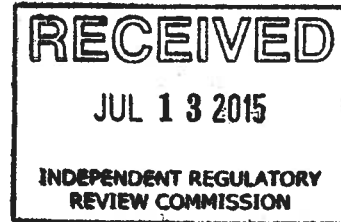


3103

Kathy Cooper

From: Disabled in Action of PA <germanparodi@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 9:21 PM
To: IRRC; dweldon@philapark.org; jney@philapark.org
Subject: Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11

To:
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Dennis G. Weldon, Esq.
General Counsel
Philadelphia Parking Authority
701 Market Street, Suite 5400
Philadelphia, PA 19106

James R. Ney, Director
Taxicab and Limousine Division
2415 S. Swanson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148

Independent Regulatory Review Commission,

Disabled in Action of Pennsylvania (DIA) is the statewide, non-profit organization composed of individuals with disabilities who want the freedoms and privileges embodied in their basic civil rights to become a reality. Members advocate for improvements in the physical well-being and social conditions of people with disabilities. Members plan campaigns and actions targeting elected officials and decision makers to remove barriers of full and meaningful social integration. DIA members also ensure that individuals with disabilities are able to access opportunities of their choice, such as receiving personal assistant services in their own homes instead of nursing homes.

DIA has fought for accessible taxis in Philadelphia for over 20 years, and in the past few years have has been in constant communications with Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) and it's Board in regards to implementing proper wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) regulations. We at last see the possibility of a fully accessible and fully integrated taxicab fleet, so we urge you to approve the PPA's proposed regulation to IRRC No. 3103, Docket No. 126-11. This proposed regulation will ensure the civil rights, we as people with disabilities, have to access all forms of transportation in our city.

This year marks the 25 anniversary of the signage of the Americans with Disabilities Act and still there are less than 10 WAV in Philadelphia. To access these WAV's people must call at least 24 hours ahead of time, this is blatant discrimination. People with disabilities are shunned from accessing many facets of their communities by being denied taxi services, which is something most people take for granted. Often times disabled people are forced to travel on their wheelchairs for miles, regardless of heat, rain, or snow because they cannot depend on an unreliable service such as Paratransit and public transportation. Paratransit may pick someone up on time or they may not at all, while SEPTA buses are just as unreliable since they still pass people who use wheelchairs and not everyone can fit in one. Furthermore, these are services our many visitors cannot access or are unfamiliar with. Providing a fully WAV fleet will finally provide a reliable service most people have benefited from for decades ending the transportation segregation in Philadelphia.

This is a civil rights matter much over an economic one, when people with disabilities are able to hail a taxi just

as anyone else and access it. A sad part of our country's segregation period will end. Philadelphia has over 130,000 thousand residents with disabilities related to mobility and countless tourists with disabilities a year, but every day we see someone access a taxi we cannot is another slap in the face. Please help us pave the way to end this culture in the U.S. and make Philadelphia the first city in the country to have a fully integrated and fully accessible taxi fleet. London's taxi system has had a complete WAV system since the early 90's, and in the last few years New York City passed a regulation to make 50 percent of their fleet accessible. Many city's around the country have some percentage of their fleet accessible, let's make Philadelphia the first city in the U.S.

Members of the Commission, you may know someone with a disability that affects their mobility and/or a senior citizen. Is it not time they, we, could access all facets of our communities? Not everyone has the power to make such a cultural change in their hands, but you do. Disabled in Action of PA, the disabled community of our Commonwealth, and our senior citizens need you approve Doc. No. 126-11, proposed rule-making order, Philadelphia Taxicab and Taxicab Vehicle Standards.

Sincerely,

Germán Parodi, Vice-President
Disabled in Action of PA
714 Market Street, Ste. 205
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Disabled in Action of PA
germanparodi@msn.com
Zip Code: 19106