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**Kathy Cooper**

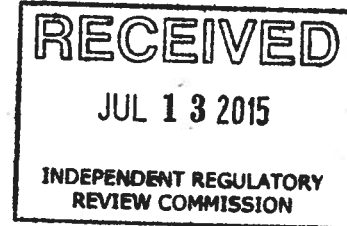
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**From:** Danielle Frank <lpalibertychapter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2015 3:31 PM  
**To:** IRRC; dweldon@philapark.org; jney@philapark.org  
**Subject:** Philadelphia Parking Authority's Proposed Rulemaking Order 126-11

To:  
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I support 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. 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.

On behalf of the Little People of America-Liberty Chapter (Philadelphia/South Jersey), we fully support Order 126-11. Little People of America (LPA) is a national non-profit organization that provides social support and resources for short stature members and their families. A large percentage of members across the country, including those in the Philadelphia Chapter, use mobility devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, etc. If Philadelphia was more accessible, we could consider hosting our national conference in Philadelphia which brings in over 2,000 people or a regional conference that brings in over 200 people. The conferences would generate additional business to Philadelphia in hotel rooms, dining and entertainment. Additionally, our group enjoys getting together throughout the year to have dinner, attend the theatre or a sporting event and enjoy family activities like the Zoo, Franklin Institute and Independence Hall. If we had safe, reliable and accessible transportation, more members and their families would join in these leisure activities to enjoy our City of Brotherly Love!

On a personal note, I have lived in the Philadelphia area my entire life but still have not experienced all this world class city has to offer which is due lack of accessible transportation options. Last summer I took a trip to England where I spent a whole day in London. I was able to enjoy the day immensely because I had the freedom to travel all over London using accessible cabs. Instead of worrying about how I would physically get to all the sites I wanted to see, I was able to fully immerse myself into the London culture.

It was great to hear last week on the news that some Philadelphia cabs will now be able to accommodate those people using scooters and wheelchairs. SEPTA also needs to embrace those people using assistive devices.

Elevators need to be in working condition so people can get from the train platform to the street. SEPTA employees need to understand their role in helping people get on and off the trains especially as the older trains have a narrow aisle and a bump which is difficult for scooters and wheelchairs to get over. These devices also need to be locked down on the train as a safety precaution. So training for SEPTA employees on how to help commuters who use assistive devices is also very important so that disabled people have the freedom to safely travel throughout Philadelphia.

As a student, intern, non-profit leader, and future working adult, you are welcome to reach out to me to learn more about my difficulties when using public transportation and my suggestions for improvement. I can be reached at 609-328-0300 or at [danielle.frank08@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.frank08@gmail.com).

Thank you,  
Danielle Frank, LPA Liberty Chapter President

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