



YELLOW CAB ASSOCIATION

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Greetings,

You may not know who we are, so let us introduce ourselves. We are the: **Yellow Cab Association**, and we fight for justice. Justice for the yellow medallion owners and yellow cab drivers. Justice for those, whose lives were destroyed way before the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Justice for those, whose livelihoods were not just taken from them, but their dreams smashed in front of their eyes, as the shackles of loans & debt were locked in place. We seek justice, for those who have suffered, not at the hands of some virus but our own NYC elected officials

So much has transpired in the past 9 years, so it's hard to explain in a few words, but if you can give me a minute, I may be able to share the pain and suffering, that grew in our industry as a fire, in which we have burned for so long; while many no longer live to feel it.

It began with a betrayal, as it always does. A betrayal by our officials, which led to a betrayal in our system, and ended with a betrayal of our rights. Beginning with the **artificial inflation** of the yellow medallion prices, orchestrated **by the brokers, banks, and NYC elected officials** (who turned a blind eye). But what really struck the last nail in the coffin was the introduction of E-hail apps in NYC, especially with Uber and Lyft. Later on they will pioneer not only in the taxi industry, but also in our destruction; not by innovation but rather by the corruption of the system.

Rome didn't fall in a single day, neither did the medallion system. We held on, as long as we could, hoping for TLC or the elected officials to awaken from their sleep of greed and fix our industry. With this hope we fought, yet failure always embraced us. As it became apparent that **we no longer were welcome in the city**, we have served for decades. But with the pandemic wreaking havoc, we are forced to once again ask for justice and our rights.

When Uber came to NYC, they were met with no opposition, they did not abide by city rules & regulations, and did as they pleased. After 9 years, **E-hail corporations are still not regulated**. They can add as many drivers/cars as they want to our streets, causing mass pollution, and congestion. For which all New Yorkers have to pay for, whether young or old, sick or well, everyone is feeling the **pollution from 130,000 cars**. Where are the environmentalists when you need them? Of course they are with the elites; discussing their next campaign.



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In 1937 the **Haas Act** came into effect, which was created because **there were too many taxis** looking for fares but **not enough passengers** to make a healthy living; this later formed what would be the medallion system. We are now facing the same problem, as medallion owners and yellow cab drivers, we have **"paid"** to drive in NYC; **by purchasing a permit called a medallion**. But people have started to drive taxis without a permit, plunging our **market value to zero**, while also **stealing our jobs**. In the beginning they did not even possess a TLC license or car plate, had to pay no other fees, and were considered black cars. While the medallions are heavily regulated. If they are black cars, then where were/are their bases; like the ones Carmel and Dial 7 have. To rub salt in our wounds, in 2018 (almost 7 years later) NYC elected officials finally woke up and passed **rule 149**, to regulate all E-hail companies and their cars but it **was never enforced**. If you ask why? Corruption would be the answer. If you ask how, they can get away with this? Money as the answer should follow suit.

Please regulate and limit E-hail corporations, we are not the only ones suffering at their hands, so are their workers. Uber and other E-hail drivers are also facing similar problems, because of the lack of jobs; due to high volumes of **unregulated taxis in NYC**.

To make matters worse, our guard against chaos, **the TLC**, has neglected its duties as the Taxi & Limousine Commission, and has become **Uber's new guard-dog**. Whenever Uber feels like it, they throw TLC a bone. While we die, shackled under boulders called loans & debt. Many people have been crushed by now, ending their own lives, many plan to do the same, and others carry on; while all but dead inside.

We are not opposed to change, rather we welcome it. We see it as an opportunity to serve our community better. Then why are we excluded from it? We have not been given anything, to compete with all these E-hail corporations. Everyone has a smartphone these days, even **young children**. In the **future**, they will not wait at the corner of the street and hail for taxis, they will use their **smartphones to E-hail**. Times have changed, so if nothing else, please update our industry, give us a TLC E-hail app that is advertised by TLC to the public. So we may actually have a fair-playing field against the polluters of our city.



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Also when I stated that we were not facing a virus, that was a mistake on my part. **Corporations are a virus**, a virus in our society, a virus to our environment, a virus for the hard working people, and a virus to the system we depend on to keep us safe.

We are not asking for a handout, we are asking for **our rights**. We are asking for our voice **to be heard**; we are asking **for justice**.

Thank you.