

3103

RECEIVED
IRRC

Kathy Cooper

From: Neil McDevitt <neil.mcdevitt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2015 2:48 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: IRRC # 3103 - Accessible Taxicabs

2015 JUN 29 PM 3: 55

To whom it may concern;

While I don't live in the City of Philadelphia, I am a frequent visitor for business and family trips. It's clear, looking at the state of taxis that whiz past me that they are old cars and not accessible at all for people with a variety of needs.

With respect to the age of the fleet, it is deplorable. I often honestly wonder if the taxi will hold together for the short trips I often take, especially over some of the "rougher" roads in the City. As a business traveler, my first impression of a city is often the taxicab I take from the airport. A newer, cleaner taxicab conveys the impression of a cosmopolitan city that cares greatly about the people who live and visit there.

I do not use a wheelchair. My mother uses a scooter when she's in the city and I have many colleagues who use mobility devices to get around. The sad and scary lack of accessible vehicles is not simply an economic issue, it's a public safety issue. If individuals need to be need reliable transportation to a doctor or a medical facility, they can do so independently without having to rely on ambulances or other forms of government transit. If there is an evacuation in place for part of the city, the fleet can become an integral part of the plan instead of a non-issue.

Thank you. -Neil