

MR. CHAIRMAN...COMMISSIONERS...

FELLOW RESIDENTS...

TODAY IS, HOPEFULLY, THE CULMINATION OF A PUSH THAT I'VE BEEN MAKING FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS TO MODERNIZE THE COUNTY'S FOR-HIRE REGULATORY CODE.

I WANT TO THANK COMMISSIONER BOVO FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO MOVING THIS CRITICAL – AND, AT TIMES, CONTROVERSIAL -- LEGISLATION FORWARD.

I ALSO WANT TO REITERATE THAT APP-BASED MOBILITY SOLUTIONS, LIKE UBER AND LYFT, ARE IMPERATIVE TO BRINGING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT OUR COMMUNITY WANTS AND DEMANDS, WE MUST INTEGRATE NEW TECHNOLOGY, AND WE MUST KEEP LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE.

OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ALIKE ARE ASKING US FOR OPTIONS.

THEY WANT TO DECIDE HOW THEY GET FROM POINT A TO POINT B.

THEY WANT OPTIONS THAT ARE AFFORDABLE AND CONVENIENT.

THEY ALSO WANT OPTIONS THAT ARE SAFE, CLEAN AND RELIABLE.

THEY WANT HELP WITH THE FIRST-AND-LAST-MILE GAP THAT OUR CURRENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM DOESN'T COVER.

THEY WANT OPTIONS FOR GETTING TO MASS TRANSIT FROM HOME OR WORK, FOR EXAMPLE.

THEY'RE ASKING US TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THEM TO USE OUR TRANSIT SYSTEM.

SO THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO.

AND THAT'S WHERE RIDE-SHARING SERVICES, LIKE UBER AND LYFT, ARE KEY.

APP-BASED RIDE SERVICES LIKE UBER AND LYFT WILL ENHANCE OUR RESIDENTS' AND VISITORS' EXISTING TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS.

THEY WILL REVOLUTIONIZE MOBILITY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

AND BECAUSE WE MUST KEEP OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS SAFE, WE NEED TO REGULATE UBER AND LYFT, SO THAT THEY CAN BE AN ADDITIONAL OPTION.

WE'RE ASKING THESE COMPANIES TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND CHECKS ... TO HAVE VEHICLES INSPECTED ... TO ENSURE THAT DRIVERS HAVE INSURANCE ... AMONG OTHER REGULATIONS.

BUT THAT'S THE EXTENT OF OUR ROLE AS GOVERNMENT – TO ENSURE SAFETY. EVERYTHING ELSE IS LAISSEZ-FAIRE.

FREE MARKET COMPETITION IS HEALTHY.

BECAUSE WHEN WE ALLOW A MONOPOLY ON SERVICES, CUSTOMER SERVICE GOES DOWN.

AND OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS DESERVE THE BEST EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE – AND THEY DESERVE OPTIONS.

IN ADDITION TO REGULATING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK ENTITIES UBER AND LYFT, WE ALSO NEED TO MODERNIZE THE FOR-HIRE INDUSTRY SO THAT THEY CAN COMPETE WITH THESE COMPANIES.

WE NEED TO PUT EVERYONE ON THE SAME PLAYING FIELD.

TO DO THIS, WE'RE GIVING TAXI DRIVERS A FEW ADDED ADVANTAGES – IN TERMS OF WHERE THEY CAN PICK UP PASSENGERS.

UBER AND LYFT, FOR EXAMPLE, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CONGREGATE AT THE AIRPORT AS CABS DO. AND THESE T.N.E. VEHICLES MAY NOT BE HAILED FROM THE CURBSIDE, AS CABS ARE.

WE ALSO WANT CABS TO HAVE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY. WE WANT CABS TO HAVE CELLPHONE APPS TO ALLOW PASSENGERS TO HAIL VEHICLES ... TO TRACK THEIR TAXIS IN REAL TIME ... TO RATE THEIR DRIVERS.

JUST LIKE PASSENGERS DO NOW WHEN THEY USE UBER AND LYFT.

BECAUSE WHAT THE TAXI CAB INDUSTRY MUST UNDERSTAND, IS THAT A NEW MARKET HAS BEEN CREATED.

AND WE NEED TO RETIRE ANTIQUATED RULES THAT DON'T ALLOW FOR APP-BASED RIDE SERVICES.

I HOPE THAT THE TAXI CAB INDUSTRY UNDERSTANDS THIS NEW MARKET, AND THEY GRAB ONTO IT.

BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT MORE PEOPLE WHO WANT THAT KIND OF SERVICE THAN ANYBODY HERE ANTICIPATED.

AND I THINK A LOT MORE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO WANT THAT SERVICE IN THE FUTURE.

WE ALL KNOW THAT THERE'S NO SILVER BULLET TO SOLVING OUR COUNTY'S TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES. BUT SERVICES LIKE UBER AND LYFT CAN HELP US BETTER CONNECT WITH OUR EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SOLVE THE FIRST-AND-LAST-MILE ISSUES I MENTIONED EARLIER.

UBER AND LYFT ARE HERE.

THEY'RE A VITAL PART OF A TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION RIGHT NOW.

AND I DON'T SEE US GOING BACKWARDS. AND I DON'T THINK THE MAJORITY OF OUR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WANT US TO REGRESS.

SO, THAT'S WHY I'M IN FAVOR OF LEGALIZING UBER AND LYFT, AND MAKING THEM PART OF OUR TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION – AT LEAST IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL OPTIONS HERE IN THIS COUNTY.

**MR. CHAIRMAN...COMMISSIONERS...THANK YOU FOR
THE TIME TO ADDRESS YOU.**

