ADDITIONAL MATERIAL REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 7, 2025

SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF

PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 329A • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-519-6613 • FAX 954-357-8655

TO: **Board of County Commissioners**

FROM:

Leonard Vialpando, Director المائيز/ Public Works and Environmental Services Department

DATE: October 6, 2025

Commission Meeting 10/7/2025 - Item 61 RE:

The attached email was received on Sunday, October 5, 2025, and is included as additional information from the Public Works and Environmental Services Department for item 61.

Subject:

FW: YELLOW CAB MESSAGE TO MAYOR AND COMMISSION RE: AGENDA ITEM 61-ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO VEHICLE STANDARDS AND TAXIMETER RATES

From: Friedman, Bernie < bfriedman@beckerlawyers.com>

Sent: Sunday, October 5, 2025 5:10:58 PM

To: Furr, Beam <BFURR@broward.org>; Quintana, Idelma <IQUINTANA@broward.org>; Miller, Clay

<CLMILLER@broward.org>

Cc: LaPlant, Colleen < < CLAPLANT@beckerlawyers.com >; Bogdanoff, Ellyn < ebogdanoff@beckerlawyers.com >; Vialpando,

Lenny <<u>LVIALPANDO@broward.org</u>>; Meyers, Andrew <<u>AMEYERS@broward.org</u>>; Kelleher, Kevin

< KKELLEHER@broward.org; Ruiz, Michael < MICHAELRUIZ@broward.org; Cepero, Monica < MCEPERO@broward.org; Cepero, Monica MCEPERO@broward.org; Cepero. MCEPERO@broward.org; Cepero. MCEPERO@broward.org; Cepero. MCEPERO@broward.org; Cepero. <a href="

 $\label{lem:com} \textit{Friedman@beckerlawyers.com} >; \\ \underline{\textit{idavis@blserviceinc.com}} < \underline{\textit{idavis@blserviceinc.com}} >; \\ \underline$

<u>Pstamos@GaddisCapital.com</u> < <u>Pstamos@GaddisCapital.com</u>>

Subject: YELLOW CAB MESSAGE TO MAYOR AND COMMISSION RE: AGENDA ITEM 61- ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO

VEHICLE STANDARDS AND TAXIMETER RATES

External Email Warning

This email originated from outside the Broward County email system. Do not reply, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address (not just the name) as legitimate and know the content is safe. Report any suspicious emails to ETS Security by selecting the Report Suspicious or Report Phish button.

Report Suspicious

Dear Mayor Furr, Vice Mayor Bogen, Senators Geller and Rich, and Commissioners Fisher, Udine, Rogers, McKinzie, and Davis: As you all know, we proudly represent Yellow Cab of Broward County. We are proud of Yellow Cab's 65 years of service to the people of Broward County with well maintained, clean, reliable 24/7 dispatch by phone or app, and a camera that records both internal and external video and sound. Yellow has invested tens of millions over the years in the latest technology, full mechanical and body shop, digital terminals, and so much more. We thank Mayor Furr for Agenda Item #61 and respectfully request that this letter be added as additional material to the agenda item 61. We look forward to discussing the items below on Tuesday and will be available to answer questions.

1)Yellow Cab respectfully requests that one additional item be added to the Motion to Direct: A motion to direct that a one-year moratorium be enacted on certificate renewal to preclude forced abandonment of certificates by Broward County. This has been done in the past as a fair and equitable approach to the challenges in the taxicab industry and to not punish certificate holders who are doing the right thing by forcing them to abandon unused certificates and vehicles. Yellow Cab has purchased over 165 vehicles since the pandemic and over 100 new owner drivers and vehicles. Growth continues monthly with the 24/7 dispatch system and significant Riders Choice and TOPS overflow, emergency calls, and TNC overflow calls via the CURB taxi app. Growth also continues with Tri Rail, the late-night shift connects program and other private sector insurance industry programs. We anticipate even more growth in the future as the County continues to rely upon Yellow Cab for the TOPS program overflow. Requiring certificates to renew annually and mandatory operation puts an impossible and unfair burden on certificate holders like Yellow

Cab. Finding and keeping drivers and Toyota Prius Hybrids is also difficult. 95% of the Yellow Cab fleet are Hybrid Vehicles. All vehicles are inspected weekly. The one-year moratorium will encourage certificate owners like Yellow Cab to continue to grow their businesses and re-invest.

Other issues related to Taxi Cabs:

- **2) Yellow Cab supports staff's recommendation that no meter rate hike be authorized.** Although costs are up, the competition from Rideshare services continues to have a significant impact on the taxi Industry. A rate increase would only erode what remains at FLL for the taxi cabs and would force residents and tourists to seek alternative transportation in ride share.
- **3) No need has been proven for additional taxi certificates.** The current Ordinance is based on population and does not take into consideration the massive influx of Rideshare Services, which add at least 6000 vehicles competing in the same general industry. The demand for taxicab service is being met. There is no evidence that it is not being met and that more certificates are needed.
- 4) **Yellow Cab supports 10-year vehicle age limit.** The 10-year vehicle age limit should be reinstated. Any new vehicle entering the industry should be less than 10 years old and removed from service at the end of the 10 years rule. Existing vehicles over 14 years old should be removed from service **by June 1st, 2026**.
- 5) A Flat Rate between Port Everglades and FLL, including the Convention Center and Hotel should be enacted.
- 6) New companies should be required to have at least one Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle in service.

Bernie Friedman

Shareholder
Chair, Government Law & Lobbying Practice Group



Becker & Poliakoff 1 East Broward Blvd., Suite 1800 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

**** 954.985.4180

954.328.9144

1 954.985.4716

bfriedman@beckerlawyers.com

www.beckerlawyers.com

Connect with me on LinkedIn

Follow Becker on...

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: This message, together with any attachments, may contain privileged and confidential information. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any examination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us by reply e-mail and permanently delete the original message, along with any attachments. Thank you.