

UPDATE ON THE AVAILABILITY OF WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE SERVICE IN THE COMMONWEALTH – Public Comment

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IRRC Testimony of
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Hello, my name is Guy Anthony Brooks. I live in West Philadelphia, and I am a person with a disability and an activist with adapt, a grass roots organization of people with disabilities that has been around for 40 years, advocating for people with disabilities, to live independently, in accessible, affordable, integrated housing. A big part of independent living is being able to leave your house and go to a restaurant or movie theater. This requires reliable wheelchair accessible vehicles.

TNCs have been taking over transportation world wide. The disability community has been fighting for a long time to increase the number of wheelchair accessible taxis on the road, but most local taxis (such as 215-geta-cab, freedom taxi, and germantown taxi) do not buy new WAV medallions because they are competing with organizations that do not need medallions.

Since most Uber and Lyft vehicles are not accessible, people with disabilities do not try to hail them. Some days I cannot depend on public transportation such as buses and trains, and I must use TNCs. I have to hope that one is in my area and able to come get me. Sometimes they are not in my area, and either take over 30 minutes to get to me, or don't show up on the app at all. And some times they pick up my ride but do not come.

Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) is responsible for monitoring taxis and TNCs in the Philadelphia county. They must make sure TNCs are accessible to people, disabled or elderly, to have independent lives in the community.

What do we do as a community?

What do we do as a city?

What do we do as a state?

We must find a solution.

Thank you for taking your time to listen to me.

