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2	X					
3	NEW YORK CITY					
4	TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION					
5	PUBLIC HEARING					
6	X					
7						
8	February 8, 2023 10:02 a.m.					
10	Held Remotely via Zoom					
11						
12	BEFORE:					
13	SHERRYL ELUTO, General Counsel					
14	Board of Commissioners:					
15	CHAIR DAVID DO					
16						
17	JACQUES JIHA					
18	THOMAS SORRENTINO					
19						
20	KENNETH MITCHELL					
21						
22						
23	Julia M. Speros					
24	Court Reporter					
25						

PROCEEDINGS

2.2

MS. SCOTT: Good morning. Today's Public Hearing is about to begin.

This hearing is being conducted remotely, via Zoom, and is being simulcasted to the TLC's website, live stream, and Facebook accounts. All persons wishing to testify were asked to sign-up in advance of the hearing.

All registered speakers are joining the meeting via Zoom. If you are speaking today, your audio and video were automatically muted.

When your name is called, the moderator will activate your account and you will have control of your camera and microphone. When ready, please state your name and affiliation, and then proceed with your testimony.

Public testimony will be limited to three minutes per speaker. Any additional comments may be submitted in writing to the Commission. When your testimony is complete, your audio and video will be muted by the moderator.

1 A special note for our registered 2 speakers: Please ensure that your display name 3 in the Zoom chat matches the name that 4 you used when you signed up to speak. 5 This will enable the moderator to 6 7 confirm that you are present in the meeting. 8 Closed captioning is available for 9 10 today's meeting. Consecutive 11 interpretation is also available. 12 During the sign-up process, individuals 13 were asked if they require language 14 assistance. A Spanish interpreter and 15 French interpreter have been made available. 16 If you are using an interpreter, 17 18 when your name is called, please speak 19 and the interpreter will repeat your 20 testimony in English. 21 Thank you for your attention. Please hold until we are ready to begin. 2.2 23 We will repeat this message in 24 Spanish and French. 25 Spanish Interpreter, please go

1	ahead.						
2	(Message repeated in Spanish.)						
3	MS. SCOTT: Thank you, Spanish						
4	Interpreter.						
5	French Interpreter, please go ahead.						
6	(Message repeated in French.)						
7	MS. SCOTT: Thank you very much,						
8	French Interpreter.						
9	I will now yield the floor to our						
10	Commissioner and Chair, David Do.						
11	CHAIR DO: Well, good morning SHL						
12	community. My name is David Do and I am						
13	the Commissioner of the TLC.						
14	Today I'm joined by Commissioner						
15	Sorrentino, Jiha, Velazquez, and						
16	Mitchell. As well on the panel today						
17	will be several TLC staff members						
18	including our GC, Sherryl Eluto, Deputy						
19	General Counsel Carolyn Wolpert, and our						
20	Assistant GC, Daniel Goddin.						
21	Also, a big thank you for all of our						
22	TLC team members working behind the						
23	scenes to put together this public						
24	hearing.						
25	Before we begin, there are a few						

announcements.

2.2

A couple of weeks ago, the

Commission voted to release 1,000 new EV

licenses, which we anticipate will

happen by the middle of March. We will

first release 600 licenses to individual

owner-operators and then 400 to anyone

who is interested in the licenses with a

limit of 25 per entity.

We are still finalizing the application process and IT process. Please do not purchase an EV until we announce the procedures. TLC will be providing more updates on the timelines and the application process through industry notice, the TLC website, email, and social media in early March.

Also reminding everyone that we will be having an in-person public hearing at 33 Beaver Street on March 1st for our newly proposed FHV driver pay increase. This will be an opportunity to make your voices heard regarding pay increases for Uber and Lyft drivers.

Today's public hearing will be on

1	the state of the street-hail livery						
2	industry. We're interested in hearing						
3	from you on what works to maintain and						
4	what needs						
5	(Disruption in transmission.)						
6	CHAIR DO: improvement to						
7	maintain a healthy street-hail livery						
8	industry. All ideas and comments are						
9	welcome.						
10	I will now hand it over to General						
11	Counsel Sherryl Eluto to begin our						
12	public hearing.						
13	MS. ELUTO: Good morning. When I						
14	call your name, you can un-mute your						
15	microphone and begin your testimony.						
16	Each speaker will be allotted						
17	three minutes to speak and the time						
18	limit will be strictly enforced. A 30						
19	second warning will be provided and then						
20	you will need to conclude your testimony						
21	when your time is up.						
22	With that, we can begin our public						
23	hearing and I will call on our first						
24	speaker, Waell Ibrahim (phonetic).						
25	Mr. Ibrahim, you can un-mute your						

1	mic and you can begin.					
2	(No response.)					
3	MS. ELUTO: Mr. Ibrahim, I see you					
4	that you're online, but you need to					
5	un-mute your microphone.					
6	SPEAKER: Yeah, now (indiscernible)?					
7	MS. ELUTO: Yes, that's good.					
8	SPEAKER: Yeah, good morning. My					
9	name is Waell Ibrahim. I am owner and					
10	driver of green taxi.					
11	In 2015, green taxi business was					
12	very good, but now business almost dead.					
13	We request the TLC to transfer the					
14	remaining green taxi into yellow cab					
15	because now we can't work.					
16	Thank you.					
17	MS. ELUTO: Okay. Any questions					
18	from our panelists?					
19	SPEAKER: No, just my request the					
20	green taxi transfer to yellow cab.					
21	MS. ELUTO: No, no I					
22	understand, sir. I was just wondering					
23	if any of our panelists had any					
24	questions for you.					
25	SPEAKER: Thank you.					

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1
                 MS. ELUTO: Okay. If not -- okay --
 2
             I will go onto our next speaker, Anotoli
             Gutav (phonetic), please.
 3
 4
                 Mr. Gutav.
 5
                 (No response.)
 6
                 MS. ELUTO: Nope -- apparently --
 7
                 MS. SCOTT: I'm sorry, that person
             has left the chat.
 8
                 MS. ELUTO: Okay. I see.
 9
10
                 So, next is Mamadush Mobaric
11
             (phonetic).
12
                 (No response.)
13
                 MS. ELUTO: Let's see -- Mr.
14
             Mobaric, please un-mute your microphone.
15
                 SPEAKER: Can you hear me?
16
                 MS. ELUTO: Yes.
17
                 SPEAKER: Yeah, good morning,
18
             everyone.
19
                 MS. ELUTO: Good morning.
20
                 SPEAKER: TLC has issued 9,000 green
21
             cab permits. As of yesterday, we have
2.2
             only Lyft as active green cabs, 4,701,
23
             meaning 52 percent of that business is
24
             declined.
25
                 So, the question is, why is the
```

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drivers leave the green cab business?

Some of them (indiscernible); some of them, TLC rules.

I can talk about TLC rules. You know, drivers pick-up from all borough -- Bronx or Manhattan -- upper Manhattan -- then they drop-off in south Manhattan. He has to go back empty, meaning he lose time. He lose money; he lose gas.

So, I think we should allow the green cab, if he has a job in Manhattan, he can pre-arrangement (sic). It's not going affect yellow taxi because the meter is shut off already. So, even if he an Uber app or Lyft app, he can dispatch and he can get one job on his way back.

(Indiscernible) -- airports. Again, airports it is in the borough in Queens and green cab drivers cannot pick up from the airport even though they can allow pre-arrangement. We -- I propose that we can pick-up also shorter trip, meaning that yellow taxi if the fare is

1 less than \$45 and in one hour, you can go back to take another customer. 2 So, we need the green cab drivers to 3 4 have these short trips to allow them to pick up from the airport, whether they 5 are going to go to Manhattan or they're 6 7 going to go to Queens. (Indiscernible) -- these two issues 8 9 because I spoke with a lot of drivers 10 that -- if we want to put the green cab 11 to put it back and strong, we must find 12 solution for them to work. Green cabs 13 cost a lot of money to start beginning 14 with. 15 It has (indiscernible) \$2,000. He has to install almost \$1,000 for the 16 17 meters. He has to pay registration, FHV 18 license. It cost him to start \$6,000. 19 If this driver doesn't make money, next day he's going to need it. 20 21 So, in order for us just to get more work, we can allow him to make 2.2 23 pre-arrangement --TIMEKEEPER: 30 seconds remaining. 24 SPEAKER: -- at the airport or for 25

1	in Manhattan.				
2	I also if I can if we can				
3	remove (indiscernible) expenses which				
4	another person is going to about it				
5	inspections. We need them to go at				
6	least every two years like black car.				
7	Thank you.				
8	MS. ELUTO: Thank you.				
9	Our next				
10	CHAIR DO: Mr. Mobaric oh, sorry.				
11	SPEAKER: Yes, sir.				
12	MS. ELUTO: No, no.				
13	CHAIR DO: Hi. My name is David and				
14	I just wanted to know you talked a				
15	little bit about the hack-up cost.				
16	What if the TLC using its roles				
17	or other programmatic options allow				
18	for a more affordable hack-up or even				
19	streamlining some of the like, let's				
20	say, color requirements or other things				
21	that add to the high cost of obtaining a				
22	green permit?				
23	SPEAKER: It's a good idea.				
24	Anything you can do to reduce the driver				
25	to exceed to pay from his pocket is				

1 better. For example, green cab was issued 2 the ride-share. They give 3 4 (indiscernible) to hack-up the car -- I mean, to convert the car as ride-share. 5 We're given \$15,000 just to restore 6 7 equipment, which was good. It pushed a lot of drivers to go for ride-share. 8 9 So, if we -- as you mentioned, if we 10 try to do things that (indiscernible) 11 drivers, it would be better. 12 Also, the inspection cost the driver 13 \$90. I don't know why \$90, but a car is 14 75. TLC charge green cab 90 -- \$90. 15 we allow (indiscernible) to make an 16 inspection every two years or maybe 17 every one year when you update the 18 (indiscernible). The (indiscernible) 19 just update every one year. 20 So, to make him (indiscernible), 21 we're going to reduce the 2.2 (indiscernible) his expenses. When you 23 go inside any type, it must have 24 something wrong in the car and it's going to cost a lot of money. 25

1	CHAIR DO: Okay.
2	SPEAKER: So, it would it would
3	be helpful for the driver if we reduced.
4	Another issue about meter shop. The
5	meter shop charge the drivers \$45
6	monthly when they make certain amount of
7	trips. Now, the driver doesn't make
8	trips because there is slow business.
9	Meter shop is charging almost \$100 for
10	or \$99 because he doesn't make trips.
11	So, the drivers on one hand, he
12	doesn't have a job and he has to pay
13	more money for meter shop.
14	CHAIR DO: Okay. Can you tell me
15	how is that street-hail business out in
16	the outer boroughs currently?
17	SPEAKER: It's very slow it's
18	very slow and I have to say something
19	that I talked with some drivers
20	yesterday about.
21	When he gave me an example. He
22	picked up a customer from
23	(indiscernible). It cost him maybe \$10
24	for Uber, but if it was meter because
25	the meter now has increased it cost

1	\$17. So, now passenger prefer to take					
2	Uber or Lyft than green cab.					
3	And most of the drivers, they always					
4	stand in what is a busy area let's					
5	say Macy's. Let's say on the subway					
6	station. Let's say where people can					
7	gather, they just pick up, but on the					
8	street itself, there is no business.					
9	Passenger prefer to pick-up a car					
10	than go outside, especially in the cold					
11	time, to hail for a cab.					
12	CHAIR DO: And now is the					
13	pre-arranged business right now?					
14	SPEAKER: Right now most of the					
15	drivers have Lyft or Uber, so the Uber					
16	give them jobs, especially in the					
17	borough.					
18	I have some (indiscernible) with me					
19	here. They're going to they're come					
20	to testify. They're going to talk about					
21	Uber and Lyft, well another person is					
22	going to talk about the inspections.					
23	CHAIR DO: All right. Well, thank					
24	you so much. I appreciate it.					
25	SPEAKER: You're very welcome.					

1	Thank you.					
2	MS. ELUTO: All right. Thank you.					
3	Our next speaker is Jason Gross.					
4	(No response.)					
5	MS. ELUTO: Mr. Gross?					
6	(No response.)					
7	MS. ELUTO: Mr. Gross, can you					
8	un-mute your microphone?					
9	SPEAKER: Yeah, sorry. It asked me					
10	to join back in.					
11	MS. ELUTO: Okay.					
12	SPEAKER: You can hear me okay now?					
13	MS. ELUTO: Yes.					
14	SPEAKER: Sorry I'm Jason Gross,					
15	the Vice President of Mobile with Curb					
16	Mobility, the primary provider of LPEP					
17	systems and E-hail dispatch to the					
18	majority of SHL operators in the City.					
19	From what we see, SHLs continue to					
20	provide a meaningful source of					
21	livelihood to drivers and a source of					
22	transportation to riders throughout the					
23	outer boroughs in upper Manhattan.					
24	I pulled data over the last three					
25	months of 2022 so, that's October,					

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November, December -- and we saw over 900 unique SHL vehicles and drivers complete trips through our platform.

So, that's E-hail and street-hail paid in car, cash or credit.

Over 300 of those vehicles work at least 20 days per month on average. The most active vehicles complete approximately six trips per day through our platform, even as demand for transportation remains depressed throughout the City.

We also see that nearly 90 percent of their trips recorded through the LPEP originate as a street-hail, transporting well over 160,000 passengers in need of street-hail service over that three-month period, whether that be due to a need to pay cash, lack of access to smart phone or app-based services, or the fact that taxis still are often cheaper than Uber and Lyft.

From our point of view, exterior
markings of some kind and a regulator to
approve meter solution, that can be

2.2

provided at a low cost, are vital to maintaining the trust, transparency, and enforcement for these valuable street-hail opportunities.

In short, we believe the existence of the street-hail liveries, and their right to accept street-hails, continue to provide an invaluable option to both drivers and riders within the larger fabric of transportation in New York City.

MS. ELUTO: Any questions for Mr. Gross?

CHAIR DO: So, what does a more streamlined meter option look like -- or cheaper option look like to Curb?

SPEAKER: I think, you know, we've been moving from traditional hard meters to soft meters, which greatly reduce the cost of kit'ing (sic) out a taxi and then for lighter weight and smaller payment terminals that can be passenger-facing. So, these little (indiscernible) that are not much bigger than a pack of cards.

1 So, all of that greatly reduces the potential cost of outfitting a new 2 vehicle. 3 4 And a further comment, Commissioner, 5 is, you know, to the degree that the partnership -- the announced partnership 6 7 with Uber, you know, should be going live, the ability for taxis through 8 9 their LPEP systems to receive demand 10 from a ride-share app, regardless of 11 whether you look to allow pick-ups in 12 Manhattan returning to the borough, 13 that's something that can be done through the system, you know, 14 15 efficiently, and I think continue to provide more earning opportunities for 16 17 SHLs. 18 CHAIR DO: Are there any other 19 tweaks that you think that drivers of 20 SHLs would like to see from us to male 21 it a more attractive sector? 2.2 SPEAKER: You know, as one of the drivers mentioned -- and, you know, we 23

certainly believe -- the ability to go

back to the borough because, again,

24

25

1	especially when you're looking at people
2	using app-based services, yellow cab
3	driver are not as interested in taking
4	rides that go out to the boroughs from
5	Manhattan.
6	So, I think there's a there's a
7	mismatch in terms of supply and demand
8	for those rides where you have green
9	drivers who may be less willing to take
10	rides into the City because they have to
11	go back (indiscernible), and yellow
12	drivers who are less interested in
13	taking rides out of the City.
14	So, there really seems to be an
15	underserved supply and demand component,
16	you know, for those trips.
17	CHAIR DO: Thank you.
18	MS. ELUTO: All right. Thank you.
19	I believe Mr. Mobaric has been put
20	back onto the list to see if he had
21	anyone else that was speaking.
22	No I'm not sure why he's back on.
23	All right. Thank you then. That
24	was our final speaker for the public
25	hearing.

February 8, 2023

Anyone wishing to provide additional comments, you can email it to us at tlcrules@tlc.nyc.gov and we'll go back to Commissioner Chair David Do to close out today's hearing. CHAIR DO: Great. Well, thank you everyone and thank you for your public comments today. We will review them and look at ways to improve the street-hail livery industry and come back to the Commission with recommendations and possibly a vote in the near future. Again, I want to thank all of our Commissioners for being on today and participating, as well as the TLC team. With that, thank you everyone and have a great day. (Time noted: 10:23 a.m.) (Time noted: 10:23 a.m.)							
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19 (Time noted: 10:23 a.m.) 20 21 22 23 24	17	With that, thank you everyone and					
 20 21 22 23 24 	18	have a great day.					
 21 22 23 24 	19	(Time noted: 10:23 a.m.)					
222324	20						
23 24	21						
24	22						
	23						
25	24						
	25						

1	
2	CERTIFICATION
3	
4	I, JULIA M. SPEROS, a Notary Public
5	for and within the State of New York, do
6	hereby certify:
7	That the witness whose testimony as
8	herein set forth, was duly sworn by me;
9	and that the within transcript is a true
10	record of the testimony given by said
11	witness.
12	I further certify that I am not
13	related to any of the parties to this
14	action by blood or marriage, and that I
15	am in no way interested in the outcome
16	of this matter.
17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
18	set my hand this 8th day of February,
19	2023.
20	
21	
22	Julia M. Speros
23	
24	
25	

	Feb	ruary 8, 2023		22
\$10 13:23	affect 9:14	anticipate 5:4	b 12	business 7:11,12 8:23 9:1 13:8,15
\$100 13:9	affiliation 2:18	anyone 5:7 19:21 20:1	back 9:8,18 10:2,11 15:10	14:8,13 (8)
\$1000 10:16	affordable 11:18	anything 11:24	18:25 19:11,20,22 20:4,11 (11)	busy 14:4
\$15000 12:6	again 9:19 18:25 20:14	app 9:16,16	beaver 5:20	cab 7:14,20 8:21 9:1,12,21 10:3,10
\$17 14:1	ago 5:2	18:10	because 7:15	12:2,14 14:2,11 19:2 (13)
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\$45 10:1 13:5	airport 9:22	appbased 16:20 19:2	19:10 (8)	call 6:14,23
\$6000 10:18	10:5,25	application	before 4:25	called 2:14 3:18
\$90 12:13,13,14	airports 9:19,20	5:11,15	begin 2:3 3:22 4:25 6:11,15,22	camera 2:16
\$99 13:10	allotted 6:16	appreciate 14:24	7:1 (7)	can 6:14,22,25
& 4	allow 9:11,23 10:4,22 11:17	approve 16:25	beginning 10:13	7:1 8:15 9:4,13,16,17,22,24
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