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BEFORE THE
PHILADELPHIA PARKING AUTHORITY
TAXICAB AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PROPOSED RULEMAKING ORDER

Docket No. 126-6

Date: December 5, 2013

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2014 MAY 27 PM 2:35

Simon Abitbol, Advisory Committee Member (ACM)
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Date: May 27, 2014

Re: Opposition to the sale of Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion by and through a medallion auction at Regulation # 123-6 being proposed at this time.

I would have addressed these comments during the public comment period I had no idea that the matter of the protest process will still be an issue today, that's why I am intensely addressing them now.

I am a fleet owner with over 80 medallions and I also manage quite a few. I am the sole proprietor of PHL Taxi, LLC., which dispatches a little more than 150 medallions on a daily bases. I am Registered and authorized by the PPA as a Broker for the transfer and/or the sale of Philadelphia medallions. We are a state licensed insurance broker. I am also the president and sole proprietor of Money Max Funding, Inc. a medallion finance brokerage company, an affiliate of Progressive credit union. I have more than thirty (30) years' experience in the taxicab industry in good standing.

As a successful bidder in the last Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Auction in 2000 I would like to point out that even though it appears that the PPA is doing their best to make this an open a fair auction I feel it will be a disaster to present an auction at this time.

This whole idea of the auction and putting more taxis on the streets was fueled by group(s) representing the Philadelphia drivers, individuals in the industry, and organizations representing citizens with disabilities, all with their own agenda. I have no problem with that other than like everyone else I thought the directive was to put WAV on the streets of Philadelphia, now it is clear that only 10% (15) of the additional medallions (150) will be WAV which will be less than 1% of Philadelphia taxi fleet. We could all ask ourselves what is the need for more taxis in such a small and competitive market? That is water over the dam now that the law has been passed and the PPA is trying to figure the best way to proceed.

I am opposed to this auction at this time not because of the additional taxes but because we have a pressing matter that may not only seriously affect the outcome of the auction but may also affect our ability to finance in future. Because of this recent rash of protest banks are very skeptical of engaging in any financing for new loans. This issue must be resolved before we should even consider any type of auction.

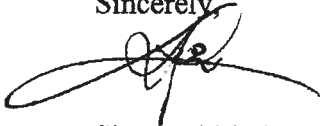
There are 40 applications (SA-1) with over 30 million dollars tied up in the PPA for almost a year now over selfish strategies presented by members of the industry through the protest process. Even after the application has or more likely will be approved by the PPA, with the banks already approving the loan applications of the borrower including the issuance of commitment letters, because of the absurd protest by individuals in the industry these deals are being held up and the PPA doesn't know what to do about it.

As a potential bidder in any auction and as one of the brokers with applications that have been submitted to the PPA that is caught up in the term oil I mentioned above, I am concerned about the process if I win a bid for a medallion(s). What happens if I win a bid and these people protest the transfer or sale? Do I have to wait for a year and still not know if it will be approved? Will my deposit be held somewhere in the PPA's bank account? These are serious questions the PPA should answer before considering proceeding with this auction. Do you realize or are you aware that the lenders only provide a sixty day commitment. Every lender could command that the borrower re-submit his loan application after sixty days with the chance of the borrower being rejected because of this protest process.

There are other issues that could be addressed but nothing at this time with the proposed medallion auction on the arisen. Please consider the fallout and the many problems the industry and the authority will face if we do not first resolve the matter of the protest process. In my opinion all of the other issues that may be addressed can easily be resolved time has shown us that it is not the case with the protest process.

I oppose the sale of any medallions whether through auction or otherwise until this matter is cleared.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Abitbol', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Simon abitbol,