




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Robert Spillar, P.E., Director,
Austin Transportation Department 

DATE: February 28, 2022

SUBJECT: **March 3, 2022, Item 23 – Ordinance amending City Code Charter 13-2
(Ground Transportation Passenger Services)**

On March 3, 2022, Austin Transportation Department (ATD) will present Council with a recommendation to amend City Code Chapter 13-2 (Ground Transportation Passenger Services) to remove franchise requirements for taxicab companies and establish taxicab operating authority requirements.

In preparing for possible Council action, the Austin Transportation Department received communication related the subject item from two of the existing taxi franchises: Central City Taxi and ATX Co Op Taxi. The communication consists of a driver petition and a letter from one of the companies. To ensure full transparency, we have attached the communication as backup for review.

CC: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager, Mobility
Jason JonMichael, Assistant Director ATD

Attachments

From: ATX CO-OP TAXI

To : Mobility Committee

Date: 01/21/2022

Subject: Rejection of Operation Authority Proposal by ATD

Dear Members,

ATX CO-OP TAXI is a corporative Taxi Cab Company own, managed and operated by members/drivers. It's deferent from other franchises. It was approved by City Council Members in 2016 because of monopoly and mistreatment was done by taxi companies toward drivers with support from Austin Transportation Department. Drivers were paying too much of their income to the companies and were been punished without due process if costumers complained. Now ATD with support from Z-Trip/Yellow want to take us back to that road again. Z-Trip was part of Yellow Cab Company before ATX CO-OP TAXI was established.

The proposal made by ATD is not going to help drivers. We are better off under Franchise model so the City Council Members can make laws/ordnances and Austin Transportation Department enforces those ordnances. We reject to be under one ENTITY that will be the ordnances maker, judge, persecutor and a lawyer at the same time. We have been there that why the City Council Members approved ATX CO-OP TAXI.

As you all hard from ATD/Jacob Culberson yesterday that their intend is for the good and benefit for drivers and proposal was unanimously approved by Urban Transportation Commission. Really?! ATX CO-OP TAXI/taxi cab companies are stakeholders in UTC. How in the world UTC can make a decision without asking inputs from stakeholders? As you all hard yesterday from ATD presentation that ATX CO-OP TAXI is the majority share holder in taxi cab business and was not ask to attend UTC meeting. ATD was going to do the same through Mobility Committee if we didn't get email one day before the meeting. If what ATD claimed in that meeting was for good intention and benefit for drivers, the action for them going to UTC and wanted to go through MC without our inputs defeats the good intention. We reject the proposal in totality.

If the ATD wants to help drivers and do away with ordnances they claimed criminalized taxi cab companies and delay process of approval/renewal under franchise model, they can do these under the same model and not under Operation Authority.

Here are the issues concern drivers/ATX CO-OP TAXI that can be handle under franchise model with help of ATD and Mobility Committee:

- 1- 30% of our business is gone at the Airport because the Airport Authority has hidden us under garage far away from the view of our customers for over last 3 Thanksgivings. We need to go back to where we were.
- 2- Buying Permits from the City: we should be allowed to buy what we need in the quarter and allow to comeback and buy more as needed in the same quarter.
- 3- Gaining New Drivers: We have difficulties of gaining new drivers because they can't meet our initial membership investment; they just want to be seasonal drivers without paying into capital investment; so we want City Council Members to allow ATX CO-OP TAXI to have options welcome nonmember drivers.
- 4- Wheelchair requirement should be reduced /eliminated or give us same exemption like TNC.

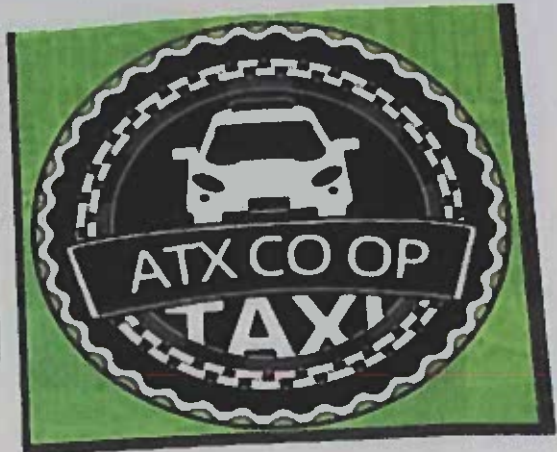
Thank You Very Much,

ATX CO-OP TAXI

Angelo ATem

angelo@atxcooptaxi.net

512-496-2380



TAXI DRIVERS PETITION

WE, the undersigned independent contractor drivers, have read your proposal to change the taxi industry, from taxi franchise to operating authority. **WE**, unanimously disapprove of this proposal, as it will lead to the destruction of what's left of our industry. You have mentioned that you're doing this to help the drivers, This is not how you will help us, if you want to help us, there are many ways to do it, and we will be more than happy, and willing, to sit down with you to discuss further.

Sincerely,
Taxi drivers of Austin, Tx.

DRIVER NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Hailu ET Sato	hailu.ertato@gmail.com	
EYEY. YDVEF	FYDSIEF@gmail.com	
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lan Cen El fattti	lan.cen.elfattti@gmail.com	
Kevin Olsas	obasiker@plus.com	



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Sincerely,
Taxi drivers of Austin, Tx.

DRIVER NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
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Sunday Usono	wpw5kany@yahoo.com	
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ANGELO ATEM	aa.atem@gmail.com	

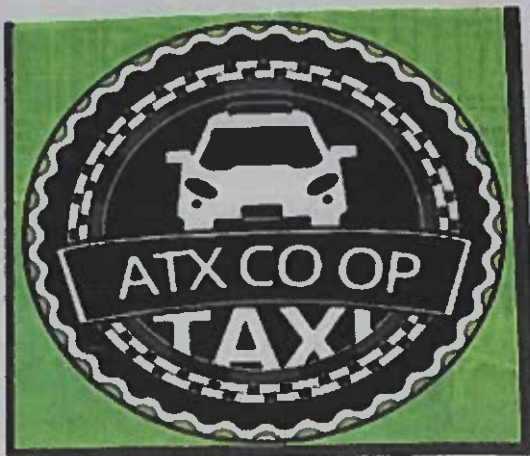


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Sincerely,
Taxi drivers of Austin, Tx.

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<u>DONION SEFON</u>	<u>idsefoni@gmail.com</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>YONAS HAILE</u>	<u>yonas.tsumengyabed.com</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
<u>OMER JADA</u>	<u>omernaemta@gmail.com</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>
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<u>HABTAMULUSA</u>	<u>habtamulsk@yahoo</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>



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Taxi drivers of Austin, Tx.

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E-MAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

Ayele Tessema

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ADOR JARAMILA

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Emmanuel Tombe

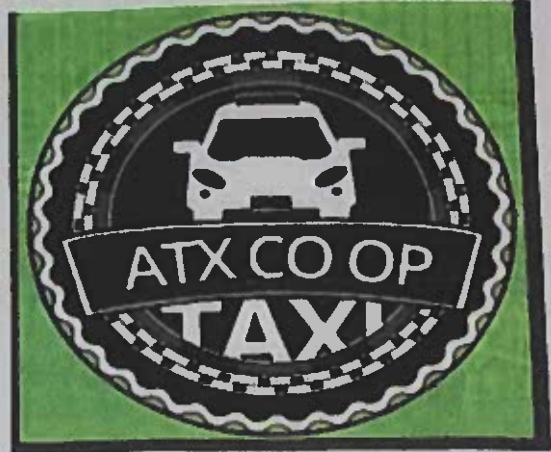
lobitina2000@yahoo.com

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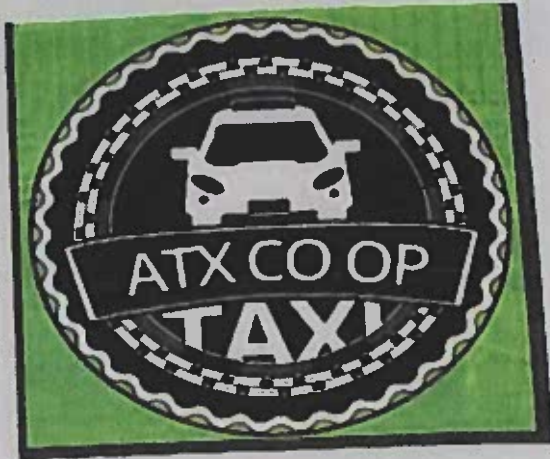


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Taxi drivers of Austin, Tx.

DRIVER NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Nebyou wolekian	Nebyouk40@yahoo.com	
Ihechi Ugorji	Ihechiugorji@gmail.com	
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Azimeaw Bey	azimeaw@yahoo.com	

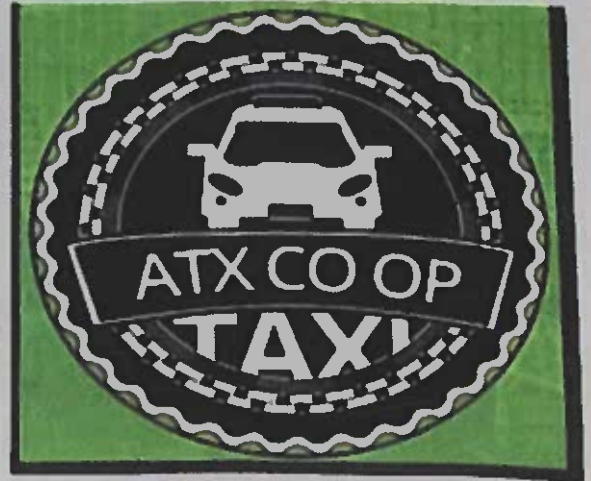


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DRIVER NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Joseph Njideu	usa.frika2@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
E. Francis Telemunjan	herbert71@pbcc.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
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Ebina Ogbline	Ebina Ogbline	<i>[Signature]</i>
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DRIVER NAME	E-MAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Muhammad Yusuf	muhammad.yusuf509@gmail.com	
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Emmanuel Onyebunye	onyebunye@icloud.com	



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DRIVER NAME

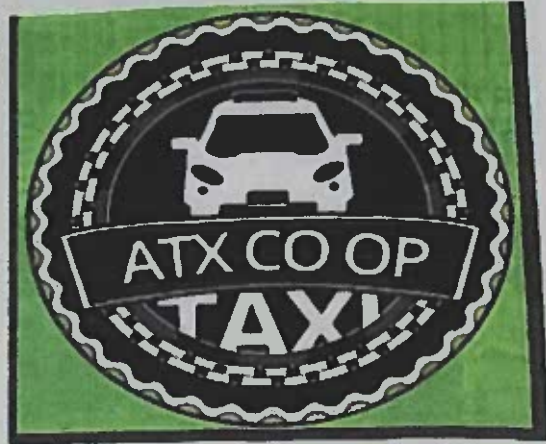
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Taxi drivers of Austin, Tx.

DRIVER FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	PHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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ABDELLAH

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Hussen Suman

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