



THE DRIVER'S SEAT

CALLING ALL DRIVERS!

By Doug Schifter,
Executive Chauffeur and Professional Driver

It's been gratifying that I've been getting a lot of good feedback from the drivers in the industry about my columns, and I am glad to see that people like what I am doing... but we have to do more!

If you are a DRIVER in the for-hire industry it is time to stand up and be heard!

We, as DRIVERS, have the right in America to work and earn enough money to pay our bills, provide a better life for our families and for ourselves. We have the right to work without being ticketed overzealously and unfairly. We pay the city for that right when we get properly licensed. We should not have to suffer this harassment.

We are one of THE most powerful groups in this city, if we stand together. Together, we can put an end to the unfair treatment we have been getting

from the TLC and NYPD.

We are stronger than the government. The Constitution guarantees it. The Constitution was written that way for this reason. ALL DRIVERS must decide for themselves if they want to continue to suffer or not. If not, then EACH DRIVER must decide if they are willing to make a pledge to help stop the government from harassing us and stealing our money. I am not saying that government should not regulate and collect appropriate, reasonable charges for operating in the city. I am saying that we need to stand up for our rights to protect ourselves, or we won't have an industry to work for.

The government just keeps increasing the cost of doing business and tightening regulations, making life harder and harder. I have watched it get worse every year, and I have been regulated by

them as a DRIVER for more than 40 years!

PLEASE HEAR ME IF YOU WANT A BETTER LIFE! We are tens of thousands of DRIVERS. If we all stood up and said, "THAT IS ENOUGH. STOP HURTING US," we could make some real progress and make a better life for ourselves.

We, THE DRIVERS, are the backbone of the industry.

I want to make it clear that I think it's important that the companies that we work with are entitled to make money, too. The bases pay people to dispatch, collect the money that we earn and assist us with TLC hassles as best they can. The insurance companies that protect us deserve to make a living and pay their employees. The repair shops, the accountants, the publishers and everyone else we do business with are

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