



**Pennsylvania  
Convention Center**  
PHILADELPHIA

**Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority**

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2011 AUG -8 P 2: 31

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August 1, 2011

Silvan B. Lutkewitte, III  
Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Philadelphia Parking Authority  
Taxicab and Limousine Regulations, IRRC No. 2885

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

The planning of a convention is a multi-level process; from appropriate space allocation in the newly expanded Convention Center (2 million sq. ft.) to housing/hotels to transportation needs (air, rail and land). One of the major goals of our convention staff is to insure that each conventioner has a positive memorable experience.

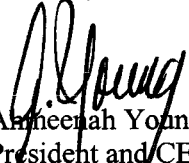
We strive to convert our conventioners to tourists. Encouraging them to experience the many historic, arts and cultural, educational and entertaining offerings of our City. While we are a great "walking city", many of our visitors chose to utilize the services of our taxicabs, limousines, and/or shuttle services.

It is important that the Parking Authority, as a partner to the hospitality industry continue its focus on establishing standards through current regulations, those of which you are currently reviewing. It is vitally important that taxicabs and limousines be outstanding, both mechanically and physically and that the drivers of those vehicles be professional, courteous and knowledgeable about our City, particularly as to geography.

Recently many taxicabs and limousines have refused to submit to inspections by the Authority. Owners of those services are now using drivers that are untrained and uncertificated as required by Act 94 of 2004. In addition, to raising issues of health & safety, this deplorable situation could leave a tainted view of our City and adversely affect the possibility of returning to the City as a conventioner, business traveler, and or a tourist. The tax dollar investment in the City has been enormous to insure a competitive edge in the national hospitality marketplace.

It is my professional opinion that the Parking Authority's regulations of which you are currently reviewing will restore stability to taxicab and limousine services in Philadelphia. I implore the Members of your Commission to approve them.

Sincerely,



Ameeerah Young  
President and CEO

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