

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Good morning Mr. Chair & Committee members.

It's been only few months that all of us were here in this chamber deputing in front of this Committee. If I'm not wrong, few hundred deputations were made. The chamber was full with green and orange green shirts. And here we go again. I'm afraid to say but if by any chance the two tier system is brought back in the industry then the day is not far when we will be here deputing again for the third and fourth and fifth time until the level playing field is provided to the stake holders.

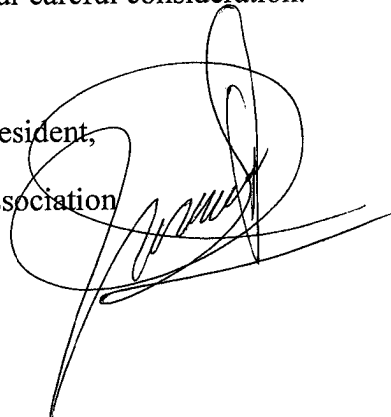
iTaxiWorkers Association would like to lend its support to Ms Cook's comprehensive report and request this Committee to receive this report for information. Our Association unequivocally supports a licensing system which allows for only one type of license across the entire industry. We would like to eliminate the two-tier system and move towards an owner-operated model. Taxi drivers are confident that an owner-operator model will lead to less exploitation and more equity for frontline taxi drivers in this industry. The reforms passed by City Council in February 2014 happened after years of extensive consultation with the various stakeholders in the industry. Superior Court Justice Mr. David Stinson mentioned in his decision on January 30, 2015 that "this Committee (L&S Committee) held 40 consultations and 100 smaller meetings and received approximately 6000 completed surveys, 900 emails and 600 online comments forms and 120 voicemail messages. It also received 17 "Long Submissions". Mr. Chair it would not be justified to even entertain the possibility of reopening various aspects of the reforms as suggested by the motions passed this Committee on January 20, 2015.

Furthermore, the decision by Justice David Stinson clearly states that, the extensive and open consultation process in which it engaged, the notice provided, and the public debate that preceded the enactment of the changes, all point to the conclusion that the City acted in good faith."

The iTaxiWorkers Association would like to work with ML&S staff to set a mandatory deadline for the conversion to a system where we have "one city, one plate".

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sajid Mughal President,
iTaxiWorkers Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sajid Mughal', is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top and a long tail extending downwards.