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2011 AUG -8 P 2:32

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COUNCILMAN - 1st DISTRICT

July 28, 2011

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

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**RE: Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulations
Final Rulemaking (Agency/ID No. 126; IRRC No. 2885)**

Dear Chairman Lutkewitte:

As the Chairman of the Committee on Streets and Service of the Philadelphia City Council, I have a long history of interaction with the Philadelphia Parking Authority ("Authority") on many important matters. I have found the Authority's senior staff to be very professional and their work product to be of a very high quality.

Therefore, I anticipated that the Authority would improve the quality of taxicab and limousine service in Philadelphia when the commonwealth assigned that regulatory duty in 2005. I am pleased to write that my expectations were more than realized when the Authority began to enforce its local regulations.

Clean taxicabs and limousines with knowledgeable and respectful drivers positively impact upon our residents, business travelers and tourists. However, many taxicabs and limousines have refused to be inspected by the Authority and are being driven in excess of reasonable mileage and age limitations by drivers who have not been cleared for service. This sad state is a result of an arrant perception that the Authority's current regulations are not enforceable and has resulted in service that is diametrically opposed to what is in the best interest of the City of Philadelphia.

The Authority's final-form regulations will return clarity to those regulated parties and will provide the framework to continue the implementations of Act 94 of 2004 and to provide the City of Philadelphia with the Well regulated taxicabs and limousines it requires. Therefore, I highly recommend that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission approve those regulations at its August 25, 2011 meeting.

Sincerely,

Frank DiCicco
Councilman – First District

FDC/maw