

2885



Unified Taxi Workers Alliance of Pennsylvania

4233 Chestnut St. Phila.Pa. 19104

(215) 279-0472

www.twapa.org

September 17, 2011

twapa1@yahoo.com

2011 SEP 30 P 2:11

RECEIVED
IRRC

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

Greetings Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of our membership, we wanted to forward a letter of support for the Germantown Cab Company. Germantown Cab Co. has been in operation for many years and provides a much needed service for a community that is greatly marginalized. As you may know, Germantown is a difficult area to operate in because of the many patterns in which the roads have been laid out. Unlike the rest of Philadelphia, which is based on a primary Roman grid, a Germantown street frequently break off, consists of many dead end blocks, and have a strange way of measuring east and west. Germantown can also be a dangerous place for a taxi driver to work, especially if he/she doesn't know their way around. Many of the current taxi drivers, who lease their cabs from Germantown Cab co., live in the area and are familiar with so called hot spots. Most important, they provide a service for hard working people that may have limited access to transportation.

Most of the medallion taxicab drivers service a completely different market consisting of the hospitality hubs. Twenty percent (20%) of the medallion fleet can be found at Philadelphia International Airport, Ten percent (10%) primarily work at the Amtrak Station, and the rest are concentrated in both Center City and University City. As the demographics changed in the taxi industry in Philadelphia, most newly arriving immigrants prefer working in the business and tourist areas. These jobs usually provide better tips, go longer distances, and are usually safer in a taxi driver perspective. Furthermore, the centralize dispatch companies provide very little work in the Germantown area, preferring to concentrate on their corporate client that allows the dispatchers to charge an additional 10% to the taxi drivers.

For these reasons, UTWA fully support the vital service that the Germantown Cab co. provides not only to Germantown, but all of the surrounding neighborhoods. Together both Germantown Cab and Medallion taxis provide a complete transportation service for the city of Philadelphia. It is our fear, that a loss of this vital service, will leave many Philadelphians without a means to get to work, school, doctor visits, or for purely entertainment reasons.

Respectfully submitted;

Ronald Blount

President