



Minnesota State Council on Disability

July 15, 2014

Members of the Minneapolis City Council
350 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear City Council Members;

On behalf of the Disability Community, the Minnesota State Council on Disability (MSCOD) and the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (MACOPD) are issuing this joint letter to address recent developments regarding the Taxi Cab ordinance changes being voted on this Friday by the Minneapolis City Council.

Grant Wilson with Regulatory Services has been meeting with members of the MACOPD and staff from MSCOD in an effort to gain support for the pending measure. In all instances, assurances were made that both Green & White Taxi and Airport Taxi were on board and willing to participate in the voluntary incentive program. On Monday, July 14th, Steve Pint, owner and operator of Airport Taxi contacted MSCOD staff to state that he was no longer planning to participate in the incentive program. He was concerned that with the proposed inequity in the application of regulations between traditional cab companies and the new transportation network companies, his business would be irreparably damaged and he was unwilling to take on the added responsibility. Airport Taxi is central and critical to the success of the accessible taxi cab incentives program.

Both MSCOD and MACOPD state that in order for the proposed changes to adequately address the transportation needs of the disability community it is imperative that existing cab companies participate in the incentives

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program, that adequate incentives are provided, and signed agreements are in place before the ordinance changes are finalized.


We strongly urge you to postpone the vote on the proposed changes to the taxi cab ordinances scheduled for this Friday. We recommend that you establish a face to face summit with all the key stakeholders so that an agreement can be negotiated in a public forum.

We believe a successful and mutually agreeable policy can be reached but only with everyone sitting at the table to help ensure everyone's issues get discussed and steps put in place to address all concerns. This issue has been placed on a "fast track" that has caused numerous misunderstandings, misrepresentations and many "He said/She said" confusions. Getting everyone at the same table to develop a policy that will address all needs and concerns that results in a signed agreement is critical NOW, not later.

A postponement of this vote on Friday will allow time for this summit to take place. We need to get this right otherwise we may look foolish in the eyes of the national media. If the ordinance goes forward for a vote on Friday absent a "summit discussion" we urge you to vote NO. Please table this vote until a summit can be held and agreements made that will ensure its success.

Sincerely,


Joan Willshire
Executive Director
MSCOD


Ken Rodgers
Chairperson
MACOPD

cc: Betsy Hodges, Mayor