

City Council File # 15-0899: LAWA permit for Uber/Lyft

Ruthee Goldkorn <knowbarriers@yahoo.com> Wed, Aug 19, 2015 at 11:38 AM

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Good Morning Mr. Espinosa,

I saw on the news taxi reps on one side and Uber/Lyft reps on the other with no representation of the disAbility community. Because I was absent, I am submitting this to you for consideration by the Council members prior to their vote next week as to whether or not they will over ride the LAWA Board decision granting permits to Uber and Lyft. It is my position that they should over ride the LAWA Board decision until they have fulfilled all requirements for background checks and accessible vehicles with training for their drivers how as to how to provide assistance to person's with disAbilities to the best available with equal service.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence and submission to the Council member. I plan on being in attendance at the meeting next Tuesday although it is my understanding that public testimony has concluded, I will be present should a motion be adopted to reopen public testimony.

I believe I read that there are several City Council members who are not prepared to ratify the LAWA Board approval of a permit for Uber and Lyft. The Constitutional issues of ADA Title III and Title II compliance are a huge red flag to this consideration.

I am writing to you as a representative and advocate on behalf of of the disAbility community. I am the principal of No Barriers Disabled Access Consulting and Advocacy Services and as a member of the Executive Committee and Legislative Committee of Californians for Disability Rights, Inc. and the Chair of the California Democratic Party Disabilities Caucus; and only for credential purposes as I am not authorized to speak for or on behalf of the Committee, I am member of the Disabilities Advisory Committee of LAWA.

The issue of Uber was considered and 2 public hearings were held by the DAC a few months ago. Uber was represented. The record of the hearings available to you by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Larry Rolon, at [Irolon@lawa.org](mailto:Irolon@lawa.org).

It is also interesting that DOJ announced a multi million dollar "fine" paid by Uber for, among other reasons, lack of ADA compliance. I like to simplify these issues by saying that there is a requirement that any service, including transportation provided by any public authority or private enterprise, that is provided to walking people must be provided equally to non walking people whether it be hotel shuttles, taxis, limos, and on call services i.e. Uber and Lyft.

Uber and Lyft have very serious issues regarding how full and equal access is accomplished. At one of the public hearings it was stated there is a modified ambulance or a higher fee for a larger vehicle. My comment to that announcement was that I'll be damned if my daughter is gonna show up at Prom or her wedding in a modified ambulance! Neither will I ever pay more for a service because use I a wheelchair. BTW, the comment about "my daughter" was not because I have a daughter with disAbility, I wanted to make a point and I did.

Teens with disAbility have tons of problems their able-bodied counterparts do not. Group dates and going to events is trouble enough for kids with disAbility and their friends. This is the biggest insult ever. Believe me, parents of kids with no disAbility can find themselves in a terrible situation if their kid has a girlfriend/boyfriend who has disAbility and they make arrangements for an event including the transportation. I also think of families going on vacation or parents setting up out of state college visitations and they want to use Uber or Lyft. They can't.

Obviously this is not the only issue for the City Council that gives pause to the considerations of granting permits to Uber and Lyft. However, the ADA Title II consequences could be considerable as the City and LAWA are responsible for their operation with permits and authorization knowing or should know whether they discriminate against the disAbility community in violation of state and federal regulatory and statutory requirements. Please wait for a full vetting of the entire operation of Uber and Lyft and a complete legal analysis as to their constitutional requirements for ADA compliance and they city's responsibilities prior to granting permits for full use of the airports under the jurisdiction of LAWA.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and submitting it for the record.

Respectfully,

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