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Subject: Letter concerning Vehicle for Hire Licences - Public Hearing

Commissioners,

I would like to have this letter added to the record of the Public Hearing concerning the Issuance of New Passenger Vehicle For Hire Licenses at the November 8, 2016 City Commission Special Meeting.

Why does the city only allow a certain number of Vehicle For Hire Licenses? Wouldn't allowing an unlimited or at least greater amount of licenses foster a better quality, lower cost, and more efficient fleet of vehicles for users to choose from? If an unlimited number of licenses were granted, I'm sure we'd see an immediate surge of vehicles for hire, however the law of supply and demand would work in this situation and there would be a leveling-off to create a fair balance. If the City charges for these licenses, wouldn't it be in the City's best interest to allow a greater number to be bought, resulting in more revenue for a City whose streets are in serious need of resurfacing, repair and drainage improvement?

I would like to voice my support for allowing ride-sharing companies such as Uber or Lyft to operate in the City of Key West. Many other cities in the US have already allowed such services to operate without major issues arising. In New York City, which allows Uber to operate, the taxis are still thriving and according to a recent article in Fortune Magazine, they are outperforming Uber rides 2 to 1.

<http://fortune.com/2016/07/13/study-nyc-taxi-outperforming-uber/> I understand that New York and Key West are very different but this shows that the argument from the local taxi companies that they will go out of business is not necessarily true. They may need to lower their fees (it should not cost \$20 for 2 people to ride 3.4 miles from Old Town to the airport), clean their vehicles, adapt to new technology and increase their customer service but there most certainly can be multiple types of vehicle for hire services operating in Key West.

Please let Key West join the 21st century and adapt to the changes happening all around this country.

Thank you.

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