

June 7, 2018

Mr. Warner H. Session
Chairman of the Board
Metropolitan Washing Airports Authority
Arlington, VA



Via email

Dear Chairman Sessions:

Thank you and other board members and members of the airport administration for meeting with leadership from the National Airport Taxi Drivers Association (NATDA) on May 29. We are appreciative of you and staff's effort to communicate with us.

To recap the last few months, NATDA is concerned that passengers, airport employees, and drivers have all had their safety and security jeopardized since MWAA mixed Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) vehicles with professional, inspected, background-checked and regulated taxis and taxi drivers. In addition to our concerns about safety and security we are concerned by a precipitous drop in our incomes based primarily on where MWAA administrators have decided to permit TNC pickups.

To reiterate our position:

- MWAA has the legal authority to regulate TNC activity at RR National Airport.
- MWAA has the legal authority to regulate where TNCs pick up passengers.
- MWAA has made a commitment to 'living wages' for employees at the Airport while simultaneously taking administrative actions which have pushed taxi drivers to below living wage incomes.
- MWAA recent actions with regard to TNCs jeopardize public, driver and airport safety and security by permitting privileged airport access to TNC vehicles without background checks, criminal record / fingerprinting, or MWAA administered vehicle inspections.

After meeting with you and others and discussing briefly our concerns at the May MWAA meeting we looked forward to meeting with you, Ms. Hargrove, Mr. Tejada and leading administrators on May 29th. At that meeting Margaret McKeough, Chief Operating Officer offered to eliminate MWAA vehicle inspections for taxicabs and she offered to make announcements over the airport communication system promoting taxi usage. After serious consideration, here is how we propose to move forward:

Tenants and Workers United ♦ Inquilinos y Trabajadores Unidos

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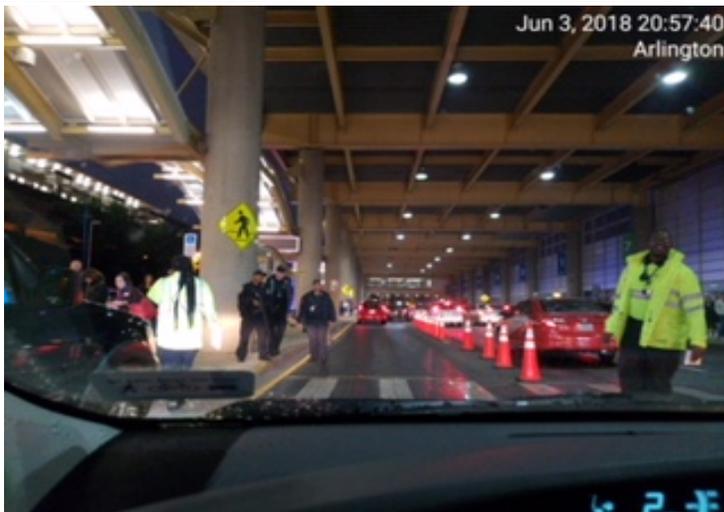
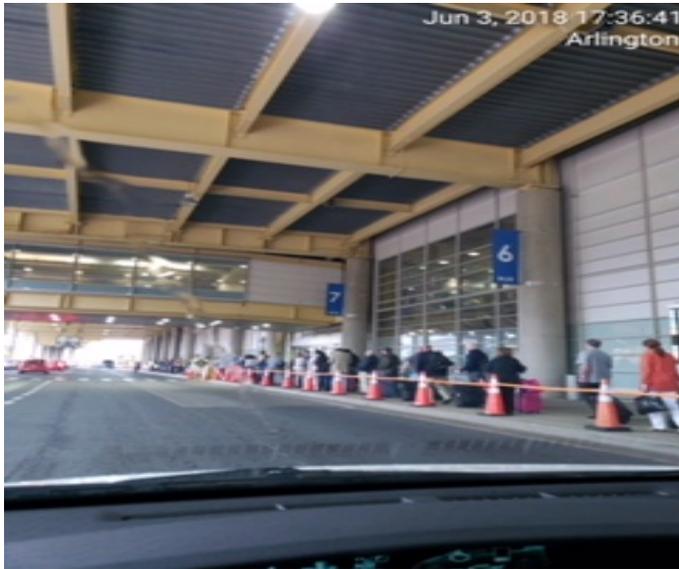
- 1) Regarding the elimination of cab inspections by MWAA we wish to clarify our position: We are supportive of inspections, fingerprinting, and TSA background checks which insure that RR National Airport Taxis are safe and that drivers are insured and qualified professional drivers. Our point has not been to reduce the regulatory burden to taxi drivers but rather to insure the safety and security of customers, employees and the airport itself by appropriately regulating TNC vehicles and drivers who pick up passengers at the Airport.
- 2) Regarding the offer to provide pro-taxi announcements at RR National Airport. We thank you for this offer. You asked us to suggest content for the announcements and we suggest the following:

Ronald Reagan National Airport taxis are inspected by area localities and the Airport Authority, our taxi drivers have criminal background checks administered by the TSA and local jurisdictions, their cabs are fully insured, our professional drivers have passed road knowledge exams. Taxis are available outside of door X on the arrival level. Thank you.

Fully informed consumers can best make their ground transportation decisions.

- 3) Regarding, perhaps the most important question – TNC pick up placement location our position is clear. During this construction period TNCs should either pickup at the departure level or customers should be picked up by a shuttle bus and taken to the TNC parking lot of site. For the last three months and going through at least the end of the year pickups and departures are being made significantly less space. Placing TNCs and taxis on the same level has created a range of problems including traffic blockages, accidents, and poor service for consumers. This is in addition to the ongoing safety and security concerns caused by TNCs lack of background checks, fingerprinting, inspections, etc...

These two pictures (below) from the Arrival level illustrate some of the concerns of taxi drivers. The first picture shows approximately two dozen customers waiting for taxis. There are hundreds of cabs available to pick up passengers however they are blocked by TNCs who are picking up passengers in all four lanes. The second picture shows three airport personnel chatting amongst themselves while a similar blockage is occurring. Incidents like these repeated hundreds of times are killing the taxi industry. It is a direct result of administrative decisions and practices.



We propose the following next steps:

- 1) Schedule a walk around with NATDA and WMAA to walk and observe the traffic flow and how TNC activity and placement impacts taxicabs and the general public. June 13 or 19 are two days that can work.
- 2) Begin using the requested announcement to better inform the public about taxi operations and location at the airport.
- 3) We request 5 minutes to introduce this subject and our concerns to the full board. We would like 5 minutes to present our concerns between 10am and 12 noon during your next Board meeting on June 20. Please indicate what time works best for your agenda.
- 4) We remain open to meeting with MWAA senior staff and leadership if there are new ideas, such as we propose, to address the safety, security, traffic and living income issues which we have raised.

We appreciate the willingness of you, staff and other board members to meet with us. We hope that we can work together to address the current situation as soon as possible. The current situation is untenable for drivers and their families. .

Sincerely,

Chand Dhody
NATDA Executive Committee

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