    Emmanuel
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    Kower Seregen
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    Avik Kabessa, Carmel
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    Jose Altamirano, Mirram Group
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    PRESENTERS:
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    Rebecca Harshbarger, Special Project Manager,
    Education Unit
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    Kathy Hafeez, Esq., Prosecution Unit
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2 MODERATOR: Good morning. Today's 3 Public Hearing is about to begin.

PROCEEDINGS

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This hearing is being conducted remotely via Zoom and the live-stream will be available on the TLC's website.

All persons wishing to testify were asked to sign-up in advance of the hearing. All registered speakers are joining the meeting via Zoom. If you are speaking today, your audio and video were automatically muted.

A few special notes for our registered speakers:

Please ensure that your display name in the Zoom meeting matches the name that you used when you signed-up to speak. This will enable the moderator to confirm you are present in the meeting.

If you are listed as "iPhone", or some other name that differs from your name that you used when you signed up, we will not know that you are present in the meeting. You must update your

1	screen-name to the name you provided
2	when you signed up.
3	When your turn to speak is
4	approaching, the host will send a prompt
5	inviting you to join the meeting as a
6	panelist. In order to provide testimony
7	on camera, you must accept the invite.
8	Please be aware that if you are
9	watching this meeting on a minimized
10	screen, you may not see this prompt.
11	If you have accepted the invite to
12	re-join as a panelist, when your name is
13	called you will have control of both
14	your camera and microphone.
15	When ready, please state your name
16	and affiliation, and then proceed with
17	your testimony.
18	Public testimony will be limited to
19	three minutes per speaker. When your
20	testimony is complete, your audio and
21	video will be muted by the moderator.
22	Closed-captioning is available for
23	today's meeting.
24	Thank you for your attention. I
25	will now yield the floor to our

1	Commissioner and Chair, David Do.
2	CHAIR DO: Well, good morning,
3	everyone. Welcome to today's Public
4	Hearing on two TLC rule proposals.
5	One is to amend the driver rules to
6	achieve our Vision Zero goals, and
7	number two, rules to implement the
8	COVID-19 Livery Vehicle Recovery Act; a
9	state law allowing holders of "H" FHV
10	vehicle license that are affiliated with
11	livery bases
12	If you're not speaking, please put
13	yourself on mute.
14	that expired during the New York
15	pandemic emergency period to reapply, so
16	long as the licenses remain affiliated
17	with a non-high-volume for-hire vehicle
18	livery base.
19	I am Commissioner David Do and I'm
20	joined today by Commissioners Kaufman,
21	Mitchell, Chan, Bierstein, Velazquez.
22	Commissioner Sorrentino will join us
23	shortly and let me just make sure
24	there's any other Commissioners
25	(perusing) okay. Great.

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Thank you, Commissioners, for joining us this morning.

Before we begin, I'd like to speak a little bit about TLC and Vision Zero.

As the regulator of hundreds of thousands of vehicles and drivers in our City, TLC is a foundational Vision Zero agency and a member of the Vision Zero Task Force. Our commitment -- excuse me -- our commitment to Vision Zero and its goals of eliminating all deaths and serious injuries due to crashes -- our belief that serious crashes are preventable is also total.

We will try not to call them accidents at TLC because someone is always at fault.

As Chair, I regularly review incident reports about crashes involving TLC drivers too often, frankly. I want to stress that in a majority of cases, the TLC driver is not at fault. We have the best drivers in the country and typically it's the TLC driver who is obeying the rules safely and

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professionally, doing their job when non-TLC drivers behave poorly.

It is particularly distressing when a TLC driver is killed on the job through no fault of their own, while simply trying to provide for their family.

The Vision Zero rule proposal we'll be discussing today is not intended to target our safe drivers. It will be mostly impactful for the small minority of drivers -- less than three percent of active drivers -- who persistently violate our Vision Zero rules, which are designed to deter unsafe driving behavior.

We know that drivers who repeatedly commit violations are more likely to become involved in a serious crash or fatality. TLC drivers spend more time on the road than any other group and that increases the odds of persistent violators causing harm even more, including harm to other TLC drivers.

Vision Zero violations have been

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steadily and rapidly rising with 31 percent increase between 2023 and 2024. Our rules, as they currently stand, are not changing behavior of persistent violators. They're becoming just another cost of doing business.

So, to make our streets more safe and continue moving towards the Vision Zero goals, we are proposing to increase not only the penalties, but also knowledge and education.

We have a great Vision Zero instruction in our schools and drivers who violate Vision Zero rules would get more, including a WAV refresher.

To tell us more about this, I would like to introduce Kathy from -- our managing -- our attorney from the Prosecution Unit, and Rebecca, a Special Project Manager for our Education Unit.

Both have worked hard on fulfilling our Vision Zero goal and Rebecca is on our City's Vision Zero Task Force.

I'll now hand it over to Kathy and Rebecca to walk through a presentation

1 for our Commissioners and the public. 2 Kathy and Rebecca. 3 MS. HARSHBARGER: Good morning, 4 Commissioners. My name is Rebecca 5 Harshbarger. I work in education at TLC's Licensing Division and serve as 6 the Vision Zero Task Force 7 8 representative from TLC. 9 I'm here today with my colleague, 10 Kathy Hafeez, the managing attorney from 11 our Prosecution Division, to present on 12 the New Vision Zero and accessibility 13 course that the TLC has created. We have worked on the curriculum in 14 15 collaboration with different divisions 16 within TLC and other City agencies on 17 the Vision Zero Task Force, so we're 18 proud to be with many of them here 19 today. 2.0 So, I will begin this presentation 21 by providing the context for the history 22 of the work the TLC does to prevent 23 traffic crashes. Kathy will give an 24 overview of the current TLC rules, the 25 numbers and types of violations drivers

1 have, and then she'll detail our rule 2 proposal. 3 She will share the goals of the 4 proposal and their important safety 5 impact. 6 I will then go over the purpose of 7 the new Vision Zero and accessibility 8 course and go over the curriculum the 9 drivers will take. We'll then answer questions from the Commission. 10 So, TLC has served on the Vision 11 12 Zero Task Force along with our sister 13 agencies since it launched more than 10 years ago in 2014. This life-saving 14 15 initiative has focused on ending traffic 16 deaths and preventing crashes through 17 education, street redesign and 18 enforcement throughout New York City.

As part of the initiative, TLC has trained tens of thousands of TLC licensed drivers on best driving practices, how to avoid dangerous driving behavior, and the goals of Vision Zero.

And New York City is very unique

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because that -- when you get into a taxi -- an Uber, or Lyft, or livery car -- every driver has completed an in-person education course, and during those courses, drivers learn about safe driving practices, the rules of the road, and sharing the road safely.

Drivers also have to pass an exam that tests them on traffic safety in order to have a TLC driver's license and then every three years, when they renew their license, all drivers must take a renewal course that covers Vision Zero, accessibility, and best driving practices.

There are more than 180,000 professional drivers regulated by the TLC. Professional drivers have a major impact on traffic safety because they do millions of trips every year serving the public, and these efforts make a big difference.

In 2015, the first full year Vision Zero, there were 26 traffic fatalities that involved a taxi or for-hire

1	vehicle. Last year, this decreased to
2	11 traffic fatalities. That's almost a
3	60 percent decrease.
4	TLC has made significant progress in
5	driver education and improving safety,
6	but we must keep pushing further to
7	realize the City's goal of Vision Zero.
8	As we look at TLC's work ahead in
9	the next 10 years, we must expand our
10	education efforts to prevent future
11	traffic crashes and protect public
12	safety.
13	And now my colleague, Kathy, is
14	going to present.
15	MS. HAFEEZ: Good morning.
16	This image on the side shows a
17	for-hire vehicle parked both on the
18	sidewalk and in a bike lane. These are
19	the kinds of violations that we're
20	talking about here.
21	These violations include stopping in
22	crosswalks, blocking bike lanes,
23	double-parking, parking at fire
24	hydrants, failing to stop at stop lines,
25	and double-parking in TLC Rules, Chapter

80-13(a)(1) and 80-13(a)(2) for these types of violations, which are issued for what are classified as stationary and moving violations.

The current penalties for these violations are solely monetary and do not escalate with repeated violations.

While drivers can pick-up and drop-off passengers in bus lanes, bus stops, and in front of fire hydrants, as long as they move the car if there's an emergency, these are not considered violations.

Vision Zero complaints have been on the rise. They increased 37 percent from 15,332 complaints in 2023 to 21,025 complaints in 2024. During the 15-month period that the TLC analyzed, the TLC issued over 28,000 traffic violations for these two rules in Chapter 80.

For some drivers, traffic violations are just the cost of doing business in New York City. 4,746 licensees were guilty of two or more of 80-13(a)(1) and (a)(2) violations in 2023 and in 2024.

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These traffic violations are dangerous to everyone in our streets.

To improve public safety, TLC is proposing that all drivers who are guilty of these violations complete a Vision Zero and accessibility course at a TLC authorized education organization, and on the first violation, we're not proposing a change to the existing monetary fines, but rather the drivers would receive a point on their TLC license, in addition to taking this course.

On the second violation where drivers are found guilty or plead guilty, the existing monetary fines would stay the same and the driver would receive two points on their TLC license.

On the third violation for stationary violations -- that's 80-13(a)(1) -- the monetary penalty would increase from \$100 before hearing to \$200 after a hearing, and from \$200 to \$300 if found guilty after a hearing. Drivers would receive two points on

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their TLC license for the third violation.

On the third violation for moving violations -- that's 80-13(a)(2) -- the monetary penalty would increase from \$200 before hearing to \$300 before hearing, and \$300 guilty after a hearing to \$400 after a hearing. So, \$100 in each case it would go up for the third violation.

Drivers would also receive two points on their TLC license for that third violation. This is all in addition to the course.

These next images show more examples of unsafe violations that were reported to the TLC. The image on the left shows a for-hire vehicle parked on a sidewalk and obstructing a pedestrian ramp. The image on the right shows a taxi obstructing a painted pedestrian island in the middle of a crosswalk. And you can see here, you know, the pedestrians are blocked.

In this next slide, this is an image

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of a taxi blocking both a bike lane and a crosswalk that was reported to the TLC.

These proposed increased penalties

will deter unsafe behavior in several

ways. The increased monetary fine for third violations will discourage drivers from repeated unsafe behavior.

Licensees will have to pay for this course, which will be offered by nine

TLC education organizations, at a cost range between \$75 and \$125. Getting six or more points will lead to persistent violator summonses, which may result in the suspension of their TLC license, depending on how many points the licensees receive within a 15-month period.

The licensee may also need to take a defensive driving course to avoid suspension or revocation or to even be eligible for a settlement.

MS. HARSHBARGER: So, the new course will educate drivers and reinforce safe driving practices. It covers both

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Vision Zero and accessibility, two topics that are central to TLC's core mission of safe, accessible taxi and for-hire vehicle service in New York City.

The course will also retrain drivers who have received complaints regarding serving passengers with disabilities -- for instance, safely securing passengers who will use wheelchairs before the ride begins. These accessibility complaints often have a safety component as well since it's very dangerous for a passenger to be unsecured in the car.

TLC has created one comprehensive education course that covers both traffic safety and accessibility for drivers to complete and we've trained all TLC authorized schools to teach the course.

Remedial courses deter dangerous driving behavior. Of the 1,201 drivers who have taken our remedial course at a TLC authorized school for using an electronic device while driving, less

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than two percent have had to take that class again since 2019. The course discourages drivers from teaching -- from treating distracted driving like the cost of doing business.

The curriculum for the new Vision
Zero and accessibility course spans six
topics with the goal of drivers learning
this information and driving safely
after the course so that they will not
receive any violations going forward.

We teach in the curriculum that drivers can pick-up and drop-off in bus lanes, but not wait or park there. We really want them to know that they can pick-up or drop-off passengers in front of fire hydrants, but they have to be ready to move the vehicle in case of an emergency.

Drivers learn the ins and outs of parking regulations, which are so important, such as learning that they can legally pick-up and drop-off in no standing and no parking, but not no stopping, and we really want drivers to

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begin using this info as soon as they finish the course.

Other topics that are covered are, like, the ins and outs of New York City street design, sharing the roads safely with buses, bicyclists, and pedestrians, and we also go over other bus driving practices, such as making safe left turns, driving carefully at dusk, and picking up safely at the airports -- for instance, avoiding parking on the shoulders approaching JFK and LaGuardia Airport.

And since another important topic in the course is accessibility, it goes over how to safely secure passengers who use wheelchairs, driver responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and safely picking and dropping off since Vision Zero and accessibility go together.

And after taking the course, TLC wants drivers to feel empowered and confident that they know how to legally and safely pick-up and drop-off

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passengers during trips, as well as
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             provide a safe ride.
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                 With that, we really look forward to
4
             hearing from the public and I'm happy to
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             address any questions from the
             Commission.
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                 CHAIR DO: Commissioners, are there
8
             any questions?
                 (No response.)
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                 CHAIR DO: Okay. I have a question.
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                 Over the last couple of weeks, I've
12
             received a lot of comments around people
             with disabilities and pick-up and
13
14
             drop-offs.
15
                 But Do these roles change any
16
             pick-up and drop-off roles for people
17
             with disabilities at, let's say, a
18
             bus -- a bus lane or a bus stop?
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                 MS. HARSHBARGER: No, they don't --
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             they don't change them at all and these
21
             rules are just assigned to -- designed
22
             to protect passengers with disabilities
23
             -- that drivers know what the existing
24
             rules are and are prepared to follow
25
             them.
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1	CHAIR DO: I want to take that a
2	little bit further and maybe Kathy
3	can jump in.
4	Is so, currently, drivers can
5	pick-up and drop-off in a bus stop, bus
6	lane, and it is not illegal.
7	Is that correct?
8	MS. HARSHBARGER: Yes.
9	MS. HAFEEZ: That is correct.
10	CHAIR DO: Okay. Commissioners, are
11	there any other questions?
12	And I'll ask Kathy and Rebecca to
13	stand by just in case we have follow-ups
14	later as we hear more public comments.
15	(No response.)
16	CHAIR DO: Okay. Seeing none, let's
17	go to our public for their testimony.
18	As a reminder to all of our
19	attendees, if you have joined as
20	"iPhone" and I see a few of you still
21	"iPhone", "iPhone372", "iPhone6"
22	we will not know if you have signed up,
23	and, therefore, you will not be able to
24	testify.
25	Others who have nicknames or other

1 names that you did not use to sign-up, 2 please rename yourself so that we know 3 that you have signed up to speak and we 4 can put you as a panelist when your time 5 comes up. I will now hand it over to our 6 7 General Counsel, Sherryl Eluto, to take 8 us through the public hearing. 9 Sherryl. 10 MS. ELUTO: Good morning. 11 When I call your name, you can 12 un-mute your microphone and begin your 13 testimony. 14 Each speaker will be allotted three 15 minutes to speak. The time limit will 16 be strictly enforced. A 30-second 17 warning will be provided and then you 18 will need to conclude your testimony 19 when your time is up. 2.0 Today's two rule proposals were 21 published in The City Record and posted 22 on our website on February 7, 2025. The 23 public comment period ends today. 24 The video of this hearing and copies 25 of all written comments received through

1	today will be provided to the
2	Commissioners prior to the vote on these
3	rules.
4	With that, we will begin our public
5	hearing and I will call on our first
6	speaker.
7	We have Keith Kerman from DCAS.
8	MR. KERMAN: Good morning,
9	Commissioners. Good to be with you.
10	My name is Keith Kerman. I'm a
11	Deputy Commissioner of the Department of
12	Citywide Administrative Services, DCAS,
13	and New York City's Chief Fleet Officer.
14	New York City operates the largest
15	municipal fleet in the country with
16	nearly 29,000 vehicles and 80,000 staff
17	who are authorized to operate our
18	vehicles, either full-time or as-needed.
19	I'm here to express support for the
20	Taxi and Limousine Commission's proposal
21	to strengthen enforcement of traffic
22	violations that impact public safety,
23	including blocking access to fire
24	hydrants, bike lanes, crosswalks,
25	intersections, and double-parking.

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These are not victimless violations.

Blocking fire hydrants places public safety at direct risk, as the Fire Commissioner publicly highlighted -- highlighted involving a fire emergency on February 12th in the Bronx.

Every time a pedestrian, a child, a senior citizen, or a bicyclist must move out of the protection of a bike lane or crosswalk because a car isn't properly there, the safety of that pedestrian, that child, that senior citizen, that bicyclist, is put at risk by the driver.

Every time a driver double-parks, traffic is slowed for countless other drivers who must also then change lanes adding the risk of a collision.

As a manager of a large fleet -- the largest in the City -- we work daily to address these same concerns. The City fleet has placed live tracking in all vehicles to help monitor and respond to violations, increased enforcement of traffic violations -- which each fleet driver must pay personally -- and as we

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announced in a public report in October 2024, DCAS has also begun an initiative to place intelligent speed assistance -- speed control -- on vehicles that have a history of traffic violations. DCAS is adding more vehicles into that initiative now.

Like TLC, DCAS employs safe driver training. DCAS has increased safe driver training for all drivers and for those involved in multiple violations or crashes. In the last fiscal year, 11,552 fleet operators completed this training, which is an all-day course. This was a huge increase from our previous year.

Over 130,000 fleet operators have now completed the course, and following Mayor Adams Executive Order 39 of 2024, DCAS is now expanding the safety training to drivers for City contractors and school bus operators, as training reminds operators of the rules of the road, discusses best practices for staying safe, and most importantly we

1	candidly discuss real incidents and the
2	consequences, often tragic, to innocent
3	New Yorkers and at times, the drivers
4	themselves when drivers fail to follow
5	the rules and fail
6	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
7	MR. KERMAN: It's up to all of us to
8	stay focused on traffic safety, which is
9	public safety, and increasing the
10	consequences and training tied to
11	violations is a good step.
12	We encourage you on this path and
13	thank you for listening to us today.
14	Thank you.
15	CHAIR DO: Well, thank you so much,
16	Deputy Commissioner Kerman, for your
17	testimony.
18	I have a quick question on
19	telemetrics and also I know that
20	across the entire fleet the New York
21	City fleet there are not dash-cams
22	but what are your thoughts on and the
23	data and what it shows on telemetrics
24	and dash-cams for your fleet?
25	MR. KERMAN: Sure. So, on

telematics, we're tracking live 29,000 vehicles. You're getting the location; you're getting the speed. You're getting whether it is speeding, so we are overlaying the maps of the speed limits wherever you are.

You're getting seat belt use, including for the driver and the passenger; you're getting hard braking, hard accelerating, hard cornering.

So, you know, speed and seat belts are a matter of law, but hard braking, hard cornering, hard accelerating are pretty good -- they're not matters of law. There could be a time when it's -- you slam the brakes because somebody jumped in front of your car and you're doing a good thing.

But, generally, if you're driving and you're constantly slamming the brakes, constantly flooring the accelerator, you're an unsafe driver and you're also getting crash alerts. When a vehicle is in a crash, we get an immediate alert and actually a PDF -- a

1	report instantaneously so we can
2	begin that investigation.
3	We're doing an initiative to start
4	looking at the role of outward facing
5	car cameras, including with your
6	agency with TLC and so we think
7	that could also be very important
8	additional data.
9	We have about 400 vehicles now as
10	part of that program and so that's
11	something we're looking for, for the
12	future.
13	CHAIR DO: Thank you so much, Deputy
14	Commissioner.
15	I want to recognize Commissioner
16	Kaufman for a question.
17	COMMISSIONER KAUFMAN: Thank you and
18	thank you, Deputy Commissioner. I just
19	have a couple of questions. This is
20	very interesting.
21	First, I'm wondering if the fines or
22	penalties for violation are comparable
23	to the ones shown here at this meeting.
24	MR. KERMAN: Well, we're paying the
25	direct fines and violations that are

1	assessed to the general public for our
2	employees.
3	So, you're getting whatever the
4	public violation is whether it's a
5	red light violation, a speeding
6	violation, a bus lane violation the
7	City employee is paying that exact fine
8	personally.
9	COMMISSIONER KAUFMAN: Okay.
10	Great great.
11	And then of the reports of
12	violations that you're receiving, what
13	proportion is coming from the new
14	telemetrics versus NYPD ticketing?
15	MR. KERMAN: Well, red light you
16	know, so there are two different aspects
17	of the program. We're getting the red
18	light cameras, the speed cameras, the
19	automated camera alerts just like
20	everybody else who operates a fleet or
21	personal car would get. We, of course,
22	will have employees are required to
23	inform us if they have a direct police
24	intervention where they're getting
25	Then, in addition, we are doing

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alerts all day long. We have what we call the fleet office of real-time tracking -- essentially, a command center for the City fleet.

You're getting pinged -- including the Taxi and Limousine Commission -- for your City vehicles. You're getting pinged whenever there's excessive -- speeding, whenever there's a person without a seat belt, whenever there is a crash. That's instantaneous and happening all day long.

So, if a Taxi and Limousine

Commission City-owned vehicle is going

80 on 1st Avenue, you're getting an

alert and our office is getting alert as
the 80 is happening.

COMMISSIONER KAUFMAN: And are you able to respond in real-time?

MR. KERMAN: Yeah, absolutely -especially on things like excessive
speeding. We have dropped excessive
speeding across the whole City fleet
over 75 percent because you can really
get to that very, very quickly.

1	So, yeah, we've seen a lot of
2	progress on safety. We have a risk
3	monitoring so every vehicle gets a risk
4	score and we and that's tied across
5	six things; excessive speeding,
6	speeding, seat belts, and then the heart
7	the ABCs cornering, accelerating
8	and braking And we've made a goal to
9	be at Vision Zero no high or
10	moderate risk.
11	We've knocked it down about 45
12	percent. We've made a lot of progress
13	with more progress to go.
14	COMMISSIONER KAUFMAN: Thank you.
15	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Deputy
16	Commissioner.
17	I'll turn it back to Sherryl.
18	MR. KERMAN: Thank you.
19	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
20	Our next speaker is NYPD Chief
21	Thomas Alps.
22	MR. ALPS: Good morning, Sherryl,
23	Commissioners. My name is Deputy Chief
24	Thomas Alps, Chief of Transportation
25	with the New York City Police

Department.

I'm here to testify in support of changing TLC's rules to improve public safety, prevent traffic crashes, and improve traffic movement in New York City.

The Police Department has served alongside City agencies like the TLC and the Department of Transportation on the Vision Zero Task Force since its inception in 2014 to end traffic deaths in New York City and prevent future crashes.

Two of the most common traffic violations received by TLC licensed drivers include certain categories of unsafe moving and stationary violations. These unsafe violations include blocking bike lanes, failing to stop at stop lines, stopping in crosswalks and intersections, and double-parking.

While drivers pay a penalty and then continue to engage in this behavior, the public is put at risk and our City streets become more difficult to

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navigate.

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Increasing the penalty to a two-and-a-half hour educational course and license points may deter drivers from receiving the same violations over and over.

The Vision Zero and accessibility course curriculum has life-saving information, such as sharing the road safety -- safely, making safe left turns, being extra cautious during dusk -- especially during daylight savings time -- and never driving while impaired from drugs like cannabis or alcohol.

The course also prepares drivers with the information they need to go out on the road and successfully work, including how to legally and safely pick-up and drop-off passengers on streets with bike lanes and bus lanes, obey fire hydrant rules, and navigate streets with different types of parking regulations.

As professional drivers, TLC

1	licensed drivers are on the road more
2	than anyone.
3	We support this rule change in
4	education courses because it will
5	improve public safety and the flow of
6	traffic on our shared streets and ask
7	you ask that you vote to pass it.
8	Thank you.
9	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Chief.
10	Are there any questions from the
11	Commission?
12	(No response.)
13	CHAIR DO: All right. No questions.
14	Thank you so much, Chief. I
15	appreciate it.
16	MR, ALPS: Thank you.
17	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
18	Our next speaker is from FDNY, Shama
19	Tirukkala.
20	MS. TIRUKKALA: Hello. Good
21	morning. I'm grateful to have the
22	opportunity to speak with you today
23	about the pressing matter of preventing
24	parking in front of fire hydrants.
25	The FDNY supports the proposed TLC

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rule changes as they would increase penalties for parking in front of a fire hydrant. Access to fire hydrants can help save precious seconds that are key to keeping New Yorkers safe and stopping the spread of a fire during an emergency.

On February 12th, there was a fire in the Bronx that resulted in the death of two people. Another fire on February 9th resulted in the death of another person. These fires had one thing in common; a vehicle was blocking access to a fire hydrant.

In an emergency every second counts. The time firefighters lose trying to get access to hydrants is time that directly obstructs their ability to save lives.

This is not a matter of mere conscience. It is a matter of life and death.

Currently, if a driver licensed by TLC pleads guilty to parking and blocking a fire hydrant, he or she would receive a penalty of \$100. If found

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guilty during a hearing, the penalty increases to \$200. These violations are clearly not enough. As we have seen time and time again, some drivers consider the cost of these tickets as a necessary price to pay for driving in New York City.

The proposed rules would increase the penalty to adding one point on the driver's TLC license for their first violation or two points for their second or third violation.

According to New York State law, if they accrue more than 11 points in 18 months, the driver's license may be suspended.

Additionally, the new rules require drivers to take a course at a TLC licensed provider within 60 days of receiving the violation to avoid suspension. This three-hour long curriculum would make sure that drivers learn essential traffic rules and laws, including the proper distance to park from a fire hydrant.

1	These measures would be important to
2	ensuring that TLC licensed drivers are
3	not only aware of the fact that they
4	should not park in front of fire
5	hydrants, but also learn that the
6	real danger associated with doing so.
7	Parking in front of a fire hydrant
8	can have serious, and as these past few
9	weeks have demonstrated, fatal
10	consequences. These new rules will
11	increase the incentive to park at a safe
12	distance from a fire hydrant, helping
13	the FDNY accomplish its mission to
14	protect New Yorkers and their property.
15	We urge you to approve the new
16	rules. Thank you for your time and we
17	appreciate your support of the FDNY.
18	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
19	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Shama.
20	Any questions for the FDNY?
21	(No response.)
22	CHAIR DO: All right. Thank you. I
23	appreciate your time.
24	MS. ELUTO: All right. Our next
25	speaker is AJ Gogia, a licensee.

1	MS. HARSHBARGER: I think DOT is
2	also.
3	MS. ELUTO: I'm going in the way we
4	have our list lined up here.
5	CHAIR DO: We'll get to DOT,
6	Rebecca. Thank you.
7	MS. ELUTO: AJ, go ahead.
8	MR. GOGIA: Yes, hi. Good morning.
9	I'm a licensed TLC driver. I've
10	been driving since 1990, so I've been a
11	long-time TLC driver, and I'm calling in
12	to support the new rule and there are
13	multiple reasons for this.
14	First of them, I'm a pretty avid
15	bicycle rider in the City with my
16	10-year-old son and not a day has passed
17	by when I drive a bicycle in the City
18	with my son that I almost get killed or
19	hurt by some TLC driver where the
20	passenger has opened the door into the
21	bike lane. So, I think the onus is on
22	us as TLC drivers to keep everybody in
23	the City safe.
24	I'm a TLC driver myself and when I
25	drive, I make sure I'm not parking in

1	the bike lane. There's plenty of space
2	to drop and pick-up a passenger without
3	being in a bike lane. So, I don't see a
4	reason why a few bad apples are giving
5	everybody a bad name and I think with
6	this new rule, it will hopefully
7	discourage a lot of people from doing
8	this bad behavior.
9	Also, my grandmother uses a
10	wheelchair and 9 out of 10 times she has
11	no access to the cut in the sidewalk to
12	the street because either a taxi driver
13	is picking up a passenger blocking that
14	area or dropping a passenger.
15	So, I strongly support this new
16	rule. We, as drivers, our
17	responsibility is to keep everybody safe
18	and that's what I would like to say.
19	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
20	Our next speaker is from DOT, Kim
21	Wiley-Schwartz.
22	MS. WILEY-SCHWARTZ: Hi. Good
23	morning, Chairperson and Commissioners.
24	My name is Kim Wiley-Schwartz and
25	I'm the Assistant Commissioner for

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Education and Outreach at the New York
City Department of Transportation and I
appreciate the opportunity to testify
today on behalf of Commissioner
Rodriguez in support of the Taxi and
Limousine Commission's proposed rule
amendments to strengthen Vision Zero
enforcement, increase fines, remedial
driver education, and the expansion of
considered convictions and fitness
revocation hearings.

I believe that together these proposed amendments will assist in addressing the most dangerous driving behaviors we're seeing here in New York City.

So, of course, safety is a top
priority for the New York City
Department of Transportation, which is
why we fully submit (sic) TLC's proposed
amendments to increase penalties for
stationary and moving violations.

These rules reinforce the City's commitment to Vision Zero by addressing unsafe behaviors that threaten the

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safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and all road users.

Enhancing penalties for infractions
-- such as blocking crosswalks,
double-parking, obstructing bike
lanes -- will encourage professional
drivers to operate with heightened
awareness and responsibility, setting
the tone for all who drive in the
streets of New York City. Ensuring that
these violations carry meaningful
consequences is essential to maintaining
safe and efficient streets for all New
Yorkers.

This is also why we support TLC's proposed rules to require the completion of a remedial driver education course with Vision Zero curriculum for all drivers convicted of a violation. We believe that adding this measure will serve as a deterrent to repeat offenders and will promote the safety of all road users.

Over the last 11 years, agencies who work as part of the Vision Zero Task

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Force have used education that goes beyond public service announcements and general reminders to train their for-hire and fleet drivers with actionable skills that navigate the urban environment. The results have been successful, as you heard earlier, with a 60 percent decrease in annual fatality numbers when comparing 2015 to 2024. We believe that utilizing this approach for professional drivers will also be successful.

New York City works closely with TLC to develop their unique curriculum and driver behavior change approaches, and since 2015 when New York City Department of Transportation and TLC jointly created and produced Drive Like Your Family Lives Here, a video featuring members of families for safe streets telling their stories. The proposed course would build on this past partnership.

New York City also strongly supports
TLC's proposal to consider certain

1 out-of-state convictions when 2 determining driver fitness. The safety 3 of New York City streets depends on 4 holding professional drivers to the 5 highest standards regardless of where 6 prior violations occurred, expanding the 7 review process --8 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining. MS. WILEY-SCHWARTZ: -- infractions includes a driver's full safety record 10 11 and this measure will help identify and 12 address potential risks ensuring that 13 only qualified responsible for-hire vehicle drivers remain licensed. 14 15 In short, we commend the Taxi and 16 Limousine Commission for advancing these 17 critical safety measures, strengthening 18 enforcement of Vision Zero principles, 19 and creating meaningful driver education 2.0 experiences will only assure that we will continue our efforts and Vision 21 22 Zero. 23 Thank you for the opportunity to 24 testify today. I'm happy to answer any

questions you may have.

25

1 CHAIR DO: Thank you so much, 2 Assistant Commissioner Wiley-Swartz. 3 A quick question that I have: 4 While going through comments and a 5 lot of feedback on these rules from 6 drivers, oftentimes they say that 7 there's not enough taxi relief stands or 8 areas where they can go and take a quick 9 break. 10 How can the TLC work with the DOT to 11 get more taxi relief stands for our drivers so that they don't have to park 12 or block illegally different areas? 13 14 MS. WILEY-SCHWARTZ: Well, as you know, the curb is our most difficult 15 16 piece of property on any New York City 17 street and I think the process, as we 18 create more spaces -- day lit spaces, 19 spaces for offloading, spaces for, you 2.0 know, anyone who needs to use the curb 21 differently -- will require, you know, 22 all of us in New York to make some 23 compromises as we rethink the way that 24 we use all parking spaces. 25 But I do think that this New York

1	City Department of Transportation is up
2	to that task and we have already started
3	working closely with members of your
4	staff to also look at places streets
5	where we've created unintended
6	consequences for your drivers by not
7	making enough loading and unloading
8	zones. I think extending this to a
9	waiting and respite zones will need to
10	be something that we explore together.
11	CHAIR DO: Great. Looking forward
12	to working with you.
13	Commissioners, are there any
14	questions for DOT?
15	(No response.)
16	CHAIR DO: Okay. Thank you so much,
17	Assistant Commissioner.
18	MS. WILEY-SCHWARTZ: Thank you very
19	much.
20	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
21	Our next speaker is Bhairavi Desai
22	from NYTWA.
23	MS. DESAI: Good morning,
24	Commissioner Do and members of the
25	Commission. My name is Bhairavi Desai

and I'm the Executive Director of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance.

I think your discussion this morning is lacking a lot of context. It should really be understood that TLC drivers are held to the strictest of standards of any motorist across the State of New York -- I mean, I would dare say, probably even across this country -- and as the Commissioner said earlier, time after time reports show that TLC drivers, per mile driven, are among the safest motorists across the State of New York, and certainly, you know, the City of New York.

They work long hours. This is a difficult job. You're at the whim of the person behind you. You're reaching a destination that they control and for the largest workforce in this industry, you're also answering to -- you know, to companies that will deactivate you, which means take your job away at an instant.

The TLC, for years, has separated

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stationary violations from non-hazardous violations from hazardous moving violations and I don't understand -- you don't seem to have any real data as to why you are making this change all of a sudden and there seems to be no connection between, you know, parking violations and requiring a driver to take a course.

When they take this course, which doesn't even seem to be related to the violation in question, they're not only going to have to pay for that class, but they also are -- you know, they're not able to work that day and they still have to pay their expenses out-of-pocket. This is -- I mean, the punishment here is not as simple as just a class. These expenses add up for professional drivers and all of this seems incredibly excessive, you know --

You know, DCAS's presentation was interesting. I'm pretty sure those drivers are workers -- are employed, and have benefits, and all sorts of, you

1	know, perks on the job. Drivers TLC
2	drivers, meanwhile, don't have that and
3	they themselves
4	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
5	MS. DESAI: have been responsible
6	for their safe driving, and without any
7	of those perks, drivers have lived up to
8	these standards. They should not be
9	punished randomly at this point and
10	excessively.
11	There is no doubt that there needs
12	to be more space to park and drop-off.
13	There needs to be education of the
14	companies that dispatch to the location,
15	like Uber and Lyft, or even bases, and
16	for street-hailing passenger, there
17	needs to be education that the driver
18	has a right to decide where they can
19	safely discharge you
20	TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
21	MS. DESAI: at the end of a trip.
22	Drivers should not be punished.
23	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Bhairavi.
24	Look forward to your written comments as
25	well.

1	MS. DESAI: Thank you.
2	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
3	Our next speaker is Zubin Soleimany
4	from NYTWA.
5	MR. SOLEIMANY: Hi. Good morning.
6	Just a couple of housekeeping things
7	first.
8	I noticed you've been mentioning the
9	users who who their name is "iPhone".
10	So, if I could just pause my time for a
11	minute cause I think this is an issue
12	for everybody.
13	CHAIR DO: Sure.
14	MR. SOLEIMANY: When I was in the
15	waiting room, I was not able to change
16	my name. So if you're saying, "Hey,
17	we're not going to let you in. We won't
18	select you until you show a name", you
19	can't change the name in the position in
20	Zoom that you're in.
21	Now, when you promote me to a
22	panelist, I could. But those people are
23	going to be locked out of the hearing
24	the way that you set up the Zoom.
25	So, I just want to bring that to

1	your attention.
2	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Zubin. I'll
3	have my team reach out to those
4	particular folks and make sure that we
5	work with them. I think we can change
6	the name on our end once we chat with
7	them directly.
8	MR. SOLEIMANY: Okay. Great. Thank
9	you.
10	So, I'm going to identify myself.
11	My name is Zubin Soleimany. I'm a staff
12	attorney and I'm with the New York Taxi
13	Workers Alliance.
14	I want to note that you guys
15	requested that we identify ourselves and
16	I believe the gentleman before who spoke
17	did not identify himself. He is a
18	well-known educator with a TLC education
19	business. I think that's relevant to
20	the to anybody who has a financial
21	interest here.
22	I think this course is going to
23	generate a lot of revenue if we assume
24	the cost of \$150 a class the same as
25	the renewal course that's 4.2 million

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dollars a year. So, I hope that everybody who testifies today will identify themselves and any interest they have in these rules.

Guys, I got to tell you, what you're doing here is shockingly disproportionate to the kind of violations we're talking about. I do not understand what you're doing and I do not understand if the Commissioners here know what an 80-13(a)(1) violation is.

You guys keep putting pictures of crosswalk violations up and I understand that as a safety-related violation. The crosswalk violation is one of the only, if not the only, violation that under the RCNY gets points. The rest of them don't. The rest of them are not safety related and I don't know if you guys realize what you're going to do here.

Every single parking ticket, somebody has to pay a fine -- like they already do -- accrue points and go to a class. The class -- the current -- like

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I said, is \$150 for the renewal course.

If you're talking \$150, plus \$200, plus a day lost of work -- your stats show \$384 a day in fare box, plus expenses -- you're turning -- the gentleman from DCAS said, "Oh, they just pay the regular fine".

The regular fine for a no standing is \$65. You're turning a \$65 ticket into \$800 of economic loss for a workforce that has half the median hourly wage of the -- of the regular worker of New York City. That is insane. It is cruel and completely disproportionate.

You know, I go on to the City law database right now -- I go onto the City law database right now and look at the most -- I would appreciate comments not being made while I'm speaking.

If you go on the City law

database -- I'm not cherry-picking

these -- the two most recent decisions

showing an 80-13(a)(1) violation is a

driver parking in a hotel loading zone

-- okay -- with the permission of a dormant cause he has to use the bathroom.

1

2

3

4

5

25

That person has to lose a day of work and an \$800 economic loss because they went to the bathroom? That person

What you presented today is of the pandemic and dealing with

LH REPORTING SERVICES, INC. 718-526-7100

1	medallion debt
2	TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
3	MR. SOLEIMANY: to somebody.
4	Please reconsider. Do not pass
5	these rules.
6	CHAIR DO: Thanks, Zubin.
7	MS. ELUTO: Next to speak is Andrew
8	Greenblatt from IDG.
9	(No response.)
10	MS. ELUTO: Mr. Greenblatt, can you
11	un-mute your mic and begin?
12	MR. GREENBLATT: I'm sorry. I was
13	at the last second, you put me back
14	to attendee and now I'm back as a
15	panelist. So, here I am.
16	MS. ELUTO: Okay.
17	MR. GREENBLATT: You want to put me
18	up? Let me know when you're ready.
19	MS. ELUTO: We're ready.
20	MR. GREENBLATT: Oh, Okay.
21	Good morning, Commissioner Do and
22	the Taxi and Limousine Commission. My
23	name is Andrew Greenblatt and I'm the
24	Policy Director for the Independent
25	Drivers Guild, otherwise known as IDG.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding the proposed increased penalties for drivers in bike and bus lanes -- and by the way, I want to point out there's a difference between bus lanes where it is legal to be picked up and bike lanes where, I believe, it isn't -- right -- and so the proposed rule change is unlikely to alter driver behavior beyond stranding passengers, particularly those with disabilities.

We urge the TLC to reconsider its approach of penalizing drivers for situations that are beyond their control and instead adopt proven methods used in other cities to address these issues.

The TLC has noted that in -- in the recent 15-month period 20,000 tickets were issued for drivers for these kinds of violations. This raises the question, why do drivers continue to pull over in bus and bike lanes when they already face expensive tickets.

Drivers talk about one reason; the TLC another. Neither warrants this

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change. Drivers point out that they are sent onto trips with illegal pick-up and drop-off sites. Making this change will only make it so that drivers rush through those pick-ups, stranding people who have increased needs -- such as people in wheelchairs or with other disabilities.

A more effective approach is what they do in New Orleans, where they get the app companies to not dispatch to places where it's illegal to pick-up and instead to have the passengers meet the driver at some place where it is legal.

The second problem that the TLC is talking about is people who pull over, get out of their cars. Ask a driver why they're doing that, they'll tell you it's because they need food and to use the bathroom. Raising the penalties for these events won't reduce the need to eat or use a bathroom.

Imagine if the TLC suddenly said to employees that they couldn't use bathrooms or get food below 96th Street.

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This would cause chaos in the TLC. The solution to that problem wouldn't be to raise penalties on those -- on those employees when they needed to use the bathroom or get food. It would be to make food and bathrooms accessible to those employees. That is true here as well.

The TLC should stop spending countless hours punishing drivers and instead use some of those hours to find places where drivers can pull over legally and safely to take care of basic bodily functions.

TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

MR. GREENBLATT: You can't punish drivers enough that they are no longer human. You should stop trying. Let's stop punishing drivers for actions they can't control and start making it possible for them to do their jobs.

Bank robbers rob because they need
-- because they want money. You can
punish them to stop doing that. You
can't punish people to stop needing to

```
go to the bathroom. You're barking up
1
2
             the wrong tree.
3
                 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
4
                 The next --
5
                 CHAIR DO: Thank you. I have a
6
             quick question.
7
                 Do you think leaving a vehicle in a
8
            bike lane is dangerous or not?
9
                 MR. GREENBLATT: Yes -- yes, I think
10
            we need to -- I need -- I think we need
11
             to --
12
                 (Cross-Talk.)
13
                 MR. GREENBLATT: Commissioner, you
14
             can't ask me a question then not let me
15
             answer.
16
                 CHAIR DO: Here's my question and
17
             I'll give you your time.
18
                 And -- that -- so that is
19
             dangerous -- right -- and so, you know,
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             they're not picking up. They're just
21
             leaving their vehicle and park there for
22
             -- for -- sometimes I have observed this
23
             for a long period of time.
24
                 And so how can we mitigate that if
25
             it's not these rules -- and I'll give
```

1 you your time. Go ahead. 2 MR. GREENBLATT: Yeah, so -- so what 3 these rules are doing is they're saying, 4 look, we have a problem with bank 5 robberies. So, what we're going to do 6 is we're going to -- we're going to 7 punish tellers when they have a gun to 8 their face who hand over the money --9 right. 10 You're -- you're not punishing the 11 person who's making the decisions here, 12 So, there's two groups of people 13 whose behavior you need to change. 14 Neither one is the driver. 15 The first is the companies that send 16 people to pick people up and drop people 17 off in bike lanes and bus lanes, 18 etcetera. The second is the Department 19 of Transportation that does not give 2.0 enough places where people can pull 21 over. 22 Nobody would risk a \$100 ticket if 23 there was a convenient place to park 24 within a few blocks where they could go 25 to the bathroom and get food to eat.

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1
            You're -- if you want to punish anyone,
2
            put fines in the -- on the Department of
3
             Transportation for not providing the
4
             appropriate places for people to park.
5
             They're the ones causing this trouble.
6
                 Instead, you're punishing the person
             who has no choice of the matter and
7
8
            making it hard -- and making it more
9
             expensive for them to do the things they
10
             can't choose not to do. It doesn't
11
             change their behavior. It's just
12
             smacking them without actually solving
13
             the problems.
14
                 We all want safe streets. We all
15
             live in this City. We're all
16
            pedestrians. We're all bike riders.
17
            Make it so we can do our job safely, not
18
             so we get punished because someone else
19
             won't let us.
2.0
                 CHAIR DO: Thank -- Thank you,
21
            Andrew.
22
                             All right. Our next
                 MS. ELUTO:
23
             speaker is Jean Ryan from Disabled In
24
             Action.
25
                 (No response.)
```

1 MS. ELUTO: Ms. Ryan, can you 2 un-mute your mic? 3 MS. RYAN: Yes -- okay. Thank you. 4 I'm Jean Ryan, President of Disabled 5 In Action of Metropolitan New York. Wе 6 submitted long testimony with other 7 disability rights groups. 8 The needs and rights of people with 9 disabilities are not being considered in 10 this proposed rule to increase fines and 11 points. We ride buses and we don't want 12 them to be slow, but how are we supposed 13 to get into and out of taxis, 14 Access-A-Ride, and for-hire vehicles if we cannot get close to the curb. Of all 15 16 people, we would think the TLC 17 understands that. 18 Blind people cannot be picked up or let out on the next block or around the 19 2.0 corner and know where they are. People 21 who walk with great difficulty also 22 cannot be dropped off further away from 23 where they are going and may have to be 24 helped to the door of where they are 25 going to -- so, the driver would have to

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temporarily leave the vehicle -- and wheelchair users and walker users cannot get into or out of their MTA vehicles or for-hire vehicles without being able to get up onto the sidewalk or down from the sidewalk. For us, being near the corner is best or we have to go in the street with traffic.

Six years ago and more, we fought for the ability to be dropped off and picked up in bus lanes and bus stops and DOT gave it to us. But now we find out that it seems to only apply to the big AAR vans, even though now most AAR riders are in broker for-hire vehicles. There should not be any penalties for Access-A-Ride or for-hire vehicles picking up or dropping off people with disabilities in bus stops or by double-parking or in intersections.

There are whole blocks with a bike lane on one side and a bus lane on the other. Where are we supposed to be let off or gotten on to? By having heavy penalties for picking us up in these

1	places, drivers will refuse to pick us
2	up or drop us off like they are already
3	doing at 375 Pearl Street. By my block,
4	on a narrow, quiet street, the only safe
5	place to pick me up or drop me off is a
6	seldom used bus stop or the
7	intersection.
8	Drivers are getting tickets for
9	picking us up or dropping us off now
10	they are even though it's valid.
11	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
12	MS. RYAN: Times change, but we
13	still need access. We're not going to
14	be stuck in our homes. Thank you.
15	CHAIR DO: Thank you.
16	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
17	CHAIR DO: And like my team said
18	right picking up and dropping off at
19	a bus lane is not it's not illegal.
20	So, it's legal right.
21	MS. RYAN: But they're getting
22	tickets and then that makes the drivers
23	not want to pick us up.
24	CHAIR DO: And there is due process
25	for that and oftentimes and I'll have

1 Kathy speak on it -- oftentimes, when we 2 do see these pick-up and drop-offs, we drop those cases always -- always, with 3 4 the evidence. 5 My question though is -- and I think 6 I've asked you this previously --7 right -- is when -- my biggest 8 frustration is when private vehicles --9 other types of vehicles -- park on the 10 curb at a bus lane and eliminates the 11 ability for others to drop off people 12 with disabilities, passengers, or even 13 buses on the curb -- and that is 14 something that we want to address with this. 15 16 What are your thoughts on that 17 portion of the rule? 18 MS. RYAN: You mean personal 19 vehicles -- are you talking about --2.0 CHAIR DO: Personal vehicles parked 21 and they park and leave it there -- and 22 also, in some cases, TLC vehicles, 23 they're parked -- they're not dropping 24 off or picking up anyone and so that 25 valuable curb space -- right, Jean -- is

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no longer being able to you -- be utilized for pick-up and drop-offs of a variety of different passengers and that's something that we're trying to cure here as well.

MS. RYAN: Yes, I've had that problem when I was trying to get the bus and people would just routinely park in front of the bagel place, which was in front of the bus stop, and I would have -- literally have to go to the drivers and say, "Please, the bus is coming. I need to get on it" -- cause I can't get on a bus that's parked out in the street. I call it leapfrogging, you know, because I can't get out there into traffic and I can't get off the curb right there at the bus stop. I have to go to the -- to the corner where the curb cut out is.

So, yes, that is a problem. But in this effort to change things, people who are innocently picking up and dropping off people are being snagged, and caught, and fined -- and some people

don't know how to fight it. 1 2 You know, you're allowing people who 3 don't speak English to drive, and get a 4 license, and everything -- and then they 5 really don't have the skills or the time to fight their ticket and it's very --6 7 and even then, sometimes the administrative judges still fine them 8 9 and that's not right. 10 So, there's this play of an intersection of, you know, trying to 11 12 make things safe and then punishing 13 drivers for doing the right thing. CHAIR DO: I take that and I'll 14 15 definitely take your feedback and try to 16 strike a better balance -- and thank you 17 so much, Jean, for your testimony. 18 Before I let you leave though, Jean, 19 Kathy, do you have anything to add? 2.0 MS. HAFEEZ: Yes. 21 So, first of all, I just want to 22 reiterate that it is legal to drop-off 23 and pick-up -- bus lanes, bus stops, 24 fire lanes -- I mean, in front of a fire 25 hydrant as long as, you know, you're --

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you can move your car in the -- in case of an emergency.

Our officers will not issue a ticket if they can see that this is something that you're doing, and then our drivers should also have some records of these trip records that they can present at a hearing.

I do hear that, you know, some drivers do have language barriers. We provide free interpretation services to all of our drivers. They can come into our offices. We will tell them what their options are and they can present that evidence with the help of an interpreter and they can make their case to the administrative lawyer.

MS. RYAN: But to do that they have to take time off from work, and they have to know that that is available, and they're probably getting the first, you know, ticket notice -- things like that -- in English.

So, not everyone is equipped to fight for themselves effectively.

1 CHAIR DO: Jean -- before I give it 2 back to Kathy, these 80-13(a)(1) --3 (1)(a) and (b) are already illegal right 4 now and so these drivers are already 5 getting issued summonses. 6 So, let me, I think, be very clear 7 on that -- and so there -- so many 8 drivers still come in and work with 9 Kathy's office to settle these -- these 10 summonses already. 11 Oftentimes, right now, I believe --12 and Kathy will correct me if I'm 13 wrong -- is the summonses are about \$100 14 and then you settle for \$50 -- right -and so I'll throw it back to Kathy to 15 16 explain that process. 17 MS. RYAN: Well, I just heard 18 yesterday about a driver who got a 19 ticket for either picking up or dropping 2.0 off a person with a disability 21 yesterday. 22 CHAIR DO: And in those cases --23 right -- Kathy's office will work with 24 that driver to ensure that they're not 25 violating any of the rules, especially

1 when they're picking up or dropping off 2 a passenger. 3 Kathy. MS. HAFEEZ: Also, I would like to 4 5 say that you're supposed to do this 6 quickly. You can't go and wait 5 or 10 7 minutes for a passenger in these areas 8 to get in because you are causing a 9 serious public safety concern. So, we 10 are thinking about the general public, 11 but especially our disabled passengers, 12 and we try to, you know, increase these 13 penalties. 14 As far as taking time off, our 15 hearings are actually by phone. Most of 16 our licensees actually do these hearings 17 while they're driving. So, I really do think that it is not -- they can come 18 19 They can call us. We have interpreters over the phone. We have 2.0 21 notices in different languages. 22 We really do try to make this as 23 easy as possible and accommodate all of 24 our licensees. 25 MS. RYAN: So, to secure a person in

1 a wheelchair, especially if -- it only 2 takes four or five minutes if you know 3 what you're doing, but a lot of drivers 4 don't know what they're doing or don't 5 have the proper straps and it takes more 6 than that. 7 MS. HAFEEZ: And that's why the 8 course is so important. That's what we want to target here. We want these 9 10 drivers to know how to do those things. 11 It is for the safety of the passenger. 12 MS. RYAN: Well, we want that too --13 you know, and we don't it to be they do 14 it fast and don't secure us at all, 15 which happens a lot. 16 MS. HAFEEZ: As long as they're 17 loading or unloading, helping you get in 18 the car, securing you, it is not a 19 violation. They will not be ticketed 2.0 for that. 21 MS. RYAN: Sometimes where they pull 22 up, we can't -- a wheelchair user can't 23 get off the curb there. We can't jump 24 So, we have to go to the corner, 25 come back in traffic, and then, you

1	know, get to the cargo section of the
2	vehicle.
3	So, that can take time and it might
4	look like the driver is not doing
5	anything but stopping, but we're
6	actually actively going to the vehicle.
7	CHAIR DO: We'll continue to work
8	with you, look at your written testimony
9	from a variety of different
10	accessibility and disability advocates,
11	and go from there.
12	But I really appreciate your time
13	today.
14	MS. RYAN: Thank you.
15	CHAIR DO: I'm going to Sherryl,
16	I'm going to use the Chair's prerogative
17	and recognize Joe Rappaport as our next
18	person to testify.
19	MR. RAPPAPORT: Thanks so much.
20	I'm Joe Rappaport of the Brooklyn
21	Center for Independence of the Disabled.
22	I'm here to testify, as you heard
23	from Jean, with other colleagues from
24	the disability community about the
25	proposal to drastically increase fines

1 and penalties for drivers who pick-up and drop-off passengers and bike and bus 2 3 lanes, etcetera. Our groups also have submitted a 4 5 letter outlining our views. In spite of the TLC's reassurance 6 7 about the impact on disabled passengers, 8 this proposal, we believe, needs a great 9 deal more thought, and research, and we 10 urge the TLC to hold off on moving 11 forward with it or any other version of 12 this rule until you've fully examined --13 more fully examined the concerns of the 14 disability community and engage more fully with drivers, as Bhairavi, Zubin, 15 16 and Andrew have testified. 17 The TLC also must engage more 18 extensively with the MTA, whose 19 Access-A-Ride broker-drivers also are 2.0 targeted for increased penalties. Let's look more -- let's look more 21 22 closely at that aspect of your proposal. 23 Access-A-Ride brokers now carry 24 about 70 percent of riders, a major 25 shift in the last few years -- and a

2.0

majority of Access-A-Ride users have mobility disabilities, including riders who are blind. They can't use the subways or buses or get to them.

While we consider paratransit service part of the mass transit system, it is different in that it requires that the passenger be picked up precisely where they need to leave from -- not down the block, around the corner, or across the street.

In addition, some Access-A-Ride passengers must be escorted to the entrance of the building -- to the -- must be escorted to the entrance of the building, not just dropped off at the curb, and they must be dropped off at the address they are going to -- again, not someplace vaguely nearby.

If I didn't, my name is Joe Rapoport and I'm from the Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled. I just received a message that I needed to identify myself.

In any case, this kind of thing

1	where people are dropped in the wrong
2	location happens all the time,
3	unfortunately. But in simply meeting
4	Access-A-Ride's mandate, drivers now
5	would be even more heavily fined and
6	possibly lose their licenses if they
7	just do their job. That doesn't make
8	sense.
9	No matter what you do,
10	broker-drivers should be exempt from
11	these increased fines. Not everyone who
12	has a disability uses Access-A-Ride of
13	course, and the TLC must take into
14	account those passengers
15	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
16	MR. RAPPAPORT: it's unreasonable
17	to expect them to go far out of their
18	way, down a long block or across the
19	street, to get a taxi, Uber, or Lyft
20	ride.
21	We're certain there are ways to
22	reduce the intrusion of TLC regulated
23	vehicles into bike and bus lanes. This
24	proposal isn't it.
25	We look forward to working with you

1	to come up with better approaches, while
2	taking into account the rights of
3	disabled people, a protected class.
4	Thank you very much.
5	CHAIR DO: Thank you.
6	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
7	Our next speaker Jehiah Czebotar, an
8	advocate for safe streets.
9	MR. CZEBOTAR: Thank you for the
10	time to testify testify today.
11	My name is Jehiah Czebotar, no
12	affiliation to state, as someone that
13	cares and advocates for street safety.
14	Thank you for undertaking these rule
15	changes and I'd like to testify in
16	support of the Vision Zero rule changes.
17	Over the past 10 years, I have
18	reported over 400 serious moving
19	violations by licensed TLC drivers to
20	the TLC and I appreciate the TLC's
21	professionalism in handling those
22	reports thoroughly and its long-standing
23	commitment to Vision Zero.
24	New York City is the densest city in
25	North America and following the New York
	l l

City traffic rules and New York State
Vehicle and Traffic Law is not optional
and plays a key role in ensuring our
streets are safe for all individuals.

It's clear, however, that when you go outside and you regularly see vehicles blocking crosswalks, driving bike lanes, running red lights, making illegal u-turns, turning from the center lane, failing to yield to pedestrians, that culturally, there's just a low compliance rate with these critical safety rules.

Against that backdrop, I believe this rule change is appropriately structured to reinforce that these rules are not optional and that repeat violations have consequences, while simultaneously ensuring there's targeted education.

TLC data shows that while the vast
majority of drivers get zero or one
violations for these rules, for a
minority, the existing fine structure is
not a deterrent.

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I would also like to note that the use of escalating violations or escalating fines now applies for all drivers who get camera violations issued by the MTA for parking in a bus stop, parking in a bus lane, or double-parking, and in the first five months that those cameras were online in 2024, the MTA issued over 500,000 such violations. These rule changes match that approach and I think it's appropriate.

I would encourage the TLC to make two modifications to these rules; one, to increase the look-back period or repeat violations from 15 months to 24 months to account for the variable, but sometimes lengthy delay and adjudication of some violations -- and please refer to my written comments for details about possible reclassification of one particular moving violation.

And, also, I would just like to say, like, in relation to many of the comments today --

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                 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
2
                 MR. CZEBOTAR: -- there is very
3
            widespread misunderstanding of which
             curb regulations allow drop-off and
4
5
            which ones do not, and so I think --
6
                 (Disruption in transmission.)
7
                 MR. CZEBOTAR: -- about this is very
8
             important and thank you for the TLC for
9
             including that.
10
                 Thank you for your time.
11
                 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
12
                 Our next speaker is Adalgisa Payero
13
            Diarra from UTANY.
14
                 (No response.)
15
                 MS. ELUTO: Adalgisa -- yes, go
16
             ahead.
17
                 MS. DIARRA: All right. Hello,
18
             everyone. Good morning, Commissioner --
19
             good morning to Commissioner and
2.0
             everyone attending today.
21
                 My name is Adalgisa Payero Diarra.
22
             I'm the president of UTANY. Today, we
23
             are here once more to oppose another
24
             unfair and abusive rule that only
25
             affects our industry as usual.
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It doesn't matter which sector of
the industry you work, this regulation
is abusive, unfair, and it only creates
hardship to us and our families. How
can we provide a safe and effective
service if every time we have to pick-up
or drop-off a passenger we might
encounter a penalty. We already have
such a difficult time doing this job,
because every agency in the City looks
for a way to make money from us.

Taxi and Limousine Commission should protect drivers and the job we do to move this City 24/7. But instead, we are always giving -- we are always giving the hard-earned money to the City without any consideration for us and our family.

We urge the Commissioner and those involved to review this decision to put a stop to the abuse and constant attack on our drivers. We are citizens trying to earn a decent living for our family and we are a very important part of the economy and the constant movement of

1 this City. 2 We've worked 24/7 to provide our 3 service and without regard to the 4 weather or any situation. We were at 5 the front line during COVID where we have hundreds of drivers that passed 6 7 away doing this job. 8 We are not against rules and 9 regulations, but it has to be fair. We 10 cannot provide the service door-to-door 11 to an estate manner if we are going to 12 be penalized every time we do. We need 13 to get involved, everybody, when we make 14 a rule affecting the job in the 15 industry. 16 Sit down with everyone involved --17 organizers, advocate for the industry, 18 and those that want to create this rule. 19 We are not a piggy -- we're not a bank 2.0 account -- bank -- ATM for the City --21 I'm sorry. The City is always looking 22 for the way to make money. 23 (Cross-Talk.) 24 MS. DIARRA: We want to be 25 successful -- how can we be successful

1	in this job and provide for our
2	family
3	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
4	MS. DIARRA: when our money keeps
5	going back to the City? There's no way
6	we can provide the safe service, as is
7	requested by TLC, where we need to drop
8	from point "A" to point "B" in a safe
9	manner.
10	Please rethink these rules and do
11	what's best for everyone, including the
12	drivers. Please think about the
13	drivers.
14	CHAIR DO: I have a question for
15	you.
16	So, if the fine structure fines part
17	remains the same, what would your
18	thoughts be?
19	If we're saying, hey, you know, that
20	you're saying, you know, the fines
21	are excessive, that we're using you as a
22	bank account which is not the
23	intention what about, you know
24	what about just the class or what about
25	just something else as a penalty and not

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-- not the -- not the fee? 1 2 MS. DIARRA: Well, we are -- we 3 already -- sorry. 4 We already talk about these classes 5 during our renewal training. We talk about Vision Zero, how to make the 6 7 proper left turn, how to be safe. 8 always talk about driving safe -- safe 9 driving -- making sure you let the 10 passenger know to look for the cyclist, 11 to look for the pedestrian -- you know. 12 Make sure you allow the pedestrian to 13 cross the street. 14 We have to be -- we have to look for 15 the buses -- MTA buses, school buses, 16 for other vehicles, the pedestrian --17 you know, all the drivers, the cyclists, 18 the scooter -- and also we have to try 19 to provide a safe service and keep our eyes on the road. 2.0 21 When we are dropping off or picking 22 up a passenger, we don't decide where 23 that bus stop is -- right. Let's say, 24 for instance, my mom's building has two 25 stops -- one in the right side, one in

the front -- where can she be picked up?

She's an elderly person that uses a

cane. She will take more than five

minutes to be picked up by a

passenger -- by a driver.

So, we have to be able to understand that there are other issues and -- and we don't do it because we want to. We don't want that 50, \$100 fine. Drivers know that they have to do what is requested because then the passenger will report them for not picking them up in a safe area.

So, classes, 125, \$150 -- it's just too much money for the driver. That's the truth. Drivers, right now --

right -- and I want your opinion on this
-- is maybe we keep it the same for the
first violation, but where I'm trying to
target are the drivers -- right -- the
three percent of drivers -- who
completely do this time after time again
without regard to street safety that I'm
most concerned by -- right.

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So, there are some drivers who have 10 plus points and then we, you know -like, that's -- that's insane to me and so -- and they do this because there are so many ways to get out of this. And so, you know, maybe the first time for these types of violations would be the same -- maybe even the second time -- and then after that, if you get a third, fourth, fifth violation of the same thing, that's where I have more concerns about. So, what are your thoughts on that? Like, if we for the first violation, let's say, you know, keep it the same -and I'm not -- and I'm not committing to this. I'm just asking you --MS. DIARRA: No, I understand but --

MS. DIARRA: No, I understand but -yes, I understand that there's still a
few drivers that are creating this
issue, but we also have to look at the
bigger picture.

We have buses lanes and bicycle lanes on areas like in front of hospitals. If you go into the Bronx

1 area, you're going to find a lot of bus 2 lanes in front of hospitals. How can 3 they pick-up those passengers, 4 especially the disabled and elderly 5 people? They need more time -- right. 6 So, yes, after a certain amount of points, we don't disagree. After 7 certain amount of points, a driver 8 9 should be issued some penalty or a class 10 to reinforce the rules and regulations 11 of the City. 12 But making it for everyone -- first 13 violation going into points -- that is 14 unfair, you know. Then it should be 15 looked into, what are the best ways for 16 everyone and be able to pull out those 17 bad, you know, violators -- consistent 18 violators -- and re-teach them --19 right -- re-educate them about, you 2.0 know, you doing this the wrong way. Let's -- let's work on that and move 21 22 forward. 23 So, I think that there is a way to 24 work, not just go ahead and implement in 25 this rule for everyone and then just for

1	a few drivers.
2	CHAIR DO: Thank you for your
3	comments.
4	(Cross-Talk.)
5	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
6	Our next speaker is Eman
7	Rimawi-Doster from the Disability
8	Justice Program.
9	MS. RIMAWI-DOSTER: Hi. Good
10	morning. My name is Eman Rimawi-Doster
11	and I'm Senior Community Organizer with
12	the Disability Justice Program at New
13	York Lawyers for the Public Interest.
14	Yesterday, NYLPI and 11 other
15	disability advocacy groups submitted a
16	letter to your office urging you to
17	delay the implementation of these
18	increased penalties to TLC regulated
19	vehicles for parking in crosswalks, bus
20	stop areas, and buses and bike lanes
21	until TLC engages with discussion with
22	the disability community about the
23	potential negative impacts of the of
24	these changes on people with
25	disabilities.

We would like to discuss potential solutions which are less likely to negatively impact passengers with disabilities. As a double amputee who uses a rollator walker, it's vitally important for me to be able to be dropped off at a location that is both convenient and safe.

NYLPI supports regulations that keep crosswalks, bus lanes, bus stop areas, and bicycle lanes free of obstruction, and in turn make traveling in New York City easier and safer for people with disabilities. However, NYLPI does not support the proposed rule change in this current format.

As detailed in the letter that our group sent to you yesterday, we recommend a designated discharge and pick-up area with a pedestrian ramp on every block that can only be used to pick-up and drop-off passengers with disabilities. Although, notably, this would not only be -- solve the problem for blind and visually impaired riders

1	as well, but other folks with mobility
2	disabilities and we would thus like to
3	discuss this issue with you.
4	Additionally, we'd like to discuss a
5	way to distinguish the broker service
6	cars used as part of the MTA's
7	Access-A-Ride service to ensure their
8	drivers do not receive a penalty in
9	picking up or dropping off passengers
10	with disabilities.
11	Thank you for your consideration.
12	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
13	Our next speaker is Eric McClure
14	from StreetsPAC.
15	MR. McCLURE: Thank you. Good
16	morning, Commissioners.
17	My name is Eric McClure. I am the
18	Executive Director of StreetsPAC. We
19	are a public political active
20	committee and advocacy organization.
21	StreetsPAC strongly supports the
22	Taxi and Limousine Commission's proposed
23	changes to rule 80-13 which would
24	increase penalties for stationary and
25	non-hazardous moving violations

committed by for-hire drivers.

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Violations such as parking in crosswalks, double-parking, parking in no standing zones or next to fire hydrants, and driving or parking in bike lanes may seem like no big deal to some drivers, but they can be dangerous or even deadly to someone on foot or on a bicycle or trapped in a burning building.

For example, Madison Lyden, a young Australian tourist, was struck and killed by the driver of a garbage truck in Central Park West in 2018 after she had to navigate around a taxi cab whose driver had stopped in the bike lane.

Countless door'ing incidents have been precipitated by double-parked vehicles and cars stopped and parked in crosswalks create dangerous blind spots where pedestrians assume they are safe.

Establishing graduated fines and assigning points for these violations will send a strong message to taxi and other for-hire drivers that those

potentially dangerous actions are not okay and they will only truly impact a relatively small group of repeat offenders. The vast majority of taxi and delivery drivers have never received summonses for these violations, but TLC data shows that the agency adjudicated about 28,000 of these violations over a 15-month period ending in 2023, of which 2,000 were issued to repeat offenders and the Vision Zero complaints have increased by more than a third from 2023 to 2024.

Of course, even one such incident can prove dangerous or even deadly, which is more than enough justification to assign a license point for the first

Drivers would be able to take a remedial TLC approved safety course to avoid license suspension, a smart use of education, to modify behavior and New Yorkers have the right to expect that the City's professional drivers be held to a high standard. We know most of

2.0

these drivers operate safely and responsibly and they won't be affected by any changes to the rules.

We also do support creating more release stations for drivers, underscoring the need for many more public restroom facilities across the City, as well as ensuring that accommodations are made for the picking up and dropping off of disabled persons.

We also strongly support amending rule 68-14 which would allow consideration of certain criminal offenses committed in other jurisdictions and assessing a driver's fitness for a TLC license. It's highly likely that someone who drives unsafely in another city or town will do the same in New York City. Giving the Taxi and Limousine Commission the power to consider all the drivers' convictions, regardless of where they were incurred, is a common sense step that will keep New Yorkers safer.

We're grateful that the TLC takes

1	Vision Zero and safety as seriously as
2	it does and we urge the adoption of the
3	proposed amended rules. Thank you.
4	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
5	Our next speaker is Anwaar Malik
6	from IDG.
7	(No response.)
8	MS. ELUTO: Mr. Malik?
9	MR. MALIK: Yes allow me a
10	second.
11	MS. ELUTO: Excuse me? You're on.
12	MR. MALIK: Alright.
13	MS. ELUTO: Okay.
14	MR. MALIK: All right. Good
15	morning, Commissioners. My name is
16	Anwaar Malik. I've been a TLC licensed
17	driver for over nine years now. I'm
18	also an advocate for drivers on the IDG
19	platform.
20	Today, sadly, I'm here to say that
21	these proposed rules are completely
22	unfair and should be thrown out. Let's
23	be honest, this hearing proves that TLC
24	does not care about drivers. TLC only
25	cares about the money coming in.

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IDG has been telling you for years, since before COVID, that we need designated pick-up and drop-off zones.

TLC ignored us, but now that you see an opportunity to take money from our pockets, suddenly you want a hearing.

That's very shameful.

We, the TLC drivers, do not choose where to stop. The apps send us to a location and we cannot know if it's a bike lane or a bus lane until we arrive.

What are we supposed to do -- cancel the ride and risk deactivation and have riders assume that we are discriminating against them? Make passengers walk blocks away to get hit -- and get hit with a bad rating and/or complaints? You're putting us in a -- in an impossible position.

And let's talk about reality -passengers don't always want to meet us
somewhere else. What happens when we
have -- when they have luggage? What
about disabled passengers who need extra
help?

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Commissioner Do, I'm talking to you now. You've picked up passengers before. You know exactly what it's like out there. How many of your pick-ups were in fire hydrant zones? How many people needed help with their bags or wheelchairs? You know how much space and caution that takes, yet here we are talking about punishing drivers instead of fixing the real problem.

Why are TLC plated vehicles being lumped in with regular cars? If the City wants to crack down on bike lane and bus lane violations, fine. Do it for personal vehicles, but not TLC drivers. They should be exempt unless, of course, they're parked. I get what you're saying.

We don't park in these spots for That's a whole day or two of work to pay off a

1	controlling where we stop face no
2	consequences.
3	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
4	MR. MALIK: If you cared, you
5	wouldn't be putting punishing
6	drivers. You'd be forcing Uber and Lyft
7	to create legal designated pick-up and
8	drop-off areas like they have in other
9	cities.
10	I urge you, throw these rules in the
11	garbage and let's restart, or if you're
12	serious about safety, go after the app
13	companies and make them part of the
14	solution. But don't sit up there and
15	pretend this is about safety when we all
16	know it's just another way to take money
17	from hard-working drivers. We deserve a
18	lot better.
19	But I do want to
20	TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
21	MR. MALIK: I want to compliment
22	the Commissioners on something if that's
23	allowed.
24	MS. ELUTO: Compliments always.
25	MR. MALIK: Perfect.

1	So, he did say we have due process.
2	I love how he said that because at IDG,
3	that's how we started. That's why we
4	started. It was for due processes
5	right.
6	Now but I what I want to add
7	to that is, instead of having the
8	drivers go into a hearing where they
9	don't know they don't know how to
10	talk sometimes they get scared or
11	something I think it's better if TLC
12	creates a dispute app where the drivers
13	can dispute tickets.
14	They can come to our union office
15	and we dispute those tickets. We help
16	them. We help them right. We
17	provide the proof of
18	MS. ELUTO: Okay.
19	MR. MALIK: you get what I'm
20	saying?
21	MS. ELUTO: Yes all right. Thank
22	you.
23	Our next speaker up is Jacky Lin
24	from IDG.
25	MR. LIN: Hey, everybody. My name

is Jacky. I'm with IDG.

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You know, I've been a driver there as well, but the thing is, it's like a lot of things that we have to face on the road. It's not fair for us.

There's a lot of things that we have to look out for and now, you know, with the fact that we barely have time to use the bathroom -- to stop somewhere to take a break -- we go pick up a passenger. We get ticketed. That cuts into our earnings. That's a whole day loss, you know, after expenses and everything. We make nothing on the road already.

We -- what we need is -- if you see these repeated offenses -- what we need is we need parking spaces that's available for drivers for temporary pick-up and drop-off -- right. We need parking places to pick-up and load -- load off passengers. We need a place that's safe to wait for passengers without getting ticketed.

We are not the ones that decide where to go pick-up. We are the ones

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that's being told, "Hey, you have to be here specifically in order to pick up at that specific place".

So, this whole ticketing about double-parking, about parking in those standing zones, we don't have a safe place and we get penalized for that and then, what we do, we decline those trips and next thing you know, they say, "Oh, destination -- destination discrimination". They say, "Oh, you're discriminating against a federally protected trade". That's what the riders would use to complain as and that would kick us off the app permanently.

So, you know, all this stuff, it hurts us all the time and this is not just from today. We've been saying this from before the -- pre-pandemic times of saying, "Hey, we need designated pick-up and drop-off".

And, also, you're saying the repeated offense -- offenders. Why are they having -- why are they being repeated offenders? Because they don't

have a place to park; they don't have a 1 2 place to quickly go in there and leave. 3 What if we have a 10-minute parking 4 space in those delineated areas, or 5 maybe one more block from the delineated 6 area -- like one more parking space from 7 the delineated area. That would help 8 us. A lot of people do not get these 9 kind of tickets. 10 The other thing I want to talk about 11 is, for this class that you guys are 12 proposing -- it's the Vision Zero and 13 wheelchair accessibility -- those are 14 two different completely matters -- two 15 different complete matters. 16 Why does someone that drives a 17 Toyota Camry or SUV get a Vision Zero 18 violation ticket? Why do they have to 19 also learn about the wheelchair 2.0 portion -- you know? I get it if they are a wheelchair driver -- a wheelchair 21

TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

MR. LIN: -- driver getting these

kind of tickets. Fine. They only do a

accessibility --

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23

24

1	wheelchair portion. If they're only
2	there for moving violation portion, then
3	only take the class for the moving
4	violation portion. These two matters
5	should be separated. It shouldn't be as
6	all in one class.
7	You know, a driver, as you all know,
8	they take the renewal class and it
9	already has a wheelchair portion in
10	their training securement training
11	already in it. That should be that
12	should be enough. Thank you.
13	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Jacky.
14	After Sonam after Sonam, We'll
15	take a five-minute break.
16	Go ahead, Sonam.
17	MR. SONAM: Hi. Just give me a
18	second.
19	MR. AITAABOU: Hello oh, can you
20	hear us oh, it's Larbi or Sonam? I
21	don't get it.
22	CHAIR DO: Sonam first and then
23	we're going to take a five-minute break.
24	Go ahead, Sonam.
25	MR. SONAM: Okay. It's Sonam.

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Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Commissioner and -- Commissioner Do and all the Commissioners.

> And with due respect, I want to highlight that we see here today a lot of agencies talking about the Vision We never said we never support Zero. Vision Zero. Indeed, we support Vision Zero and whatever the renewal classes give education about the Vision Zero is awesome.

But how the agencies portray -especially, I want to refer to the FDNY representative -- she demonstrates so nicely that the car, which was parked, you know, she demonstrated, like, it was a TLC vehicle. I just want to correct all the people, all the audiences, all the public, that that was not a TLC vehicle. It was a private vehicle.

That -- that lead -- you know, the issue with the fire hydrant -- just want to correct that.

driver. We did not buy our license in

Jackson Heights or original buy the license in Manhattan or Chinatown. We went through class. We know the rules; we know the regulations and we respect the laws.

But all the agencies here coming with all the testimony, what we learned -- or what I feel is like they are going after the TLC driver is not acceptable and it's something that -- it should be something that, you know, blaming to the TLC drivers.

As you know, we just celebrate the (indiscernible) -- and it's in the process still -- we're also looking for ways to save money.

The other thing that they are not spending is also a form of savings.

Currently, the MTA is taking our money through unfair bus fines -- double-parking -- which diminishes the joy of (indiscernible). It's not just the MTA traffic. It will contribute the issues to not letting drop-off in the hot spot area in Manhattan, especially

1 in Penn Station and the area. It's not 2 to issue ticket \$115. 3 In addition, it costs \$115 just to use a bathroom too because there's 4 nowhere to park. The City is filled 5 6 with commercial vehicles making even 7 harder for us. And on top of it, now 8 TLC wants to fine \$200 for stopping on 9 bike and bus lanes. These rules ruin the livelihood of drivers. 10 11 Ride-share passengers often order on 12 the -- on the one-way and you know how 13 the streets are in NYC -- very narrow, 14 like a room size or a toilet size. 15 Where we wait our passenger -- either 16 both are both right or left? Both are 17 occupied by either bus lane or bike

TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

MR. SONAM: This is the question to TLC Chairs and DOT as well. Instead of TLC working hard for the drivers, TLC is creating more (indiscernible) for drivers. We cannot take this anymore. There are already many law enforcement

lanes. Where we wait?

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1
            agencies to ticket drivers and we
2
            support that, and we strongly condemn
3
            this proposed, and it has to come with a
            better solution -- and the better
4
5
            solution is to stand with advocating
            organizers like Independent Drivers
6
7
            Guild and drivers like us to make a
8
            proper change.
9
                 Thank you so much everyone for
10
            giving this opportunity. Thank you.
11
                 CHAIR DO: Thank you.
12
                 We'll now call for a five-minute
13
            recess and then we'll start again at
14
            11:40.
15
                 Thank you.
16
                 (Recess Taken.)
17
                 CHAIR DO: The time is now 11:41 and
18
            we will resume the public testimony.
19
                 MS. ELUTO: Okay. Someone has to
2.0
            put my camera back on -- "disabled by
            host". Turn on the camera.
21
22
                 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Working on it.
23
                 MS. ELUTO: Okay -- all right.
24
            we're ready and our next speaker is
25
            Larbi Aitaabou -- I know I'm
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1	mispronouncing that, so please correct
2	me from IDG.
3	MR. AITAABOU: Can you hear me?
4	MS. ELUTO: Yes, go ahead.
5	MR. AITAABOU: Thank you. Oh, my
6	God.
7	MS. ELUTO: Can we begin?
8	CHAIR DO: Larbi, go ahead.
9	MR. AITAABOU: So, anyway,
10	Commissioner, thank you for this type of
11	hearing. Last time I was waiting
12	eagerly to get to the meeting and I was
13	really upset, but thank you for doing a
14	follow-up with us and allowing others
15	allowing us to actually submit the
16	testimony of the drivers.
17	But, look, all the drivers that
18	were that they're still here, they
19	were very concerned about these new
20	rules and we have to explain it to them
21	in a way that aligned with the vision
22	of the TLC, and, of course, the vision
23	of the, you know, entire departments.
24	Now, we have a handful of problems
25	as drivers, and on top of that, it is

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more common. It's, like -- I'm sorry to put it this way, but there's a lot of garbage that has been dumped on drivers -- right. You got the NYPD ticketing drivers left and right. You got the -- I was surprised some -- you know, to see, actually the Fire Department ticketing drivers as well -- right. That's the thing -- and then, of course, the TLC and other agencies as well.

We understand the parking sucks big time in New York. You know, I suffer a lot. I pay so many parking tickets in New York City that I had to move out of New York City because it was too much. Now, it's not a problem of a driver who's trying to earn his living. It's, like, I'm going to work, but every time I'm trying to get to the office, there is someone that actually wants to take money from it. I think that's really unfair.

Now, the City recognized us as essential workers. Nice and sweet.

1 That's awesome. We want to be 2 recognized because we make the goddamn 3 City move 24 hours and you guys know 4 that. You, Commissioner, when you came 5 in, we believed in you. We believed in 6 the mission. You got to change the 7 dynamics, make the lives of all drivers 8 easier. 9 But then when I hear rules like 10 this, I'm like, wait a minute. What's 11 going on? So, I have to go and read, 12 and research, and find out what's really 13 going on. Yes, there is bad apples out there. 14 I understand that. Everybody understand 15 16

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that. But look, those bad apples previously, they get a ticket, so they get a slap on the wrist.

TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

MR. AITAABOU: They're not going to do it again. Nobody wants to lose \$100, \$200, \$300 a day. That is the bare -the bare -- what do you call it -minimum -- that they can make -- right. So, if they make \$200 and they pay it,

```
1
            they go home with zero, so they can't
2
             feed their family.
3
                 I know there is -- I think you owe
4
            me, like, 30 more seconds, but I just
5
            want to say this, city -- cities like
            Paris -- I was in Paris. When I got
6
7
            into the car, the driver went in the
8
            bus --
9
                 TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
10
                 MR. AITAABOU: -- He can go on the
11
            bus lane. You say, yes, as long as you
12
            have a passenger, you're allowed. So,
13
            that is a very progressive approach and
14
            I think the TLC should adopt some -- the
15
            City should adopt something like that.
16
                 Are you going to stop me? I'm still
17
            speaking.
18
                 MS. ELUTO: Yes, thank you.
19
                 MR. AITAABOU: All right. So,
2.0
            yeah --
21
                 CHAIR DO: Thank you.
22
                 MS. ELUTO: All right. Our next
23
             speaker is Michele Dottin from IDG.
24
                 (No response.)
25
                 MS. ELUTO: Ms. Dottin, you can
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1	un-mute your microphone.
2	(No response.)
3	MS. ELUTO: Ms. Dottin, you need to
4	un-mute.
5	MS. DOTTIN: Good afternoon. I'm
6	going to walk to move because I'm in the
7	back.
8	Hello, Commissioner and
9	Commissioners. Thank you for having me
10	today.
11	I just want to say that what we've
12	been fighting for years is the safety,
13	right. Our drivers fight for safety.
14	When I listen to the advocates for
15	riders with disability, I 100 percent
16	agree with the fact that over the years,
17	no one has actually sat with the
18	drivers, with DOT, and the organization
19	that represents drivers in order to make
20	it correct.
21	The system is that you have never
22	took into consideration curbside
23	drop-off anymore. Curbside drop-off is
24	non-existent non-existent because you
25	have put a bike lane, a bus lane. You

2.0

have riders that we are allowed to pick-up and drop-off, but cannot do that job because that job is impossible because now we have half a block with a bike -- bike stands that takes up -- I mean, issues and spacing that could be a space that could have been allocated for a driver to pick-up.

Why hasn't a space been created in each block for a legal pick-up for the driver or the -- the two to three minutes that you give a driver to drop-off and pick-up does not account for someone with a total disability; does not account for a grandmother trying to get up with a walker; does not take into consider a mother with children. How about we look to work together with DOT and start finding a true solution for this pick-up and drop-off area.

We pay MTA. They get a tax from the drivers. Then why can't they go into the lane to drop-off. When you're considering and when DOT is considering

1	the lane
2	UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I need to talk.
3	MS. DOTTIN: you need to do
4	something that makes sense. Let's do
5	something that makes sense for the
6	drivers.
7	And as far as the Vision Zero and
8	accessibility, that's great. But how
9	about just expanding
10	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
11	MS. DOTTIN: the course the
12	course to add more Vision Zero into it.
13	If you feel that is something that is
14	needed, it should be implemented in the
15	course they already take.
16	And the other thing too is the stuff
17	for when you say accessibility, I
18	agree with them also. They need to be
19	able to safely secure the passengers and
20	worrying about a time limit of two
21	minutes is not a way to be able to do it
22	securely.
23	We're asking you to really sit down
24	with us
25	TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.

1	MS. DOTTIN: and put this
2	together properly so we can represent
3	the riders and the drivers in equal
4	consideration for everyone.
5	CHAIR DO: Thank you.
6	MS. DOTTIN: You know, a ticket is a
7	ticket
8	CHAIR DO: I have a quick question.
9	So, would you agree that most of
10	your members are stellar drivers, safe
11	drivers right; you would agree with
12	that?
13	MS. DOTTIN: Okay. Go ahead. Let's
14	see if I can hear you.
15	CHAIR DO: You would agree that a
16	vast majority of your drivers are
17	(Cross-Talk.)
18	MS. DOTTIN: Okay okay.
19	UNKNOWN SPEAKER: He's right there.
20	MS. DOTTIN: All right,
21	Commissioner. Sorry no, I'm not
22	hearing you.
23	Okay. It's muted. Commissioner
24	CHAIR DO: Can you hear me now?
25	MS. DOTTIN: Yes.

CHAIR DO: All right. Michele, you 1 2 would agree that a vast majority of IDG 3 members of your drivers are safe 4 drivers. 5 MS. DOTTIN: Correct. 6 CHAIR DO: So in my statistics -right -- there are three percent of 7 8 drivers who are recidivists. They keep 9 on making the same illegal behaviors. 10 So, knowing what you told me today, how should I better address those 11 12 drivers -- right? I want to target those drivers who have six plus points 13 14 and are not changing in an 18-month period. 15 16 How do we address those drivers? 17 MS. DOTTIN: Now, I don't think that 18 a fine would be correct. I believe 19 that -- I believe that if you put those 2.0 drivers -- yes, I understand, maybe just 21 the Vision Zero portion of it -- have 22 them come in and be a warning to them. 23 You can give a warning and say, "Hey, 24 you need this class. Let's see how we 25 can make it better. We are working to

get proper spacing for you to drop-off and pick-up to change the habits".

But, Commissioner, you know that in this City, in almost every borough, parking is very, very limited -- right -- and then when we added half a block for bicycles to be parked, we also take away vital spacing for these.

I understand when Jean was saying today, she's absolutely correct. The ability for her to be picked up properly is -- is really hard because when they go down to the end of the block, you're at time. You come around, you're at time and that driver and that block may only have one lane.

So, if we can find a way to allocate a space just for drivers, taxi, ride-share -- everyone that's doing a job, that they can just pull in because a fire hydrant is not a solution. It's not -- right -- because if something happens, they cannot. But when DOT is making these rules and putting in these lanes, they are not taking the safety of

passengers getting out of a car.

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Our drivers right now, when they get

-- when a passenger opens the car door

-- let's be honest -- a rider's mind is

already out the car two blocks away from

their drop-off -- right. They don't

take the time to look and see there's

something coming, even if the driver

gets a quick chance to tell them,

they're already out of the car.

So, the driver is the one who's punished for that action with their insurance -- right. They may lose it. We have drivers that have lost it and it's the riders. We've got to come up with a solution that makes sense for everyone.

And I believe, Commissioner, you are very fair -- very fair and have been working to help the drivers. But if we sit down together with the advocates, with the agencies that represent the drivers, with your agency, we could come up with a real solution that doesn't just punish the drivers, but shows that

1	you're actually trying to find a
2	solution for them by not the ticketing,
3	but the persistent violators, we can
4	take the money out, but
5	CHAIR DO: Okay. Thank you,
6	Michele. I appreciate it.
7	Yes, we're going to try to find a
8	solution. I have talked to our
9	advocates all of our driver advocates
10	so that we get on the road to a rule
11	package that, you know, we are more
12	content with, but not and I can't
13	I will never say that everyone will be
14	happy with.
15	So well, we'll start there, but
16	we have work to do, and we'll continue
17	to work with you, and, of course, our
18	other advocates to make sure that the
19	rule proposal is there.
20	All right. Thank you. Next.
21	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
22	Our next speaker is Pedro Acosta
23	from IDG.
24	MR. ACOSTA: Hi hello. Good
25	afternoon, everybody I mean, good

morning. I'm sorry.

Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, everyone, for joining this -- this meeting, for giving me the opportunity also to talk.

Listen, I'm a driver for over 24

years and I'm also a driver for a

wheelchair vehicle and, you know, I

disagree with you when you say that you

advocate for people with disabilities

when you -- when you don't allow that we

do the pick-up/drop-off properly as you

are not helping people with

disabilities.

Before somebody was talking about
the time that we take to do a proper
pick-up and drop-off. Remember that we
have to wait for the person to come
outside, and then we have to ask
permission of everything we're going to
do to the passenger before we start
doing it. Especially when we have to
put the seat belt on the passenger, we
have to be very careful because for any
touch improperly to the person might

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come to an accusation of sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct, or sexual abuse.

So, if there is any complaint against us to the company, does the company, right away they get deactivated and there is no way that somebody can get reactivated again after they accused of sexual harassment. Okay. There are some exceptions for guys who have been deactivated, but not for people who is accused of sexual harassment.

So, it takes time for a person who is picking up a person with disability to do properly this job.

Okay. So, one more thing:

I think we should -- we are we are not disagree with the regulation, but we don't -- we should be exempted of this charge -- okay -- because we have to go to pick-up anybody, either disabled or non-disabled person, we have to do it properly and we have to go through a through a bus lane or maybe the bike lane.

LH REPORTING SERVICES, INC. 718-526-7100

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Okay. So, yeah, I understand that
1
2
            if you stay there for a long time, we
3
            get a ticket. But we just -- we're
4
            doing our job, picking up and dropping
5
            off. So, drivers -- TLC drivers should
6
            be exempt of these violations.
7
                Okay. Let me see -- all right. So,
8
            yes, we should be exempted of this -- of
9
            this ticket, please. Okay. Thank you
10
            very much.
11
                UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm sorry.
12
            There's other drivers here that they
13
            sign-up. They want to know if they're
14
            going to be speaking.
15
                MS. ELUTO: They have to sign-up and
16
            follow the procedure --
17
                 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: They did --
18
                MS. ELUTO: -- we outlined. So,
            that was covered before.
19
2.0
                Our next speaker is Hector German.
21
                 (No response.)
22
                MS. ELUTO: Mr. German -- yes, there
23
            you are.
24
                 MR. GERMAN: (Indiscernible.)
25
                MS. ELUTO: Yes, there you go.
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1
                 MR. GERMAN: Good morning -- good
2
            morning, Commissioners -- David Do.
3
            Good morning, everybody.
                 I speak in Spanish because I have --
4
5
            thank you for giving me three minutes.
            I'm talking about three points.
6
7
                 (Testimony given in Spanish.)
8
                 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
9
                 (Testimony given in Spanish.)
10
                 TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
11
                 (Testimony given in Spanish.)
12
                 CHAIR DO: Thank you.
13
                 MS. ELUTO: Did we have an
14
             interpreter? I think --
15
                 CHAIR DO: No, because we didn't
16
            request it in time, so --
17
                 MS. ELUTO: Right. Took us by
18
            surprise, yes.
19
                 CHAIR DO: -- we can translate it
2.0
            and then send it to the Commissioners.
21
                 MS. ELUTO: Okay. After we get the
22
            transcript -- okay.
23
                 CHAIR DO: Thank you. We'll request
            an interpreter and -- so that we can
24
25
            have it at our hearing.
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1	MS. ELUTO: All right. Our next
2	speaker is Ramon Rivera.
3	(No response.)
4	MS. ELUTO: Mr. Rivera, can you
5	un-mute your mic and begin?
6	(No response.)
7	MS. ELUTO: Okay. We'll go on to
8	the next speaker and come back to you.
9	Wilfredo Disla I hope I'm saying
10	that correctly Wilfredo Disla
11	yes okay.
12	MR. DISLA: Hi hi. Good morning.
13	Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you,
14	David Do, for getting us and letting us
15	at this opportunity.
16	In the beginning you present
17	examples of the what is the what
18	is going to be the what I have to do
19	to get a ticket or forget the fee for
20	the TLC and they are going to show
21	you some explain some samples.
22	I'm on the street. I'm a real
23	driver from UTANY and from IDG. I'm on
24	the street. The coalition know every
25	driver needs to be represent for TLC,

1 but I got a question for the TLC 2 Commissioner counsel. 3 When the TLC -- when the driver 4 disappear, what are you going to do? 5 What is going to be your job because TLC 6 works for the drivers, but it's not 7 foolish drivers. You have to represent 8 the drivers and then let me -- let me 9 show you some examples. 10 This is a street, one for the 5th 11 Street here in Bronx in the real life. 12 You see the two lines got bus -- bus 13 lines. I can stop over there because I 14 got a wheelchair vehicle -- wheelchair 15 vehicle. I am showing on the phone. 16 This is a wheelchair vehicle for service 17 for people. We deserve it. 18 But in this lane, I got a CityMD. 19 City MD is like a hospital -- like, 2.0 people with sickness go over there --21 both of them -- people with disabilities 22 in a wheelchair. Well, in this City, 23 you got this business. 24 You see the Citi Bike. Citi Bike is 25 a business for the City. Almost the

whole block is using the CityMD, for the Citi Bike, and then what I have to stop. My vehicle is here -- my vehicle for a service -- a vehicle for the people who deserve it. I give the service for the people but what I have to do there in the cross-line and the CityMD from -- and the Citi Bike over there.

We need to be represented for the TLC. DOT, they are -- the boss on these two lines, if I just stop over there to deliver right over there, my customer -- or my patient in my case -- I have to be ticketing.

I got a ticket for the stop over here, for the City -- for the MTA camera on the bus. This is the real life.

TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

MR. DISLA: We provide the service.

We just move that City every day for every, every citizen resident -- people with disabilities. People need a taxi in the morning. People to go to the school. People to go to the hospital.

People to go to the work. We -- we made

1	this job. It's not easy.
2	When it's 20 degrees freezing, we
3	are there in the street. When it is
4	summer, we are in the street. Every
5	day, every night taxi drivers
6	TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
7	MR. DISLA: for you. Thank you
8	so much.
9	Please, Commissioner, you got the
10	thing to change this. Thank you.
11	CHAIR DO: Thank you.
12	MS. ELUTO: All right. Thank you.
13	Our next speaker, Raza Gondal.
14	MR. GONDAL: Hi. Good afternoon,
15	everyone. My name is Raza Gondal and I
16	am working as a TLC driver for the last
17	11 years in the New York City.
18	My concern is not the double-parking
19	or other thing. My issue is passenger
20	pick-up or drop-off.
21	For the safety of passenger, we need
22	to pick-up or drop-off the passenger at
23	the curbside so that they can safely go
24	to their destination or sidewalk. But
25	in City, there are so many streets, like

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34th Street in Manhattan, or like 21st

Street in Astoria -- Long Island City -where bus lanes are on both sides. So,
we have no option.

Either -- we need for passenger safety, we need to go into the bus lane to access the curb. Otherwise we would -- we have to block the main active traffic lane and that is like a very, very dangerous for the passenger safety and also other traffic. So, this should be considered.

And also what -- I have, the experience. I have -- and also there are so many streets in the Brooklyn and New York City where our bike lanes are on both sides -- like Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn or Vanderbilt Avenue. There are bike lanes on -- on both sides, so we don't have any space to pick-up or drop-off and there are many passengers.

They are like elderly persons, or disabled person with the wheelchair, or with the walker or rollator, or also some with the kids or with the luggage.

1	They can't walk like a one block or two
2	block. They need the service at the
3	safe service at the curbside.
4	So, if we have to go for a quick
5	even if we do the quick pick-up, it may
6	take only, like, one minute. But if
7	there is a some elderly person or
8	wheelchair, then it may take sometime 5
9	to 10 minutes even. So, we have no
10	choice.
11	Once I was picking up passenger from
12	Vanderbilt Avenue, I got a ticket at
13	off the bike lane and if somebody drives
14	in a bus lane or drives in a bike lane,
15	that is a different thing. That is
16	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
17	MR. GONDAL: consider this our
18	pick-up or discharge because we don't
19	have any other choice.
20	So, this is the main thing or we
21	should give some spots like bus stops
22	in every block that we can then we
23	can do over there except there is a
24	wheelchair person.
25	Thank you very much. Appreciate it

1	for your time.
2	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
3	Our next speaker is Evan Yankey from
4	the Brooklyn Center of Disabled
5	sorry?
6	(Cross-Talk.)
7	MS. ELUTO: Okay. I'm sorry.
8	Evan, go ahead.
9	MR. YANKEY: My name is Evan Yankey
10	and I'm the Advocacy Director for the
11	Brooklyn Center for Independence of the
12	Disabled.
13	We speak today to ask you to pull
14	the proposed rule on increasing
15	penalties for driver violations so it
16	can be discussed more with the
17	disability community.
18	As it stands, the proposed rule to
19	increase penalties for violations will
20	make it more difficult for people with
21	disabilities to get the door-to-door
22	service they are entitled to in New York
23	City's complicated street-scape. BCID
24	already receives constant complaints
25	from riders with disabilities whose
	ı

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drivers are unable to drop them off and pick them up in safe locations on the street because of a fear of violations.

On many streets in New York City, there's no space on the curb to drop-off people with disabilities who are unable to get to their destination in other ways. A person with a disability may not be able to travel lengthy distance to or from whatever legal space is available.

We know people with disabilities are constantly pressured by drivers to be dropped off at locations that avoid violations but make it impossible for someone to reach their destination safely. Until these street-scape problems are solved, increasing penalties on drivers puts them in the impossible position of risking their livelihood or giving a rider with a disability a safe drop-off.

Vehicles transporting riders with disabilities are different than other categories of vehicles that receive

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violations. Vehicles transporting
riders with disabilities have an
obligation to provide door-to-door
service that allows a person to travel
in their community, just like everyone
else.

We urge you to rethink this proposal
in a manner that gives drivers an
opportunity to fulfill their obligations

in a manner that gives drivers an
opportunity to fulfill their obligations
to people with disabilities without
punishment.
 I'll also add, just based on some of

I'll also add, just based on some of what we've heard today, that the TLC has referred to the intent to target recidivist drivers who are imagined to be a group of intentionally unsafe bad actures (sic) and the TLC has asked many speakers today how to deal with these drivers.

Speakers have offered many options; designated spots, changing the street-scape, providing driver relief resources, but they all boil down to the same thing:

Give drivers better options to keep

1 people safe and serve riders with 2 disabilities. Even if you imagine that 3 there's a pool of intentionally bad 4 actures out there, whatever safety 5 impacts they have pale in comparison to 6 the safety concerns of navigating the current street-scape with no designated 7 8 pick-up/drop-off spots, no relief areas, and a different street-scape on every 9 10 block. 11 Improve safety. That's our answer. 12 Everyone agrees, but few people here 13 believe the biggest threat to safety is 14 a small group of recidivist drivers who 15 have safe options they are intentionally 16 choosing not to take and are going to be 17 effectively punished into figuring out 18 answers to the problems that people with disabilities and drivers both are asking 19 2.0 you for help with today. 21 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining. 22 MR. YANKEY: Thank you. 23 MS. ELUTO: Thank you. 24 Our next speaker is Soji Adu. 25 MR. ADU: Can you all hear me?

1	MS. ELUTO: Yes.
2	MR. ADU: Okay. Great.
3	I'm a biker and a disability rights
4	advocate at the Bronx Independent Living
5	Services.
6	Dear TLC officials, I've biked New
7	York City for many years, even prior to
8	our now fantastic bike lanes. I cannot
9	remember ever having any issue with
10	Access-A-Ride or any for-hire vehicle
11	picking up or dropping off a person with
12	a disability.
13	To Commissioner Do's earlier point,
14	I may have had to briefly pause in a
15	bike lane for a for-hire vehicle at some
16	point. However, I probably was more
17	thankful for having a moment to catch my
18	breath, as opposed to feeling
19	inconvenienced, no matter how briefly.
20	My greatest fear in these bike lanes
21	are the motorcycles, e-bikes, and
22	vigilante bikers.
23	Moreover, I've been a disability
24	rights advocate for many years, working
25	at the Bronx Independent Living

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Services, which is an independent living center. I often ride my bike to work, but my dual perspective -- my overall suggestion would be that for any vehicle dealing with a person with a disability, exceptions should be made for that for-hire vehicle.

As a matter of fact, in May of 2019, DOT announced a rule that allows wheelchair accessible AAR vehicles with four or more passengers to operate in bus lanes. This type of exemption should pave the way for further innovation, which will be tantamount to an equal opportunity for an already disadvantaged group.

That 2019 rule is a shining example of the public shaping public policy and a City agency being intelligent enough to recognize innovation.

In conclusion, multiple City
agencies have to be in step with
assisting persons with disabilities
including DOT, TLC, NYPD, MTA, etcetera.
Any solution regarding this matter

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1 should keep in mind feasibility and 2 safety combined with a passion that is 3 hell bent on assisting people with disabilities achieve the same rights as 4 5 all other New Yorkers and placing more fines on vehicles when -- would 6 7 invariably hurt people with disabilities 8 and decrease their options. 9 I urge TLC to suspend consideration 10 of this rule until it has extensive 11 discussions with the disability 12 community, taxi for-hire drivers, and 13 other government agencies like the ones

I mentioned above.

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Also, I just want to add since I might have a couple more seconds left, that this is -- this is not -- this is not an easy task. We're running out of room in the City and I don't think any of us should be villainized -- any group in particular. It's just, we only have so much space on the streets.

Thank you.

So, thank you -- thank you very much.

MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

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1
                 Our next speaker, Amr Elnaggar.
 2
                 (No response.)
 3
                 MS. ELUTO: You can un-mute your
 4
            microphone now.
 5
                 (No response.)
                 MS. ELUTO: Amr?
 6
 7
                 (No response.)
8
                 MS. ELUTO: All right. We'll come
9
             back to you.
10
                 MR. ELNAGGAR: Yes -- yes.
11
                 MS. ELUTO: There you go.
12
                 MR. ELNAGGAR: Okay. I'm sorry.
13
             This -- okay. Commission, I appreciate.
14
             I see you are very concerned about the
15
             problem and I respect myself as a TLC
16
             driver for, like, 15 years in the City.
             I concern me and all driver.
17
18
                 They are TLC partners. So, we
19
             consider the TLC to be with us -- you
2.0
             know, to be with us like when they
21
             provide with the education, with the --
22
             with the -- with the Vision Zero.
23
             we can participate with the Vision Zero
24
             and the problem, it's the Vision Zero.
25
             They forgot about us.
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The duty they have to -- we have to look back to the Vision Zero rule and we have to involve the TLC, involve the TLC driver in the bike -- if it's bus lane, bike lane -- where is the TLC? Where is the ride-share? Where is that -- you know, where is -- where is our point here -- you know.

So, this is the point -- and if you didn't see, you know, they must help us educate more. They can -- if there is any repeat from driver about any violation like this. We already -- we already get the violation by the NYPD -- you know, parking ticket and all kind of ticket.

So, the TLC is not -- it's not involved in this to give us a ticket.

This must be -- you know, help us to pass this, you know, if it is a serious problem so we can -- we can consider some kind of online class if there is repeating in the same violation, you know.

So, we are -- we are a partner. We

1	are not enemy to the TLC. I am a TLC
2	driver. I'm proud for that.
3	So, please please stand with us.
4	Help us to if there's any problem
5	to be behaved, to be good and we all
6	love our City. We all respect the TLC,
7	and we follow the TLC rule and we
8	follow the TLC rule.
9	Allow the ride-share app to to
10	the driver to pick-up from certain
11	location by the GPS. We'll not follow
12	our spots or whenever we want to stop to
13	pick-up
14	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
15	MR. ELNAGGAR: we won't. We
16	follow the TLC rule for the ride-share
17	app, you know, so and the tickets or
18	violation, we already get it by the
19	parking ticket from NYPD, you know.
20	So, we need to fix the problem. We
21	need to get more online classes. If we
22	consider any TLC banishment, get online
23	classes. Why not you know. But
24	please stand with us and respect us as a
25	veteran. Thank you.

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1
                 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
 2
                 Our next speaker is John Himalakis.
 3
                 (No response.)
 4
                 MS. ELUTO: John, go ahead.
 5
                 (No response.)
                 MS. ELUTO: You're un-muted but we
 6
 7
            can't hear you.
8
                 (No response.)
9
                 MS. ELUTO: Okay -- all right.
10
             We'll come back to you.
                 Next up is Mamadou Alu Diallo.
11
12
                 (No response.)
13
                 MS. ELUTO: Mr. Diallo, please
14
            un-mute your microphone and begin.
15
                 MR. DIALLO: Okay. Good afternoon,
16
             everyone. Can you hear me?
17
                 MS. ELUTO: Yes.
18
                 MR. DIALLO: All right. Good
19
             afternoon, Commissioner and everyone.
2.0
             Thank you for giving me the opportunity
             to talk a little bit.
21
22
                 I'm a TLC driver for nine years now.
23
             First, I just wanted to highlight the
24
             points that everyone has made,
25
             especially the wheelchair advocates.
```

1 They made very good points. 2 It's very difficult for drivers to 3 pick-up or drop-off all type of 4 passengers, but especially the 5 wheelchair passengers. So, I would like 6 to ask you, please, to reconsider the 7 rules. 8 I'm in support of the Vision Zero 9 because it's very safe. It helps the 10 City become a lot safer since it has 11 been inducted, but please also consider 12 the drivers and everything we have to go 13 through. 14 For the last nine years, since I've been driving for TLC, it's just been 15 16 getting harder and harder. Every year 17 is more fines and more classes we have 18 to take, which takes away from the 19 opportunity for us to work. Like,

day just to make probably \$100 or \$150 and you have to kill yourself maybe to make the \$200.

So, if these fines continue, you might not have any more drivers because

everyone said here, it takes us a whole

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you got to remember, we got to pay every year to renew our license -- every two years, renew the vehicle license, insurances. Every three months we have to do inspection fees. The vehicle is not cheap to maintain -- if tires are finished, brakes are finished, transmission -- and so many expenses. Ι cannot list enough. So, I just wanted to remind everyone of what we have to go through. Please consider trying to make our lives easier because we are really, definitely the ones who makes the City go around, even maybe the Commission -- Commissioner. A

few drivers have probably picked you up and dropped you off at work a few times.

So, you know how important our jobs are.

Airport runs -- you know -- hospital runs, schools every morning -- everyone needs to go to school or pick-up or drop-off their kids. We are always there for everyone. So, please think about us.

And I would like to also answer the

1	few questions that the Commission has
2	
	asked about the repeated offenders who
3	has accumulated a lot of points.
4	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
5	MR. DIALLO: I think my suggestion
6	for those people is that you should put
7	them in a separate, I guess, corner, and
8	call them into the TLC office, and try
9	to speak to them or penalize them even
10	harder because they've been repeated
11	offenders and just try to not put us
12	in the same category as those people
13	the people that have been driving safely
14	for all these years.
15	Thank you so much. I'm sorry for
16	putting too much in it, but thank you.
17	I hope you understand what I'm trying to
18	say. Thank you, Commission and
19	everyone.
20	MS. ELUTO: Yes, thank you.
21	The next speaker, Baruch Juros.
22	(No response.)
23	MS. ELUTO: Baruch, can you please
24	un-mute your mic and begin?
25	(No response.)

1	MS. ELUTO: Okay. We'll come back
2	to you then.
3	Next up is Saif I'm sorry Saif
4	Aizah.
5	MS. ZHAN: Hi. I'm here. Can you
6	guys hear me?
7	MS. ELUTO: There's a lot of
8	feedback.
9	CHAIR DO: Try to mute the other
10	MS. ELUTO: Now you're
11	CHAIR DO: Now you're on mute, but
12	try to mute the other sounds in the
13	room.
14	MODERATOR: Di Zhan is not next.
15	CHAIR DO: Oh, okay.
16	MODERATOR: We're looking for Saif.
17	MR. AIZAH: Yes yes. I hope you
18	can hear me.
19	MS. ELUTO: Yes.
20	CHAIR DO: Go ahead.
21	MR. AIZAH: All right. Good
22	afternoon, Commissioners. My name is
23	Saif Aizah. I'm a TLC driver, and I'm
24	also a member of the New York Taxi
25	Workers Alliance, and I'm here to

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testify today so you can reconsider these rules.

These rules will only make it hard for us drivers to work, while there is already so many rules and regulations that is more than enough for drivers to work, which already a burden. We already have difficulty to where and how will -- we will pick-up or drop-off passengers.

To go further, to pick-up or drop-off a passenger to a different location may not be suitable. Would it be safe or convenient to pick-up, or drop-off, or both the driver and the passengers, like those -- the elderly, or a mother with a baby with a stroller, or a passenger who was on a wheelchair -- especially passengers with limited mobile -- mobility.

Some pick-up and drop-off locations have no choice but to pick-up there in these places. Now it is even more inconvenience for the drivers with these rules when will become in effect. The

2.0

driver will get a fine for non -- for non-dangerous driving to pick-up in a spot that only takes minutes.

Some places are very hard for us drivers to pick-up or drop-off as is, like bus lanes when a passenger would not comply to cross the street, or they have many things they are carrying, or a passenger with a disability. We must get as close as possible to them.

Other places like shopping centers where there is double-parked car or deliveries, or in some cases late night pick-ups or drop-offs, or inclement weather -- now, it's these points that will be added to a TLC driver license. That will even make it worse for drivers. That will cause more problems with some passengers that do not understand and we are the ones out there who are facing these passengers who are stubborn.

If the City or the DOT provide a pick-up or drop-off designated spot, it will mean a lot to us. But who will

1	guarantee that these spots are on
2	designated on pick-up or drop-offs will
3	not be occupied or blocked.
4	These rules are nothing but insult
5	to us as drivers who are hard-working
6	and we are risking ourselves out there.
7	So is this new course. It is on the
8	expense of the driver.
9	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
10	MR. AIZAH: As humans, we are the
11	one who risk our lives to transport
12	people safely to wherever they want to
13	get and we are the ones who have to
14	suffer while we're struggling out there
15	to be as safe as possible.
16	To do collective punishments on some
17	a few drivers that are breaking the
18	rules is not fair. I would ask you to
19	reconsider those rules and thank you.
20	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
21	Our next speaker is Kuber
22	Sancho-Persad.
23	MR. SANCHO-PERSAD: Hello?
24	MS. ELUTO: Yes, go ahead.
25	MR. SANCHO-PERSAD: Hi. Good

afternoon, Commissioner and everybody.

I've been a taxi driver for the last 10 years and I've been -- I pick up a lot of disabled passengers, blind passengers, and sometimes you have to go and meet the customer because they are not well enough to come in the car, and by putting these rules that if you're blocking the crosswalk or that -- given a double jeopardy for something that we know we shouldn't do, but we have to do it because the customer, we have to get them in the car safely. We don't want to risk their safety.

Sometimes we need to help them inside the building. Sometimes to hand them off to somebody else if they're blind or if they're elderly. So, as you can see with the disabled passengers, this rule doesn't really make sense. It's actually penalizing and it's making the disabled communities lose more service because we will -- we will have to be refused to pick them up because they can't walk to the edge of where a

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curb is to pick up passengers -- you know.

Also, these rules will be a double jeopardy for existing driver -- for drivers who are -- we do this -- all these rules and it will encourage TLC to ticket drivers more for rules that they don't really -- they enforce by our traffic agents and everything else.

We -- we do not need TLC to come down on us and give us more points on our license, risking us losing or getting suspended because our license gets suspended earlier than a regular New York State license. New York State licenses are suspended nine points, while TLC licenses get suspended at six points, putting the driver's livelihood and everything in jeopardy -- and then there's a revocation at 10 points -- or 9 points.

Now, these, we -- we know -- we've been driving for so many years. We've -- we drive 200 miles a day. Sometimes we need to pull over. We need to use

1	the bathroom. We need to pull by the
2	pump because we we can't drive
3	anymore and we don't know where we can.
4	We're in the car. We're not in we're
5	not leaving the car. We're standing.
6	We're waiting for
7	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
8	MR. SANCHO-PERSAD: so sometimes
9	we need a break, but there is no
10	designated taxi stand.
11	This is a failure by the DOT that
12	they haven't designated spots for
13	wheelchair vehicles to pick-up
14	customers. They haven't designated more
15	taxi stands for availability to help
16	drivers relief or get breaks.
17	So, thank you, Commissioner. I hope
18	you do not pass these rules. These are
19	going to affect more passengers,
20	especially with disabilities, and more
21	drivers are going to
22	TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
23	MS. ELUTO: All right. Thank you.
24	Our next speaker, Ahmad Bilal.
25	(No response.)

1 MS. ELUTO: Ahmad -- yes, go ahead. 2 MR. BILAL: Greetings, everyone. Μу 3 name is Ahmad and I'm a TLC driver. 4 For the past nine years, I've been driving for a company -- ride-share 5 6 companies and I remember since 2015 we 7 are seeing that most of these avenue and 8 streets are turning to be bus lane and a 9 bike lane, which is make us very 10 difficult to pick-up and to drop-off, 11 especially those passenger that 12 they're -- they're -- -- their age issue 13 or people with the disability have 14 mobile equipment, or luggage, or with 15 the kids -- that they need to be picked 16 up on the curb. But, unfortunately, most of the curb 17 18 is in the bus lane or the bike lane, and 19 to be safety pick-up the passenger, we 2.0 have to be -- you know, cross these 21 lanes and to save up -- to pick-up them 22 on the curb for their safety. 23 I think these rules and the 24 regulation about the time and enforcing 25 a TLC driver to not pick-up passengers,

that's going to discourage the drivers
to pick-up these passengers.

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And, also, these companies -- like ride-share company -- they're forcing us to pick-up passenger on these -- unfortunately, on these pick-up location, and if we -- if we cannot obey, they can permanently deactivate us -- and that's the thing. We -- we're working for this company and -- to make money and to support our family.

I believe that the -- you know, we should be treated equally because, as you see, that the TLC drivers -- I mean, almost completely -- like a million rides a day. That's actually 45 percent of the passenger compared to the MTA bus driver that they carry passenger almost two million per day and we can see that everywhere the bus lanes are being built up for these buses, and also the bike lanes, and nothing's happened to TLC drivers.

And, also, we have a very -- difficulty when we need the relief

1 because in the car we don't know where 2 we are, and, unfortunately, there is not 3 a lot of spot that we can park our car 4 and do, like, personal leave. 5 I personally have a bladder problem 6 because, you know, I'm in the car and 7 I'm looking where to park and relieve 8 myself. And, you know, TLC have to 9 reconsider and see what's the issue and 10 solve the problem, but that's not going 11 to be the solve to penalize --12 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining. 13 MR. BILAL: -- put more penalty on 14 the drivers when actually there's a 15 problem. 16 The problem is that the TLC have to 17 work with the drivers, how to solve the 18 problem, and also the TLC have to put 19 pressure on these giant companies that 2.0 they are pushing driver to pick-up on 21 those spot. If it's not, they will 22 deactivate us and we're going to lose 23 our jobs. 24 Thank you so much. 25 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.

1	Our next speaker is Dinara
2	Zanpasova.
3	(No response.)
4	MS. ELUTO: Dinara, go ahead.
5	MS. ZANPASOVA: So, good morning
6	well, it's good afternoon,
7	Commissioners. My name is Dinara and
8	I've been TLC licensed driver for years
9	and today I represent Russian speaking
10	community drivers from past Soviet
11	Union countries and we are against
12	this rule.
13	Let's be clear, the New York City
14	streets are not designated for this
15	reality. Most avenues have one side as
16	a parking and the other side is the bike
17	lane, or bus lane or the rental Citi
18	bikes. Where do you expect us exactly
19	to stop?
20	If we pull into traffic, then we
21	block a lane. If we drive around the
22	block, we create a traffic and we lose
23	the ride. And we stop if we stop
24	where the application tells us, then we
25	get fined. You actually set us up.

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And let's talk about waiting. Uber gives passengers seven minutes to come outside. If we don't wait, the rider reports us for canceling or for delaying and we get deactivated. If we do wait, TLC gives us fine. What kind -- what kind of choice is that? We're literally being punished for whatever we do.

And what about passengers? We already spoke about the people with the luggage, elderly, disabled, kids. They need to be picked -- picked up exactly where the ride is requested. We are providing service here, not playing a hide-and-seek. TLC is pretending it's about safety.

If that really were true, then you'd be working with Uber and Lyft to create a designated pick-up zones like other cities have. Instead, you're putting all the blame on TLC drivers -- on us -- while we ignoring the fact that we have a zero control over where we pick-up, and yet, you keep repeating that violations -- or you're saying that this

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repeating violation is increasing. Of course, because you keep licensing more and more drivers every year. That's an increase of 10,000 drivers every year.

The rules haven't adapted. Instead, you punish us for the exact conditions that you are the ones created. More drivers means, naturally, more pick-ups and yet -- yes, more so called violations. But rather than fix the problem, you just keep writing more tickets.

TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.

MS. ZANPASOVA: So, my question for you guys, do you really want a safe street or do you want to just fine drivers into the ground? Because right now, it feels like you're trying to push us out of the City entirely.

We demand fair solution, not more punishment. Fix the system if -- instead of making us drivers to suffer. The City creates a whole bus lane. The City creates a space where the Citi Bikes rental, for the bike lanes, but

1	not for us.
2	TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
3	MS. ZANPASOVA: Thank you.
4	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
5	Our next speaker, Fazal Saboor Ali.
6	MR. ALI: Hello?
7	MS. ELUTO: Hello. Are you ready to
8	begin?
9	MR. ALI: Yes can you guys hear
10	me?
11	MS. ELUTO: Yes.
12	MR. ALI: Good afternoon. This is
13	Fazal Saboor Ali. I have been driving
14	with Uber for seven years now and just
15	like the previous lady, Ms. Di Zhan
16	spoke, I have the same questions.
17	I am all for these rules, if you can
18	enforce, but the question is, everyone
19	is pointing out for the disabled people,
20	and for the elderly people, and for the
21	mothers with toddlers, and people who
22	have a lot of grocery.
23	So, the question becomes that when
24	we are supposed to pick them up, where
25	should we be picking them up? There is

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even a leeway for the truckers, that they get a 20-minutes pass for double-parking. A single street, if it is double-parked already by a truck, where are we supposed to go and pick them up?

And as the previous lady, Ms. Di
Zhan mentioned -- but Uber already gives
them seven minutes, and in those seven
minutes, if we are more than, like, 250
-- 250 feet away, Uber stopped the time
and tells us to circle around.

Now, if we go circling around, and the next street is blocked for some reason -- there is another car waiting in the middle of the road -- where are we supposed to go and how are we supposed to come back? And the time that we wasted from going from point "A" to pick-up this person -- and now, because we have moved -- because there is a bike lane or there is a bus lane and we were stopped in the middle of the road --

Because of this we were forced to

1 move and now we are removed from the 2 Uber because Uber -- or the passenger 3 cancels the ride and we have wasted 4 another 15 minutes, and now Uber think 5 that because this was driver's fault, 6 did not add us back to the queue and 7 does not give us the ride immediately 8 after. 9 So, it seems like for Uber drivers 10 and for -- - like, for TLC drivers --11 for taxi drivers, there is not a single 12 option where to stop and where to 13 pick-up the guys. 14 And if you designate spots --15 TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining. 16 MR. ALI: -- in the bike lanes and 17 in the bus zones, how can you make sure 18 that -- let's say there are three spots, 19 but it's a Friday night. How can you 2.0 make sure that when there are 10 peoples 21 requesting, what should the rest of the 22 seven cars do and where should they be 23 stopping? 24 So, if you can answer those and make 25 sure that the rules are enforced, then

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1
            go ahead. Pass all the rules you want.
2
            But if you -- if that cannot be ensured,
3
            then --
4
                 TIMEKEEPER: Time has expired.
5
                 MR. ALI: -- give us some more
6
             leeway. Thank you.
7
                 MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
8
                 Our next speaker is Chris Garcia.
9
                 (No response.)
10
                 MS. ELUTO: I don't see him -- Mr.
            Garcia?
11
12
                 MR. GARCIA: Can you hear me
13
            okay.
14
                 MS. ELUTO: Yes, go ahead.
15
                 MR. GARCIA: Thank you. I am ready.
16
                 Good afternoon.
                                  My name is
17
            Christopher Garcia. I've been a
18
            professional driver in New York City for
            six to seven years. I'm here the same
19
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            reason as my other fellow drivers are
            here. I feel like the new rules are --
21
22
            they're very criminal and parasitic.
23
                 They don't make the streets safer.
24
            They just set up -- set us up to fail
25
            and they're just -- I just feel like
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1 they're, like, traps that are ensnared 2 to sort of extract more money from us to 3 unfair tickets. 4 As drivers, we don't decide where 5 pick-ups and drop-offs happen. The app 6 and the passenger do. I just feel like the MTA is just trying to monopolize the 7 8 entire road now. It's just every little 9 spot. There's some spots I can't even 10 pick-up. I -- we should have more 11 leeway because we are essential drivers. 12 I pay, like, 8,000 to \$12,000 to the 13 MTA. They can't let me park or --14 sorry -- set-up to pick someone up 15 quickly? But I just feel like it's very 16 -- just predatorial and I just don't 17 have to worry about some bus camera. 18 have to worry about some passengers. 19 They're a bit entitled and they could 2.0 get aggressive if they don't get things down to a "T". The rules are just 21 22 unfair, and they're a bit dangerous as 23 well. 24 Some -- sometimes these passengers 25 carry luggage, groceries. They're

1	pushing strollers. For them to go
2	running in the street, it just causes a
3	lot of a lot of headaches.
4	Instead of helping, I would like TLC
5	to instead help drivers and passengers
6	by setting up a better way. Like, there
7	are cities in New Orleans where the apps
8	don't let you pick-up in illegal spots.
9	New York City should adopt something
10	should adopt the same system of that
11	caliber if that's possible.
12	And that's it. Thank you thank
13	you for everyone that came by to
14	testify. You guys are real big help.
15	Thank you. I'm done.
16	MS. ELUTO: Okay. Thank you.
17	Okay. Circling back to Ramon
18	Rivera.
19	(No response.)
20	MS. ELUTO: Mr. Rivera, can you
21	un-mute your mic and begin?
22	(No response.)
23	MS. ELUTO: Nope all right.
24	Farrukh Jarav.
25	MR. JARAV: Can you hear me?

1	MS. ELUTO: Yes.
2	MR. JARAV: Yeah, good afternoon.
3	So, thank you for the opportunity to
4	speak.
5	So, my name is Farrukh Jarav. I've
6	been doing TLC for like six years now.
7	I work for ride-sharing apps like Uber
8	and Lyft, so I join with my with the
9	previous speakers on this matter.
10	I think these new rules needs to be
11	abolished because we work hard. We try
12	to pick-up customers at bus lane, bike
13	lane, and sometimes they have strollers
14	with baby, shopping bags, or senior
15	people, and, you know, it takes time to
16	pick them up and drop them off.
17	And you know, if we cancel, then
18	it's going to affect our ratings and
19	we're going to get email from Uber/Lyft
20	that we do a bad job, so we're at the
21	risk of deactivation. And then God
22	forbid we get the ticket that costs, I
23	think, \$100 and they try to make it
24	\$200.
25	So, here's the thing, if we make one

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trip, we make right now minimum \$4 --Uber and Lyft. If I get ticket for \$100, I have to make 25 trips to cover this ticket. If it's 200, I'm gonna have to make 50 trips. That is just So, should I enrich City or I insane. have to take care of my kids or my family.

So, I truly believe these things needs to be reconsidered and make it more friendly for drivers cause we're trying to make a living here -- or like I have heard some opinions before me, there should be designated places where we have to pick-up and drop-off customers, so we could feel, you know, at peace cause we're not being watched.

We're not being photographed by cameras. It's going to be good for us, good for people -- the riders -- so they don't have to walk, you know, to the corner, or one block, or cross the street -- because, you know, crossing the street may be dangerous.

So, yeah, that's how I feel. Ι

1	think I believe a lot of drivers
2	agree with me on this matter because in
3	the City there are thousands of drivers
4	who do Uber/Lyft or maybe different type
5	of like, maybe apps ride. So, I hope
6	they will reconsider and, you know, make
7	the best solution for all of us.
8	Thank you.
9	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
10	So, that concludes the hearing on
11	our first rule proposal and we're now
12	moving to the second rule
13	MODERATOR: Excuse me I'm sorry.
14	Moderator speaking.
15	We are going to try to get the
16	people who are listed as iPhones. So, I
17	just allowed the person with the name
18	"iPhone" to speak. So, if they would go
19	ahead with their testimony.
20	MS. ELUTO: Do we have a name?
21	MODERATOR: We do not.
22	CHAIR DO: When you are un-muted and
23	speak, iPhone, please let us know your
24	name and affiliation.
25	iPhone, you may now speak.
	l l

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1
                 (No response.)
                 CHAIR DO: Hearing none, we will go
 2
 3
             to our next speaker.
                 Moderator, can you un-mute
 4
 5
             iPhone372.
                 MODERATOR: (Complying.)
 6
 7
                 CHAIR DO: iPhone372, you're
8
             un-muted. Can you please identify
9
             yourself and your affiliation?
                 (No response.)
10
11
                 CHAIR DO: iPhone372, you may
12
             un-mute and speak.
13
                 (No response.)
14
                 CHAIR DO: Hearing none, iPhone6,
15
             you may un-mute, identify yourself, and
16
             speak.
17
                 You're un-muted iPhone6. Go ahead.
18
                 MR. MANSA: Hello?
                 CHAIR DO: Hello. We can hear you.
19
2.0
                 MR. MANSA: Hello -- hello.
                 CHAIR DO: Go ahead.
21
22
                 MR. MANSA: Hello -- is it me --
23
             iPhone6?
24
                 CHAIR DO: Yes, it's you. Identify
25
             yourself and your affiliation, please.
```

1	MR. MANSA: Yeah, my name is Robert
2	Mansa. Can you hear me?
3	CHAIR DO: Yes, we can hear you.
4	MR. MANSA: Oh, okay. Yes, my name
5	is Robert.
6	Yes, I want to talk about what is
7	going on if I should go ahead.
8	CHAIR DO: Yes, go ahead.
9	MR. MANSA: Okay. Concerning the
10	previous passenger I mean, what you
11	guys are saying now is, how can we be
12	driving if, for instance, as I'm talking
13	to you, I'm looking for a place to park
14	now just to use the bathroom. I want to
15	go and do I don't have I'm going
16	around and round. It's so difficult.
17	When you are I don't park well.
18	By the time I park, I get a ticket. How
19	can this happen? Please, if there's any
20	way to help Uber drivers to pull over
21	somewhere and use the bathroom. It's so
22	difficult for us and that is why you see
23	most of the drivers, because they
24	cannot they will do number one in
25	their car and pour it on the street

1 because there's nowhere to park. 2 This is very, very critical -- very, 3 very, very important subject by you 4 guys. Commissioner, if you could help 5 to deal -- to help the drivers because 6 we drive, drive, drive. We don't make 7 that much money. Now, the minimum 8 payment is \$4. I go and park. They 9 give me ticket. How much am I going to 10 make? 11 I'm buying gas. I'm doing this --12 TLC license. I do this -- all this 13 thing is included. So, how can you guys help us to move forward? Help us, 14 15 please. Where one of us maybe we can 16 use -- if we want to use the bathroom, 17 like I said, we will get a place to park 18 so when we come we are not able to get a 19 ticket. 2.0 And once again, you saying we 21 parking by bus -- bus or lane -- or when 22 we are picking somebody, where should we 23 pick them? You should give us a minute, 24 or maybe 10 minutes, or 5 minutes not to

park there so that we could pick the

25

1	particular passenger. Otherwise, how
2	can we what can we I mean, you
3	guys are trying to stop us from working
4	or what. I really don't understand.
5	So, please help us to move forward
6	in terms of getting us a place so that
7	we can park and
8	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
9	MR. MANSA: yes. So, that is
10	what I have to say. Thank you very
11	much, Commissioner. I hope you listen
12	to what we are saying and make provision
13	for us, please.
14	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Robert.
15	MR. MANSA: Thank you very much
16	thank you. Thank you.
17	CHAIR DO: All right. Sherryl, do
18	you want to call "Zoom User" and
19	MS. ELUTO: Sure. "Zoom User", if
20	you can un-mute your microphone, and
21	identify yourself please, and your
22	affiliation.
23	(No response.)
24	MS. ELUTO: Moderator, is there a
25	way to un-mute the person?

1	MODERATOR: I can ask them, but I
2	can't un-mute them.
3	MS. ELUTO: All right.
4	Then, Commissioner, if it's okay
5	with you, I'd like to go to the second
6	rule proposal.
7	CHAIR DO: One second.
8	MODERATOR: We have one more.
9	CHAIR DO: Yeah, Moderator, try it
10	again and try to request an un-mute, and
11	then they can decide.
12	Let me know when you've done it.
13	MODERATOR: That has already been
14	done.
15	CHAIR DO: All right. "Zoom User",
16	I see you. You're still muted. If you
17	would like to speak, you would need to
18	un-mute.
19	MR. EMMANUEL: Hello. Can you hear
20	me?
21	MODERATOR: This is Anglican Church
22	who's up next and they're speaking now,
23	so they can go ahead.
24	CHAIR DO: Okay. Go ahead.
25	MR. EMMANUEL: Hello. Actually, my

2.0

name is Emmanuel. I've been doing livery work for the past six years or seven and I'm happy and grateful to the Commissioner and your team for organizing this hearing.

I want to ask, does the City want to phase out livery work or for-hire vehicles from operating in the City? If the answer is no, then why all this pressure? Why is it becoming unbearable? I have to give a personal experience I had yesterday.

I was to pick-up a ride-share

passenger. I accepted that ride and I

know where the passenger is, but there

is no space. I was in between the

temptation to cancel the ride, and

abandon the passenger, and move on, or

my conscience wouldn't let me.

So, I had to go there and I have to double-park. It's inconveniencing -- and wait until the passenger comes in. It takes more time to load a passenger, secure the passenger, and move on, and the payment is not even something to

write them about.

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But we do this out of passion. It's a humanitarian work. So, if the TLC is adding undue pressure -- excessive ticketing and restrictions -- how on earth are we to do this? I thought that drivers and the TLC are supposed to be partners in progress, helping the City and those who are in need.

With all due respect, it appears as if TLC is more interested in the money -- the income out of all the tickets and all the summers -- rather than helping the passengers and helping the drivers. Please, I'm appealing that you have to relax some of these things so that you help both the passengers and also those of us who are putting ourselves on the line to give a helping hand.

At the end of the day, after 10 hours, I'm going home with \$200 and then I'll get a ticket of 250. What -- what is the use? It's discouraging.

Please, I appeal to you,

1	Commissioner, reconsider this. Make
2	things more flexible and help drivers to
3	help the City. Thank you.
4	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Emmanuel.
5	All right. I'm going to go back to
6	the "Zoom User" one more time. I saw
7	you un-muted and so I want to give you
8	another chance.
9	Put "Zoom User" back into the
10	speaker list, please.
11	MR. SEREGEN: Yes.
12	CHAIR DO: All right. Go ahead.
13	Please identify yourself and your
14	affiliation, and you can
15	MR. SEREGEN: Did you hear me?
16	MS. ELUTO: Yes.
17	MR. SEREGEN: Yeah, my name is Kower
18	Seregen. I'm a driver for more than 10
19	years. I'm full-time for the
20	Access-A-Ride.
21	So, very easy, simple. I have a lot
22	of ticket, especially like last two
23	weeks. The tickets come from the bus
24	that I just show you the picture that
25	I'm helping my customer that I don't

1	want them to lost the balance came to
2	my car and the bus camera is taking
3	picture. It was in the Water Street
4	50 Water Street and I'm working for
5	the City. They don't care about the
6	ticket and I still have to pay \$75 for
7	that ticket and immediately I still
8	have a ticket for that one.
9	And the second one, this is maybe my
10	advice:
11	Why we don't put it at the customer
12	the same drop-off in the bus stop?
13	Thank you so much.
14	MS. ELUTO: Thank you
15	CHAIR DO: For your comments.
16	All right. Sherryl, you can go on
17	to the next.
18	MS. ELUTO: All right. So, we're
19	closing the first hearing.
20	The second hearing is on our rule
21	proposal implementing the State's
22	COVID-19 Livery Recovery Act.
23	Our first speaker is Bhairavi Desai
24	from NYTWA.
25	MS. DESAI: Good afternoon. My name
	1

is Bhairavi Desai. I'm the Executive 1 2 Director of the New York Taxi Workers 3 Alliance. 4 You didn't do a presentation before 5 the rule, but I think it's fair to say 6 that you are enacting this because 7 there's state legislation which, I 8 believe, is requiring you to do so. 9 So, I understand that there's, you 10 know, kind of limited opportunity here 11 for us to intervene and I -- you know, 12 I'm curious to hear definitely from the 13 folks in the livery industry. 14 I just want to give it some context 15 overall. 16 As of December 2024, there were 17 178,917 drivers that were working across 18 this industry. There were -- 82,675 of 19 those drivers work for Uber and Lyft 2.0 alone. 116,795 vehicles. We know that 21 last January Uber's utilization rate was 22 50 percent. Everybody across this 23 industry knows drivers have been 24 struggling. 25 Lock-outs happen because of the

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greed of the companies -- they didn't want to pay drivers according to the rules -- but the material change was the oversaturation. It is really difficult.

I mean, listen to the testimonies you just heard; the level of desperation of people saying the impact that a \$250 ticket would have on them; having to take a course -- you know, to take off a day -- even a couple hours to take a class -- would have on them.

Drivers continue to be on the edge of economic recovery. While the corporations -- particularly Uber and Lyft -- may have, you know, bounced back post COVID, we know that drivers themselves have not the. Yellow cab industry as a whole has not, but -- including, you know, for FHV drivers outside of Manhattan, there is still limited work.

You have cross-class dispatching, so it's hard to imagine that these vehicles are only going to be working for neighborhood liveries. You know,

1	they're going to be working for Uber and
2	Lyft, which also have livery bases that
3	they operate.
4	And so we're really concerned that
5	the State, the City now all these
6	different agencies at the City level
7	have these competing interests
8	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
9	MS. DESAI: you know, have these
10	competing policy goals and interests and
11	And the people that are being squeezed
12	in the middle, again, are the drivers.
13	The TLC needs to take a deeper dive
14	looking at the economic conditions of
15	all the drivers across this industry
16	not only the high-volume FHV, but also
17	livery, green cab, yellow cab drivers
18	and really see the impact that
19	oversaturation has had on everybody,
20	along with, you know, Uber and Lyft
21	drivers.
22	Thank you.
23	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.
24	Our next speaker is Avik Kabessa
25	from Carmel.

1	(No response.)
2	MS. ELUTO: Avik, can you un-mute
3	your microphone?
4	MR. KABESSA: Yes can you hear
5	me?
6	MS. ELUTO: Yes.
7	MR. KABESSA: Hi. Good morning
8	good afternoon, Commissioners. My name
9	is Avik Kabessa. I'm the CEO of Carmel,
10	Board member of the Livery Round Table,
11	and the Chairman of the New York State
12	Livery Workers Compensation Fund.
13	Carmel supports the proposed rule
14	with an important amendment request.
15	But, first, how did we get here?
16	Prior to the arrival of Commissioner
17	Do back in 2022 we pleaded with the City
18	to allow livery that lost their FHV
19	license during COVID to renew their
20	license once their market recovery
21	started. We didn't ask for a penny,
22	however, we were not able to get help
23	from the City.
24	On the other hand, in the past three
25	years since 2022, the City helped the

1 yellow taxis to the tune of half a 2 billion dollars of financial help, which 3 we applauded. But maybe we shouldn't 4 because of Ms. Desai constantly fighting 5 any recovery to the livery. I had 6 enough of that. I would like to remind the 7 8 Commissioners that the livery sector 9 started because the yellow didn't serve 10 Upper Manhattan and the outer boroughs. 11 It was the livery who did this. Not --12 no taxi was willing to do. 13 So, for the future -- for you, 14 Commissioners -- I would like you to recognize us for what we have been done 15 16 -- in doing for the last 45 years. 17 took going to Albany so we can get the 18 help that was needed. This is very sad. 19 Having said that, it's better late 2.0 than never, and for that, I would like to thank Commissioner Do for not 21 22 fighting us in Albany, and second, for 23 everything you've been doing since the

ball started finally rolling.

But if you really want to do the

24

25

1	right thing by the livery, we
2	respectfully ask that you amend the
3	proposed rules to prohibit transferring
4	the affiliation to any non-livery
5	base not only to the high-volume.
6	Albany passed the Livery Livery
7	Recovery Act because the livery sector
8	suffered more than any other sector.
9	Higher livery insurance by about
10	\$2,000 when compared to black car caused
11	larger percentage of livery vehicle
12	owners to forfeit their vehicle license
13	during COVID. The livery sector is the
14	smallest sector today.
15	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
16	MR. KABESSA: of the for-hire
17	sector.
18	Albany passed the livery law
19	passed the law for the livery and we
20	believe that the proposal should reflect
21	it. Therefore, we urge you to please
22	accept the amendment we requested, which
23	is what the State Law asked of you to
24	do, and vote in favor of the proposed
25	rules.

1	Thank you very much for listening to
2	me and I can answer any question you
3	have.
4	MS. ELUTO: Okay. Thank you.
5	Our next and final speaker, Jose
6	Altamirano from the Mirram (phonetic)
7	Group.
8	MR. ALTAMIRANO: Good morning, Chair
9	Do and Commissioners. Jose Altamirano,
10	President of the Livery Base Owners.
11	Mirram Group is our lobbyist.
12	I'm here representing over 250
13	livery bases that serve tens of
14	thousands of New Yorkers every day, many
15	in transportation deserts where no other
16	options exist.
17	We strongly support the proposed
18	rule to implement the COVID-19 Livery
19	Vehicle Recovery Act. We were
20	instrumental in advocating for its
21	passage to provide long overdue relief
22	for the hardest hit sector in the
23	for-hire industry.
24	Let's be clear. No other sector
25	suffered more than livery during

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COVID-19 and no other sector has been more devastated by the 2018 license cap, which significantly reduced our ability to operate while allowing app-based companies to dominate. It's not just a policy adjustment. It's a lifeline for an industry that's been in crisis for years.

This is why it's critical that these renewed licenses remain exclusively within the livery sector and are not redirected into high-volume base or non-livery sectors. These vehicles were originally issued to serve livery bases and their riders, and many of whom rely on our areas with few transportation alternatives.

Allowing these licenses to shift away from livery service would be -- undercut the purpose of the recovery effort, further weakening an industry that's already endured severe losses.

The livery sector has lost over 80 percent of its vehicles since 2015, a staggering decline that's pushed

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countless small, immigrant-owned -immigrants to the brink of extinction.
Without strong enforcement, this rule
will not be enough to reverse the
damage.

We need real safeguards to ensure licenses are used as intended to rebuild the livery industry and strengthen the transportation for the communities we serve. This will help drivers to be micro-businesses themselves -- to have their own insurance.

Since the 2018 cap, what has
happened is that drivers have been
forced to rent. Fleet owners have
become extremely powerful, charging
whatever they want for insurance and
drivers are stuck there because they are
not allowed to get their own vehicle.

Even when they finish paying their vehicle, they have to stay using the corporation insurance and this forces an undue burden on our drivers.

We hope that we continue to fight.
We urge the commission to ensure that

1	renewed licenses remain with the livery
2	sector and not be transferred to
3	non-livery bases strictly enforcement
4	affiliation requirements to prevent any
5	unintended shifts and we hold TLC
6	accountable to ensure these licenses
7	truly support the recovery and their
8	sustainability
9	TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining.
10	MR. ALTAMIRANO: of livery
11	businesses.
12	We hope to continue working. We
13	still are suffering from the 2018 cap
14	and most more than anyone, our
15	drivers are suffering.
16	As I've stated, they are forced to
17	overpay insurance. They're forced to
18	work through corporations and fleets and
19	this is unfair to all of us.
20	Thank you very much. If any
21	questions, I'm here.
22	CHAIR DO: Thank you, Jose.
23	I have a question for Avik and Jose.
24	This is regarding transferring of
25	these licenses, and it is clear in the
	·

1	legislation that these licenses cannot
2	be transferred or affiliated with a
3	high-volume base and we have made that
4	clear within our rules.
5	Why not give the driver the
6	flexibility to transfer or affiliate
7	with smaller FHV bases, like livery or
8	FHV or Lux Limo bases and so I
9	want to understand that point of view.
10	And so I want to recognize Jose and
11	Avik to speak on that.
12	MR. KABESSA: I can take the first
13	round and then I would definitely like
14	to hear Jose.
15	They can definitely change
16	affiliation within the livery sector.
17	So, all the livery bases, we're not
18	asking for you to limit that.
19	But we need we need this time to
20	adjust our supply and demand now that we
21	are we don't know how many are going
22	to come back. The gap of insurance
23	needs to we need the time to adjust
24	the market to back to what it was.
25	All right. So, if you if you

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allow them to escape to a -- to black car, we have done nothing. Now, remember, we do not block them from receiving trips from others. All we are saying is keep the affiliation with us. They can even do other -- any class that they want trips from. We want a chance to recover, to recover.

Now, because it took three years, monitoring -- I'm giving you the case of Carmel and I'm also a part of the Livery Round Table -- and the percentage are the same -- in COVID, we lost about 40 percent of our fleet. When we started asking for that renewal, we were already seeing a decline in who -- people that left -- left the industry, left New York because they couldn't renew. We are now

We are now at 25 percent. I keep a very close track on Carmel-affiliated drivers. We are 202 drivers ready to renew by the time -- by September 22 (sic), which is the cutoff point which

1	you gracefully were okay not fighting.
2	We are today at maybe 51, 52
3	target target number. So, we need
4	this time. If you want to limit it with
5	two years three years I'm fine
6	with it. We don't limit them getting
7	trips from others. We don't limit them.
8	But the barrier for entry is bigger
9	on the livery and we don't want them to
10	come in and just to flip back into it.
11	That that's the main request.
12	I was able to retain those 200 for
13	years prior to that. I believe I will
14	be able to retain them once I'm given a
15	chance to do so again. I just need
16	this this period.
17	MR. ALTAMIRANO: Commissioners, as
18	Avik spoke, you know, it's clear to
19	point out that the livery sector was
20	almost 30,000 vehicles. We're now down
21	to under 4,000 maybe under 3,000
22	at this point.
23	We fought hard in the State to
24	ensure that we continue to exist to
25	push forward.

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As per your own TLC report -- your annual report of the cap -- your report said that the livery sector needed vehicles in there. So, what we're trying to do here is exactly do that. Target our sector. We're not saying that other sectors don't need it, but we're fighting for our sector.

And if we're fighting for our sector, just -- it only makes sense that these vehicles are affiliated to our sector. They can go to any base in the livery world. They can -- and even being livery, they can still work with other FHV sectors outside of the high-volume.

But we have to be realistic. Like,

I don't understand why this should be

overly complicated if we're fighting for

this sector. Your own report states

that there should be additional vehicles

in our sector, that -- then these

vehicles should remain in our sector.

That's why -- that's what we're asking

for -- right.

1	We're asking to make sure that our
2	sector continues to exist because at the
3	point that we're going, in a few years,
4	we will not exist.
5	CHAIR DO: All right.
6	MR. ALTAMIRANO: Our drivers are
7	stuck paying overdue insurance or paying
8	extreme rental cases and they they
9	can't go anywhere else because there are
10	no vehicles right. We can't add
11	vehicles, which is a big problem.
12	MR. KABESSA: And if I may if I
13	may, Commissioner. One of the
14	biggest
15	CHAIR DO: Go ahead and that's
16	it, Avik. We can talk offline.
17	Any additional comments that you may
18	have, you can submit them today.
19	MR. ALTAMIRANO: Thank you,
20	Commissioner.
21	CHAIR DO: I appreciate Jose and
22	Avik for speaking on this regulation.
23	With that, I'll turn it over to
24	Sherryl for any comments and then I'll
25	take it back to end.

1	MS. ELUTO: No, That's the
2	conclusion of our hearing.
3	So, it's back to you.
4	CHAIR DO: Great.
5	Thank you, Sherryl, for leading us
6	through our lengthy public hearing
7	today.
8	I appreciate all of our drivers, all
9	of our advocates, all of our Vision Zero
10	and sister agencies and roadway
11	advocates for speaking today.
12	There is a lot to consider as we go
13	through the final rule making process.
14	I'll work with my fellow Commissioners
15	to ensure that the outcome is fair, but
16	also at the heart of it continues to
17	make sure that our streets are safer
18	than ever so that we can realize our
19	dream of Vision Zero, which is zero
20	serious injuries or roadway fatalities
21	in the near future.
22	Again, I want to thank the
23	Commissioners for staying with us,
24	listening to us.
25	And with that, at 1:08, I'll adjourn

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this public hearing.
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                    Thank you.
                    (Time noted: 1:08 p.m.)
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 2
                    CERTIFICATE
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    STATE OF NEW YORK)
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                                  :SS
    COUNTY OF NASSAU)
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8
                I, Julia M. Speros, a Notary Public
9
    within and for the State of New York, do hereby
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    certify:
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                I reported the proceedings in the
12
    within-entitled matter, and that the within
13
    transcript is a true record of such proceedings
14
    to the best of my ability.
15
                I further certify that I am not
16
    related to any of the parties to this action by
17
    blood or marriage; and that I am in no way
18
    interested in the outcome of this matter.
19
                IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
2.0
    set my hand this 12th day of March, 2025.
21
22
23
                                       Julia M. Speros
24
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\$100 15:22 16:8 36:25 60:22 69:13 84:9 95:23 108:21	20minutes 156:2	absolutely 31:20 115:10
139:21 161:23 162:3 (11)	21st 126:1	abuse 80:21 119:3
\$115 104:2,3	30second 23:16	abusive 79:24 80:3
\$12000 159:12	34th 126:1	accelerating 28:10,13 32:7
\$125 17:12	5th 123:10	accelerator 28:22
\$150 51:24 53:1,2 84:14 139:21 (5)	8013a1 14:1,24 15:21 52:11 53:24 54:17 69:2 (7)	accept 5:7 178:22
\$200 15:23,23 16:6 37:2 53:2 95:22 104:8 108:22,25 139:23 161:24 170:22 (12)	8013a2 14:1 16:4 96th 57:25	acceptable 103:10 accepted 5:11 169:14 access 24:23 36:3,13,17 40:11
\$2000 178:10	9th 36:11	64:13 126:7 (7)
\$250 174:7 \$300 15:24 16:6,7 108:22 (4)	a2 14:25 aar 63:14,14 133:10	accessaride 62:14 63:17 73:19,23 74:1,12 75:12 89:7 132:10 171:20 (10)
\$384 53:4	abandon 169:18	accessaride's 75:4
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