

Fw: Joint Meeting for Rules and Open Government Item:ROGC 21-790 *Taxi*

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 10/19/2021 4:37 PM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

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From: lawrence silva <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:00 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** Jesus Maria Magana <[REDACTED]>; Sherry Singh <[REDACTED]>; Seyoum Asrat <[REDACTED]>; Buni <[REDACTED]>**Subject:** Joint Meeting for Rules and Open Government Item:ROGC 21-790 *Taxi*

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Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Larry Silva and I am the General manager of IQ Business Connection, (formerly known as Yellow Checker Cab).

We support the letter / comment you received from Green Cab and American Cab!

The matters referred to this committee are very important to taxicab companies, taxicab operators and the taxi riding public.

TNCs such as Uber have taken away enough taxi rides that the city of San Jose went from as many as 792 taxicabs to less than 200 today.

To become an Uber driver you must own a car. No special license, no special equipment, no fees and no special insurance.

Uber Drivers can be on the road on the same day as they apply.

Uber drivers pay their expenses on a commission split that covers insurance and other expenses.

Uber drivers have no risk.

Per City ordinance/laws/policies

A taxi driver will pay almost \$800 for a driver permit and business license. (City of San Jose)

A taxi driver will pay for a vehicle lease (commercial licensing), 24/7 insurance, Drug Testing, vehicle paint, decals, taxi-meter, calibration (SCCO), light and brake certifications and other expenses.

Companies

Out of as many as 16 SJ taxicab companies, just 3 are left today.

During the pandemic all 3 came dangerously close to closing up.

Why do we need relief?

We, (the industry), are still struggling financially.

Several cities including LA and San Francisco strived to help "taxicab" survive knowing that certain citizens rely on them for transportation.

Driving jobs are hard enough to fill especially in California. The cost to become a taxi driver in San Jose leaves almost no new drivers into our industry.

Vehicle colors are no longer necessary as Uber has proven using a 3x5 card in the window.

Insurance at the current \$300,000.00 limits can cost each driver as much as \$100 per week, (\$5200 per year), whether they work or not.

The airport, cab stands and cash paying customers rely on taxicab through the pandemic and now as not everyone has access to Uber.

The CSJ committed to helping insure a more level playing field between the multi-Billion dollar companies (Uber) and taxi.

Please commit to work with your local companies!

Best regards,

Larry Silva

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Fw: SJC's RULE COMMITTEE

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Tue 10/19/2021 4:38 PM

To: Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov> 1 attachments (26 KB)

SJC's RULE COMMITTEE.docx;

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Fax: 408-292-6207

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From: Jesus Maria Magana [REDACTED] >**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:02 PM**To:** The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; Green, Scott <scott.green@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** SJC's RULE COMMITTEE

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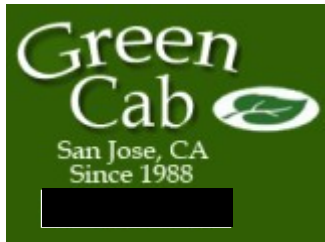
Good afternoon,

Please see the attached document. The purpose of this letter is to reiterate the struggles of the Taxi Industry amidst the Pandemic and with the rise of TNCs. The Taxi Industry will be further deterred if the City's Risk Management increases the policy limit insurance requirement to \$750,000 (250% increase). This change in regulation will make it almost impossible for Taxi Companies to operate.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to the Industry Representatives listed in the document, or me.

Thank you.

Best Regards,
Maria Magana
Operations Manager
cell: [REDACTED]
fax: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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10/19/2021

Subject: Taxi Issues

To the Mayor of San Jose and City Council Members:

The Taxi Industry has been heavily impacted by TNCs, and was further deterred by COVID-19. TNCs are not as regulated as Taxi Companies. Due to the heavy regulations on Taxis, business operations for drivers are difficult to maintain and finance. City ordinances require specific color schemes, logos, stickers and permits which accrue several hundred dollars in expenses for drivers. It is understandable that certain regulations are necessary and enhance functionality within our Area of business. However, the City should abate the costs to remain in compliance, especially during a Pandemic. For instance Taxi Driver Permit Renewal fees increased this year from \$168.00 to \$352.00; this is an increase of 209% on permit renewals alone. As we have already discussed, the City's Risk Management's decision to raise the policy limit for the insurance to \$750,000 will be disastrous for the Taxi Companies that remain in San Jose.

We have attempted to convey the affects that this 250% increase will have on our businesses; this increase needs to be reevaluated and postponed, considering the economy for Taxi businesses, and the prevalence of COVID-19 and Delta variants within San Jose. Taxi Companies need a joined committee, composed of the Taxi Company leadership and City staff to further examine the changes the Taxi Industry requested. The directives that this committee creates should protect our area of business, and the consumers who use our services.

City Hall promised to make it an equal playing field for Taxi Companies and TNCs; this is not possible if the proposed regulations are implemented. Increasing Insurance will make it nearly impossible for Taxi Companies to sustain themselves.

If you have any questions or require additional information please feel free to contact the Industry Representatives.

Lawrence Silva [REDACTED], Yellow Cab President
Seyoum Asrat [REDACTED], Green Cab President
Sherry Singh [REDACTED], American Cab Owner

Thank you.

Fw: Joint Meeting for Rules and Open Government Item:ROGC 21-790 *Taxi*

City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Wed 10/20/2021 8:35 AM

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From: lawrence silva <[REDACTED]>**Sent:** Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:28 AM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** Jesus Maria Magana <[REDACTED]>; Sherry Singh <[REDACTED]>; Seyoum Asrat <[REDACTED]>; Buni <[REDACTED]>**Subject:** Re: Joint Meeting for Rules and Open Government Item:ROGC 21-790 *Taxi*

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Please allow me to add one additional summary comment.

All money to support that taxicab industry comes through the "meter", the result of payments to the driver by paying customers. When ridership is down and fix costs go up, (such as insurance), expenses take food off the table of drivers and like will cause the closure of taxi companies.

To the best of our knowledge, the City of San Jose has never been drawn into an insurance limit issue regarding taxi. \$300,000.00 of liability coverage is a standard in our industry.

On the other hand, taxicabs are regularly hit by uninsured and underinsured motorists. Some underinsured motorists legally carry as little as \$3000.00 coverage for property damage and uninsured motorist coverage is already financially out of reach for most, if not all SJ taxicab operators.

Please help these operators remain in business and feed their families!

On Oct 19, 2021, at 4:00 PM, lawrence silva <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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