



**Delores Rubin**  
Chair  
**Jesse R. Bodine**  
District Manager

CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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December 18, 2017

Honorable Corey Johnson  
Council Member  
224 West 30th Street, Suite 1206  
New York, NY 10001

Honorable Ydanis Rodriguez  
Council Member  
250 Broadway, Suite 1763  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Int. 1740 Doubling Yellow Cab Licenses**

Dear Council Members Johnson and Rodriguez,

At its December Full Board meeting, Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) voted to oppose Intro 1740 with 39 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstaining and 0 present but not eligible to vote. MCB4 would like to highlight its consequences as they relate to Community District 4 (CD4). The bill, which both of you are sponsoring, would amend the administrative code of the City of New York, in relation to the issuance of nontransferable taxicab licenses.

It would allow the 13,567 medallion holders to use one medallion for two taxis rather than the current rule of one medallion for one taxi. The motivation behind the bill is to make medallions a better investment opportunity; medallion owners have seen a reduction in medallion value over the past few years. Despite these circumstances, this bill would negatively affect traffic and sidewalk congestion without improving workforce development or worker rights for the industry.

Doubling the amount of potential yellow taxis - the only vehicles allowed to accept street hails within Community District 4 - citywide would increase congestion on our streets, creating more pollution and slowing travel speeds for all. In addition, thousands of additional vehicles require parking in our city, which is a limited resource and has caused many medallion owners to park their vehicles on

sidewalks. Specifically within CD4, the taxi businesses in the vicinity of 44<sup>th</sup> Street and Tenth Avenue have had conflicts with the neighboring schools. Doubling the amount of taxis allowed would further cannibalize the sidewalks and put additional children in danger.

Many of the medallion owners and taxi companies have complained of a loss of drivers and challenge in recruiting drivers. We are sympathetic to their concerns and would encourage workforce development programs with local communities, which could create a pipeline to jobs. Given that less than half of New York City households own cars it may be prohibitive for many to learn. Furthermore, any legislation relating to the taxi industry and creating additional value for owners should recognize the need for improved labor conditions, incentivize independent and small ownership of medallions, and should address the industry's carbon footprint by including requirements for 100% Electric or hybrid vehicles.

We hope you are able to address these concerns in any relevant legislation and are available to discuss any potential solutions.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin  
Chair  
Manhattan Community  
Board 4



Christine Berthet  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning  
Committee



Yoni Bokser  
Co-Chair  
Transportation Planning  
Committee

CC: Letitia James, Public Advocate  
Meera Joshi, TLC Commissioner  
Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker, NYC Council  
Hon. Linda B. Rosenthal, New York State Assembly