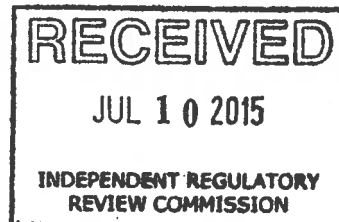




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# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

MAYOR' COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
Room 900, MSB  
1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
(215) 686-2798  
FAX (215) 686-4555

MICHAEL A. NUTTER  
Mayor

CHARLES W. HORTON, JR.  
Executive Director/Accessibility Compliance Specialist

To: The Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Re: Proposed Regulation #126-11 Modern Taxicab Standards

This letter is in support of the Proposed Regulation #126-11, Modern Taxicab Standard for, issued by the Philadelphia Parking Authority.

The Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities (MCPD) serves and supports people with disabilities in all aspects of life in the City of Philadelphia. We also strive to make Philadelphia one of the most accessible and disability friendly cities for people with disabilities in the United States.

Our city's motto of "The City of Brotherly Love" speaks volumes to who we are as a city. We are a city who loves our fellow man without regard of race, gender, sexual orientation and/or physical ability. We are a city that strives for equality. The regulation of 100% accessible taxicab-limousines is a step in the right direction.

Transportation is essential to the quality of life and independence for people with disabilities. Accessible taxicabs- limousine service will increase the opportunity for people with disabilities to gain adequate and self sustaining employment, and the ability to travel throughout our city without scheduling rides with our shared ride system (Paratransit) and /or waiting for a bus (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)).

There are more than 50 million Americans in the disability community, and the community will continue to grow. Furthermore, by 2030, it is projected that 70 million people in our population will be over the age of 65. Age related accommodations for disability services and support will increase the need for more accessible vehicles.

It is vital that Taxi cab-Limousine owners work to make significant investments in the equipment and become more knowledgeable of the people by which they serve. This proposed regulation will require new updated accessible vehicles, which are clean, safe and insured to all persons, including persons with disabilities.

The MCPD strongly supports and encourages the Proposed Regulation #126-11 for Modern Taxicab standards. This regulation would greatly reduce disparities for all citizens in our great city.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. W. Horton Jr.', written over the typed name.

Charles W. Horton Jr.  
Executive Director/Accessibility Compliance Specialist  
Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities