From:	Joe Ironi
To:	General Government and Licensing
Subject:	Vehicles-for-Hire and COVID-19 related Financial Hardship
Date:	Thursday, November 26, 2020 6:14:51 PM

Dear General Government and Licensing Committee,

Thank you for considering the amendments recommended in the staff report with respect to measures to provide relief from the financial hardship created by the Covid-19 situation.

The vehicle for hire industry, and in particular the limousine industry, has been decimated by the restrictions that have been imposed. Since March, the industry has been operating at approximately 5% of normal operation (in line with hotel occupancy rates). Fleets have been reduced as much as possible, companies have furloughed the majority of their staff, offices space has been given up, and many smaller operators have simply left the industry.

Our industry relies heavily on business travel and events. As everyone knows, neither are taking place right now and it does not appear this situation will change to any material degree until at least the latter part of next year, based on the timelines being forecasted for the distribution of a vaccine. Furthermore, many people will continue to work from home further impacting the expected return of business travel with the adoption of virtual meetings.

The future, at this point, does not look very promising. We have spent years building our business only to have everything taken away in a matter of days.

I fully support the extension of the age of vehicle and the suspension of licensing fees. It is critical to the survival of many small business and their ability to try to rebuild when the time comes.

Again, I'd like to thank you for considering these measures and hope you understand how critical they are to our survival.

Sincerely,

Joe Ironi

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