



Associated Musicians of Greater New York

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Taxi and Limousine Commission
Office of Legal Affairs
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October 4, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you from the Associated Musicians of Greater New York, American Federation of Musicians Local 802, which is the largest union of professional musicians in the world. We represent a diverse community of musicians of all styles, types, and backgrounds, from the resident orchestras of Lincoln Center, the pits on Broadway, to the nightlife of all the bars and clubs in which our musicians perform. Our musicians are often traveling to or from locations that are not conveniently located on mass transit lines, hauling oversized instruments with them to and from gigs, and ending their work very late at night after train service has become less reliable.

Because of this, oftentimes our members rely on for-hire vehicle services to move around and ensure they are getting to jobs on time and efficiently. We are aware that you are considering raising prices on consumers again for for-hire vehicle trips, after already raising them in March of this year, and stating you will raise them again in February of next year. This increase of more than 34% that you are trying to implement before the end of the year is a huge leap and will make it nearly impossible for our members to continue utilizing these services when they need them. Not only that, but the holiday season is one of the busiest times for our members, and the grueling schedules combined with the change in weather makes these services even more useful.

We understand that drivers are impacted by inflation and other economic factors just like everyone else in the city, but given the increase we already saw this year, and the expected increase again in February, we believe that another huge increase before the end of this year is unnecessary and will hurt those who rely on these services to get them to their important work and other duties every day. We encourage you to hold off on the proposed increase and encourage you to carefully consider future increases to make sure they are in line with other economic changes and won't negatively impact those—especially members like ours who live in and travel throughout all five boroughs in order to earn a living.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tino Gagliardi, President and Executive Director, Local 802