



NEWS FROM **Teamsters Local Union 117**

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AIRPORT DRIVERS APPLAUD PORT FOR STEPPING IN TO STOP PAY-TO-WORK

Port of Seattle Notifies Eastside for Hire that Fleet Reduction Plan Violates Contract

(TUKWILA) – Sea-Tac Airport taxi and flat-rate drivers praised the Port of Seattle for intervening to stop taxi contractor Eastside for Hire from implementing a pay-to-work scheme requiring drivers to pay thousands of dollars or lose their right to access the airport.

Writing on behalf of Port of Seattle Commission President Courtney Gregoire, Port staff informed drivers that the Port had formally notified Eastside that its fleet reduction plan represents a violation of its contract with the Port.

The Port called on Eastside to “rescind its plan” that would impose additional fees and terminate up to 63 drivers by no later than 4 P.M. on May 1. The Port also said it is “exercising its right to inspect ESFH’s records related to its April 24, 2018 decision to eliminate 29 vehicles from its fleet.”

Eastside issued termination notices to 29 drivers in the airport fleet last week after drivers had participated in a peaceful protest of the plan and spoken out against it at a Port Commission meeting.

“We want to thank the Port of Seattle for listening to drivers and taking this issue seriously,” said Suldan Mohamed, a taxi driver who has vocally stated his opposition to Eastside’s plan both in the media and at last week’s Port Commission meeting. Mohamed’s was informed shortly after that meeting that his cab would be terminated from the airport by Eastside effective May 24.

Eastside has indicated that it may not comply with the Port’s directive. In a communication sent over the weekend, Eastside told drivers that its fleet reduction program “remains unchanged” and that its deadlines for imposing additional fees and the threat of termination for drivers remains in place.

“We appreciate the Port of Seattle for responding quickly to stop these unjust terminations and the imposition of unfair fees on taxi and flat-rate operators at the airport,” said John Searcy, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters 117. “Eastside should listen to the Port and the drivers, drop pay-to-work and the threat of further terminations, and reinstate the 29 drivers immediately.”