

**Kathy Cooper**

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**From:** Joseph Stramondo <jas833@drexel.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2015 12:12 PM  
**To:** IRRC; dweldon@philapark.org; jney@philapark.org  
**Subject:** Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11

To:  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
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Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing today in support of the Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11, which would require all vehicles proposed for taxicab service after a designated date to be wheelchair accessible. In part, my support for this rulemaking originates in my personal experience as a wheelchair user living in Center City.

Philadelphian wheelchair users already have fewer viable transportation options, as many trolley, train, and subway stops are entirely inaccessible and, those that do offer access, are often unreliable because of elevator outages. Relying on fixed route buses is limited when the weather becomes difficult and the paratransit system is not nearly flexible enough to keep up with my busy lifestyle as a working professional. Parking a privately owned accessible vehicle in the city is costly and difficult. Thus, for me and those like me, there is actually MORE of a need for taxi cab transportation than there may be for my non-disabled counterparts.

Further, with the advent of the universally designed MV-1 vehicle made by AM General, wheelchair accessible vehicles are lowering in price, meaning that the transition to a fully accessible taxi cab fleet need not be cost prohibitive. In fact, even if there were some additional costs associated with purchasing accessible vehicles, it will likely be offset by expanding the customer base to include disabled and elderly people.

I believe that a fully accessible taxicab system is a vital component of any world-class city and reflects how a city respects the civil rights of its citizens and visitors. It is important that this rulemaking passes so that the City of Brotherly Love becomes the first city in America with a fully integrated taxicab system.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Joseph Stramondo