

**RESIST.
VOTE.
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UTCC VOICE

**RUN OFF
ELECTION DAY:
APRIL 2**

The Newsletter of Chicago Transportation Industry Since 2008

AGAINST ALL ODDS: Chicago To Get Its First Black Female Mayor

Lightfoot & Preckwinkle Catapult into Runoff

As a result of the last February 26th ballot for Chicago’s next mayor, the top two candidates, Lori Lightfoot and Tony Preckwinkle will fight it out on April 2nd, and the winner will be the new mayor of the third largest city in the nation.

UTCC’s policy is to advocate for “level playing field” in the transportation industry for all drivers. Towards this effort, we have met with some of the mayoral candidates to educate and familiarize them with the latest developments and changes in the transportation industry. Ms. Lori Lightfoot paid a visit to our office during which we



presented her with the 'UTCC platform' to level the playing field. She was very receptive and very knowledgeable of the problems facing the cab industry and promised to level the playing field if elected into office.

Our editor, Chris Chandler wrote:

“Lightfoot is the most knowledgeable; she has been an attorney for one of Chicago’s most prominent law firms, and has the legal background needed for leveling the playing field with the ride share companies... When UTCC met with her, she fully supported every item in our platform.” ■

COMMON SENSE CORNER

Mayoral Election Sparks Hope for the Transportation Industry

SEE PAGE 2

CHICAGO CABS IN FORECLOSURE OR IDLED

cabbies' hopes riding on New York-style ride-share limits

SEE PAGE 3

UBER SETTling DRIVER LAWSUIT

Uber Spends \$20 Million in class-action lawsuit on classification of drivers

SEE PAGE 4

THE LONELINESS OF THE LATE NIGHT TAXI DRIVER

SEE PAGE 11

CHICAGO TAXI DRIVER SURVIVES ARMED ROBBERY



Nabil Qeisi shares his story of being robbed on the job, the steps he took to prevent being killed and the treatment he received from Chicago Police Department.

SEE PAGE 8

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Conventions List^[10] — Update on Ismail’s Murders Trial^[3] — Reasons to File Taxes Early^[6]
Lightfoot Visits MCC^[7] — String of Cab Robberies^[9] — Drivers Speak Out^[9] — TNP news^[5]

COMMON SENSE CORNER

Mayoral Election Sparks Hope for the Transportation Industry

BY FAYEZ KHOZINDAR

The policy of United Taxi drivers Community Council (UTCC) is to educate all candidates for Mayor of Chicago and to give them a chance to get familiar with the transportation industry and its latest developments.

Most drivers are aware of the previous turmoil with the soon to be former mayoral office. Both candidates bring forth hope that we may save the taxi industry.

UTCC has invited many candidates to our office to discuss the issues facing the transportation industry in the city of Chicago, and to find the best solutions to level the playing field with the ride share companies.



Toni Preckwinkle

Says will level playing field



Lori Lightfoot

Says will level playing field

Ms. Lori Lightfoot was the third candidate to accept our invitation where we introduced our platform to her, and she was very receptive and well prepared to answer and ask questions related to that issue.

We, at UTCC, did not know that this small meeting with Lori Lightfoot would create this kind of impact and its ramifications would spill out of the arena of UTCC and its Board of Directors. That was obvious to us when Ms. Lightfoot advanced to the run-off election in April.

This strategy, to shed more light on the transportation industry may give the new administration a better connection and understanding of the transportation industry. The next administration may be able to undo the wrongs and save the industry. This run-off election is one of the most important elections for Chicago taxi drivers as well as anyone associated with the transportation industry.

UTCC was working quietly since October of last year to influence the new comers and make them familiar with the drivers and owner's plights and commit themselves and their new administration to solve the problems of the transportation industry once and for all before the new mayor get overwhelmed with the city's problems.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

UTCC

UNITED TAXIDRIVERS
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Our Vision

To organize and unify all licensed chauffeurs in the Chicago area, so we can collectively overcome oppression and achieve economic and social justice.

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With nearly half of Chicago cabs in foreclosure or idled, cabbies' hopes riding on New York-style ride-share limits

BY ROBERT CHANNICK

REPUBLISHED FROM CHICAGOTRIBUNE

Struggling to survive in the age of Uber and Lyft, the Chicago taxi industry's hopes may be riding on a legislative long shot.

Nearly half of the city's 6,999 licensed cabs are in foreclosure or idled, leading to an increasingly desperate call for regulatory intervention — including a newly floated idea to cap the number of ride-sharing licenses in Chicago — to keep taxi fleets on the streets.

“Things are getting worse every day,” said Adrian Tudor, owner of Taxi Town on Chicago’s far North Side, whose fleet of 370 green cabs sits nearly one-third idle on most days. “It’s very difficult. I’m surprised we’re still alive.”

New York City approved a measure last month that places a one-year moratorium on new ride-share licens-



Photo Credits: (Chris Walker / Chicago Tribune)

es. Support is growing among Chicago cabbies for a similar move here, which Tudor said would help the taxi industry compete, particularly on weekends, when part-time ride-share drivers flood the city looking for fares. Ald. Anthony Beale, 9th, and Ald. Edward Burke, 14th, have said they are considering such a proposal.

City officials, however, have no plans to cap ride-sharing services at this time, said Rosa Escareno, commis-

sioner of the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection, which regulates both the taxi and ride-share industries.

“It’s the consumers that are making the choice and the consumers that are driving the type of service that they need and demand,” Escare-

no said. “We have to listen to that. It was the consumers that drove the change that is here today.”

Tudor and other taxi owners are being overwhelmed by changing consumer habits and the nearly 66,000 active ride-share drivers in Chicago, a number that has grown fourfold in the last three years, according to the city. ■

**Read More at:
CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM**

Continued from page 2

Now the role of UTCC as an advocacy organization is ended here, that means, we can't tell you how to vote and to whom you give your vote to, because we are guided by the rules and regulations related to 501 (C-3) not for profit organizations which prohibits us from directing you or tell you what to do In election day.

However, we may urge you to make the time and VOTE on April 2nd if you want to see positive changes in regard to your lively hood and the future of your job as a driver. And we are urging the medalion owners and the affiliation owners to announce the election day on their dispatch system so the drivers would be aware of the situation and arrange their own schedule and make the time to VOTE during that day. Its just the common sense to do so as a sign of owners/drivers cooperation toward a positive change to improve the transportation industry in the City of Chicago. ■

**RUN OFF ELECTION DAY:
APRIL 2**

**Court Update
Stand up for Justice for Ismail**



We urge all peace-loving people to attend the court date to support Ismail cause by pressuring the court to have the maximum sentence for the killer.

The court date for his killer will be on :

Thursday April 26th at 9 am

at Markham court house

16501 Kedzie Ave, Markham, IL 60428

Uber Is Another \$20 Million Poorer After Settling Driver Lawsuit

BY BRYAN MENEGUS

REPUBLISHED FROM GIZMODO

Uber is a company that dictates how a large number of car owners pick up passengers, where they take them, how they take them there, the condition of the vehicle those people get put in, and the pay they earn, but it does not consider those drivers to be its employees.

As you can imagine, this has led to quite a few lawsuits.

A class-action lawsuit, which began as a challenge to how it classifies drivers but ultimately centered on Uber's attempts to resolve conflicts with drivers outside of a courtroom, was one such suit. Settled today in California's Northern District Court, it will cost the ridesharing company at least \$20 million, pending a judge's sign-off. (\$5 million in legal fees are reportedly also being sought from Uber.)

Payouts after more than five years of litigation, including the decertification of the original class which included 385,000 drivers, will likely be minimal for the approximately 13,000 remaining plaintiffs. The decision to settle the suit, *O'Conner v Uber*, will set no precedent for similar cases about drivers' statuses as full employees vs contractors nor change the company's policy of burying arbitration agreements deep in the terms of service agreements that few of its drivers likely actually read.

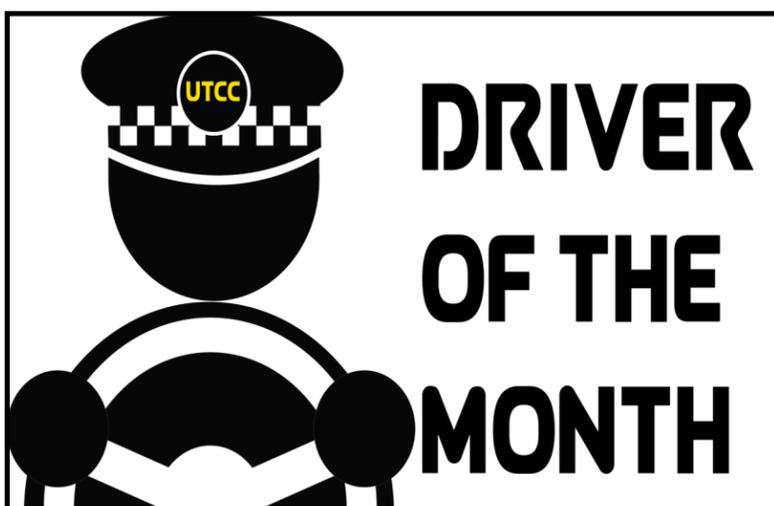
For context, drivers, customers, and the government tangle with Uber with a regularity that could only be startling if you've totally avoided any story about the company in the past six years. It paid out \$10 million over driver background checks, another \$10 million to female software engineers in its ranks for alleged-



ly discriminatory practices, \$20 million to setting an FTC complaint that it over-hyped potential earnings to drivers, a handful in the hundreds-of-thousands of dollars for allegedly underpaying drivers and discriminating against people with vision loss, \$20 million for sending text message spam no one asked for, and \$148 million in a data breach settlement.

Ultimately, another \$20 million—not even \$1,500 per driver before legal fees, after half a decade in court—is just another slap on the wrist for a company with a track record of allegedly skirting labor laws and generally doing whatever the hell they feel like, to the detriment of its workers and the places it operates.

“We are continuing to pursue many cases against gig economy companies (and others) that are misclassifying their workers as independent contractors, in order to save on labor costs and shift the risks and expenses of operating a business to their low wage workers,” Shannon Liss Riordan, the lawyer representing these drivers, told Gizmodo in a statement. “Because of arbitration clauses, we are fighting many battles to overcome arbitration, and at the same time, we are also pursuing mass arbitrations against many of these companies. ■



Nominate Drivers For UTCC's Driver of the Month

The United Taxi drivers Community Councils appreciates all drivers that have promoted our industry, provided excellent service, or has helped our community. If you feel this describes you or someone you know please contact UTCC so you can feature in our “Driver of the Month section”. Inspire your Fellow Drivers!

Contact UTCC: utccchicago@gmail.com or 773-342-8822

Uber and Lyft drivers in Los Angeles strike over pay, working conditions

BY BEN KESSLEN AND TED CHEN

REPUBLISHED NBC CHICAGO

Some Uber and Lyft drivers in Los Angeles held a 25-hour strike Monday to protest wage cuts and working conditions.

The work stoppage was spurred by Uber's recent announcement of a 25 percent cut in drivers' pay per mile in Los Angeles and parts of Orange County.

Hundreds of drivers for both Lyft and Uber protested during the day outside Uber's offices in Redondo Beach, Calif., according to Rideshare Drivers United, an advocacy group. Sinakhone Keodara, 44, a Lyft driver, was among them.

"I'm currently homeless," Keodara told NBC News. "I don't make enough to get out of my situation, but I can't walk away from Lyft. I'm trapped in an endless cycle."

Uber said that with the changes to its fare rates, drivers will earn the same as in the fall. "These changes will make rates comparable to where they were in September, while giving drivers more control over how they earn by allowing them to build a model that fits their schedule best," Uber said.

Lyft told NBC News in a statement, "The vast majority of drivers use Lyft as a temporary source of extra money -- in fact, 91% drive fewer than 20 hours a week" and noted it has not changed its rates in 12 months.

Uber driver Suzanne Gersbach told NBC Los Angeles that "over the last three and a half years, almost every like six months, they continue to lower the incentives and the rates."

Drivers for both rideshare companies say the fact that they have to pay to maintain their vehicles makes it difficult to earn enough to live on.

Keodara said he often works seven days a week and 14-hour days, but still finds himself sleeping in the car he's renting from Lyft and skipping meals. ■

READ MORE AT NBC

Uber plans to kick off IPO in April

REUTERS

Ride-hailing company Uber is planning to kick off its initial public offering in April, putting it close on the heels of its smaller rival Lyft, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

Next month, Uber will issue its required public disclosure, known as an S-1, and launch its investor roadshow, the people said.

The IPO is expected to be one of the biggest technology debuts. The Wall Street Journal previously reported that proposals for Uber's IPO valued the company at \$120 billion.

The timing for Uber's IPO means it will most likely be hitting the public markets soon after Lyft completes its own public offering, which is expected to happen by the end of March, people familiar with the matter said.

Uber and Lyft join a number of tech companies expected to go public this year, including Slack, Pinterest and Palantir. ■

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Reasons to File Your Taxes Early

BY ROCKY MMOMA

The tax season is here again and sometimes, many taxpayers including independent contractors like cabdrivers wait until the last minute to file their taxes, however, there are many reasons to file your taxes early. It's even more important this year due to the recent government shutdown that has put more strain on the Internal Revenue Service workers some of whom have been requesting and granted hardship leaves. This translates to fewer staff for processing returns and possible delays in receiving refunds, despite the assurances from the IRS that operations are expected to return to normal. Take that with a grain of salt and be proactive.

1. Expecting tax refunds

If you are expecting a refund, then filling early will enable you to receive your refunds faster. It's always better if you are receiving a refund to file your return electronically with a direct deposit into your bank account instead of filling a paper return. For the simple returns, we now have some free on-line tax software that walks you through the filling process and most of them are simple and accurate. However, for the more complicated returns, you may have to consult an accountant or purchase the tax software relevant for your situation. The IRS will begin accepting e-filled returns on January 29th 2019. Be aware that possible delays at federal level does not affect processing at state level, however to

have your state return processed, you have to first file your federal return.

2. Identity theft.

Identity theft has been on the rise within then past 10 years and tax season is always the peak period for identity thieves. All the identity thief needs to file your tax return is your name and social security number. Some of this information is on the dark web and most times you never know your information is compromised until it's too late. So it's better to file your taxes before the thieves so that the IRS doesn't reject your return when you file it. Sometimes, it could take several months to clear up the mess with IRS before you receive your refund and time is money. There is more information out there now for those cyber criminals to harvest due to the extensive multiple massive corporate data breaches in the past few years. Bottom line, as a security measure, it's better to file early so that any problem can be addressed as soon as possible.

3. You owe taxes

Some people delay filling their taxes because they owe taxes. Even when you owe taxes, filling early will help you know exactly how much you owe and you can start planning since you won't have to pay until the April filling deadline. This may be the drive you need to help you budget and come up with the money or at least start making plans to come up with

the money. Preparing and filling your tax early may help you obtain some important information that may be useful for life changes like home purchase, requesting credit or taking out a loan and students requesting for financial aid. Filling early may help avoid the need to file for an extension. Postponing it till the last minute just to find out that you are missing some documents is very frustrating. People who file for an extension but don't pay what they owe if they have a balance due are charged interest and penalties on the outstanding debt until they are fully paid.

4. Reduce stress

Tax season is always a time of stress for those who owe the IRS. Filling early may help to reduce the stress as you are aware of what you owe and can start early to make plans towards payment. Give yourself a deadline and stick to it. Just like any unpleasant task, the faster you get it done early, the better for you and the less the stress that comes your way. It's better to know your problems early and deal with it than let it sneak on you when it's too late. The more time you give yourself, the more time you may be able to come up with the money. You may want to file early if you have a complicated tax that requires the service of an accountant or you may find out the hard way that it's sometimes difficult and expensive to get one available during crunch time



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Lightfoot Meets with Muslim Community Center Worshippers

Last Friday March 22nd 2019, And after Friday prayer at the Muslim Community Center (MCC), the crowd was surprised to see Ms. Lori Lightfoot in front of them to assure the praying public that under her administration as Mayor she will work with them to have safe environment in the city of Chicago to practice their faith in peace.



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Chicago Driver Survives Armed Robbery

Nabil Qeisi Explains how he Escaped for his Life

On Friday, January 4, 2019, around 6 pm Nabil Qeisi was dispatched to 6111 North Seeley via radio call. He reached his destination and then he conducted unseen call to Flash Taxi Company. Nabil saw three men on the street who then entered his cab.

One of the men sat behind Nabil was covering his head with his hoodie, Nabil was skeptical as Chicago was undergoing a rare 60-degree weather the hoodie was suspicious to Nabil. Nabil asked why the hoodie, and he responded "I'm cold", Nabil got very suspicious. The men began giving directions: Right Kimball, then right Bryn Mawr then right Sawyer.

When they directed Nabil to do these turns it seemed to him that they were looking for a secluded area. Nabil became even more suspicious so slowly and carefully Nabil began unbuckling his seat belt.

All three men put their hoods on and the individual loaded his gun.

He claimed that he mistakenly made a wrong turn.

Nabil as very patient with them and followed their orders, the instruct Nabil to drive into an alley. Before Nabil got into the alley and slowed down, At the turn, Nabil put his car in neutral, Nabil tried to stop the engine but with little success.

In panic Nabil jumped as a bullet grazed his head, he thought he was hit. Being in the alley with the car moving they were unable to fire back at him. He ran in the opposite direction until he came to Foster Ave entering a gas station



requesting someone call 911. A few minutes later the police arrive, Nabil waited in the station feeling the blood in his head. An officer putting gas in his car asked if Nabil drove for flash as he had seen the car at the end of the alley the perpetrators drove the car to the end of the alley causing people to honk. Nabil walked back with the police to the cab. Nabil realized the bad guys stole the camera and they stole my cell phone. The following day (Saturday) police asked Nabil to come down to Pulaski police sta-



HOW I SAVED MY LIFE, MY ADVICE TO YOU

tion Nabil went there 11 am and stayed there until 7 pm in the evening that day about half a dozen police officers and detectives were working on the case, on the

other hand, the original police officers did not do their job on the site with claims that taxis are public vehicles and they refused to take fingerprints from the cab.

The following day Nabil wanted to wash his car when he noticed white dust on the dashboard, He didn't know what it was or where it came from (gun powder) then he checked underneath the chair and found a bullet casing. After all the time has passed since January 4th Nabil's ears are still ringing.

When Nabil found a bullet case he stopped a police car on the street and the officer directed Nabil to got to a police station he went back to the station and the police started looking for the backup system of the camera it looks like when the perpetrator pulled the camera the pulled the backup system along with it. According to WGN reporting the same group of thieves conducted many robberies using the same address for the dispatch.

That Saturday Nabil spent with the police station they showed him a set of pictures. All of them were African American males, then Hispanic males, Nabil requested for the third page, once he saw it he immediately recognized the guy who was sitting behind him that shot the gun then they asked for information (time, date, picture, number) After that, a detective came in and told Nabil he was involved in several robberies and we will issue a warrant for his arrest And up to now, Nabil has not heard anything from Chicago police department for 3 months. ■

Police Seek Group Behind String of Taxi Cab Driver Robberies

Republished From NBC Chicago

Chicago police are investigating a trio of robberies of taxi cab drivers on the city's Northwest Side.

The robberies have occurred in the Jefferson Park and North Park neighborhoods over the last week, according to police.

Police say that taxi cab drivers are called to pick up fares in the area, and then as they drive they are robbed at gunpoint. In one of the robberies, the thieves allegedly stole the taxi cab driver's vehicle.

Here are the incidents:

On Dec. 28, the men picked up in 4600 block of North Kasson Avenue, and then robbed victim in 5700 block of North Central Ave.

On Jan. 4, the men were picked up in the 5700 block of North Christiana, and then robbed the driver in the 5300 block of North Sawyer Avenue.

On Jan. 4, the men were picked up in the 6100 block of North Seeley Avenue, then robbed the driver in the 5200 block of North Christiana Avenue.

One of the men is described as either white or



Hispanic between the ages of 18 and 20, standing between 5-foot-5 and 5-foot-8. The suspect reportedly weighs between 150 and 170 pounds.

Another suspect is also described as either white or Hispanic, standing between 5-foot-0 and 5-foot-5 and weighing between 140 and 160 pounds. He is estimated to be between the ages of 20 and 22.

The third suspect is described as a black male, aged between 16 to 22 years and standing between 5-foot-4 and 5-foot-9. He is estimated to weigh between 130 and 160 pounds.

[More Information at www.nbcchicago.com](http://www.nbcchicago.com)

BENEFITS AND SERVICES

The UTCC provides a range of services to our members as part of our mission to Protect Your License. We offer discount legal representation for Business and Consumer Protection tickets written on Chauffeur's Licenses, advocacy to resolve issues with the BACP, Departments of Finance and Aviation, affiliations and references to where to obtain Free Legal Advice. More than this, we assist you to resolve individual complaints against garages, the BACP, CPD and other Industry Grievances. We organize campaigns for change at the city, state, and federal levels which seek to protect the long-term interests of Taxi Drivers. We strive to empower drivers to fight back against corruption and exploitation, financial or otherwise.

VISIT: GOUTCC.ORG FOR DETAILS

Drivers Speak Out

A Readers Response to our O'Hare Traffic Mayhem Article in Our Last Issue:

That's an interesting article you wrote about the ongoing O'Hare Traffic Mayhem worsened by TNP/Rideshares.

I was surprised to see you hadn't even mentioned the fact that former Investment Banker, turned Mayor Rahm Emanuel (still with many contacts in that U.S. Public Market Sectors brother Ari was (& still IS) a KNOWN principal investor in Uber when Emanuel opened the market to TNP/Rideshares here in Chicago @ O'Hare (esp. UPSTAIRS)...

I'm curious as to why this aspect to the story wasn't pursued? It's certainly a Conflict of Interest to Emmanuel's Ethics during his terms as Mayor — is it really a surprise why he's not running again?

Keith A. Dart



**CHECK US OUT ON YOUTUBE
@UTCC CHICAGO**

Convention Schedule

Convention	Venues	Start Date	End Date	Attendance
adidas Windy City National Qualifier 2019	McCormick Place North, McCormick Place South	4/19/2019	4/21/2019	30000
NCEA 2019 Convention & Exposition	McCormick Place West	4/23/2019	4/25/2019	10000
AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2019	McCormick Place South	4/26/2019	5/4/2019	6000
UBM 2019 CPhi North America/InformEx (Co-Location)	Lakeside Center at McCormick Place	4/30/2019	5/2/2019	5000
AUA Annual Meeting 2019	McCormick Place West	5/3/2019	5/6/2019	16500
HOW Design Live 2019	Lakeside Center at McCormick Place	5/7/2019	5/9/2019	3500
2019 National Restaurant Association Restaurant Hotel-Motel Show	McCormick Place North, McCormick Place South, Lakeside Center at McCormick Place	5/18/2019	5/21/2019	70216
Sweets & Snacks Expo	McCormick Place West	5/21/2019	5/23/2019	18000
AAPD Annual Session	Hilton Chicago	5/23/2019	5/27/2019	6000
ASCO 2019 Annual Meeting	McCormick Place North, McCormick Place South, Lakeside Center at McCormick Place	5/31/2019	6/4/2019	40500
SIA Conference 2019	Hyatt Regency McCormick Place	6/6/2019	6/9/2019	200
American Medical Association - Annual House of Delegates Meeting	Hyatt Regency Chicago	6/8/2019	6/12/2019	4000
United Fresh Produce Association Annual Convention 2019	McCormick Place North	6/11/2019	6/12/2019	4500
KeHE Holiday Show 2019	Lakeside Center at McCormick Place	6/12/2019	6/13/2019	4500
Open Bible Churches 2019 National Convention	Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Chicago	6/17/2019	6/20/2019	600
RetailX 2019	McCormick Place South	6/25/2019	6/28/2019	21000
2019 Pilot Club Annual Meeting	Sheraton Grand Chicago	7/1/2019	7/8/2019	300
AACP 2019 Annual Meeting	Hyatt Regency Chicago	7/9/2019	7/17/2019	2200
ASI 2019 Chicago	McCormick Place North	7/10/2019	7/11/2019	4500
NIKE 2019 National Invitational Tournament	McCormick Place South	7/10/2019	7/12/2019	13500
Reed 2019 Outside Experience	Lakeside Center at McCormick Place	7/12/2019	7/14/2019	10000
GBTA Convention 2019	McCormick Place North, McCormick Place South	8/5/2019	8/7/2019	7000
American Numismatic Association 2019 World's Fair of Money	Donald E. Stephens Convention Center	8/6/2019	8/10/2019	4500
127th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association	McCormick Place South, McCormick Place West	8/8/2019	8/11/2019	13000
ASIS 2019 Global Security Exchange	McCormick Place North, McCormick Place South	9/8/2019	9/12/2019	20000

The Loneliness of the Late Night Taxi Driver

BY KELLY DESSAINT

In the small hours, Howard Street can be the loneliest stretch of asphalt in The City.

Driving through the quiet streets of SoMa after midnight is like starting into an abyss. Behind you are the glass high rises of downtown and straight ahead, the rowdy clubs on 11th Street. Beyond that, the hustle and bustle of the Mission.

Between those two points, there isn't much activity and I tend to drift into despair. Especially when it's my last chance to redeem another pilfered shift.

With only eleven hours to make gate and gas, I spend the first half of the night in the red. Once I have my nut, then it's my turn to earn a little scratch.

But one false move and I'm chasing the shadows of fares until I have to turn in my cab.

Maintaining a positive outlook isn't easy when there's so much at stake.

Even though the clubs are all hopping and partygoers are spilling out onto the sidewalk and into traffic, scoring a live one is tricky. And despite the doom and gloom that can overtake you on nights like these, you still have to be ready to force a smile once someone does flag you down. Because no one likes a party pooper.

So you just keep circling and hoping for the best ...

After popping and locking up Valencia, followed by a creepy crawl down Mission, I cross myself at 13th and drive-by Monarch at Sixth. I circle the block in case the signs of life aren't just my imagination, then head towards 11th. From there, I do the Folsom Street shuffle.

At Eighth, a line of cabs is wrapped around the Cat Club and F8 like a birthday gift that no one wants to open. Outside 1015 Folsom, the doormen point flashlights at the drivers who try to stage.

At Fifth, I take a right and cruise Blow Buddies on Harrison, where there's always at least one cab posted up. I investigate the End-Up and consider whether to circle back to Union Square or head to the Mission.

Waiting for the light, I gauge my level of desperation

and decide whether it's worth the effort to troll Polk Street.

As if the gods were suddenly compelled to show some love, my dispatch tablet starts chirping. A radio order at Eighth and Howard. I cut through an alley to reach the address as quickly as possible.



Outside the location, I grab the dispatch mic. "This is cab..." Since I drive a different taxi every day and can never remember the number, I pull the medallion out of the slot and recite them to the dispatcher. "This is cab 922."

A few minutes later, a woman opens my back door.

She's going to Lucky Chances. As I take 10th Street to the freeway, she makes herself comfortable for the 20-minute ride to Colma. Reclined in the backseat, the glow from her phone reflects off the windows.

I race down 280, winding through the darkened hills. After a few miles, I consider striking up a conversation, but never really know what to say in these situations. People who go to casinos in the middle of the night seem to have specific demands. I don't want to inadvertently jinx her or anything.

I take the Serramonte exit to the end of the line and pull up the casino. She hands me two \$20 bills and thanks me.

Do I wish her good luck? Is that bad luck? Instead, I split the difference and say, "Have fun."

On my way back to 280, I whistle past the deserted shopping centers and car dealerships, where there's hardly another soul around. At least none living.

Beyond these megastores and massive parking lots are fields of gravestones. I try not to think of the memorial parks filled with the dead, though. Right now I need to get back to The City. It's last call. And after that, it'll be time to work the DJ clubs.

With only have a few hours left before turning in my cab, this is my last opportunity to turn away from the abyss and get deeper in the black. ■

Kelly Dessaint is a San Francisco taxi driver. His zine "Behind the Wheel" is available at bookstores throughout The City. He is a guest columnist. Write to Kelly at piltdownlad@gmail.com or visit www.idrivesf.com

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City of Chicago
Business Affairs and Consumer Protection
PUBLIC VEHICLE INDUSTRY NOTICE

March 21, 2019

Notice No. 19-013

REMINDER:

LICENSE STATUS INFORMATION IS POSTED ON THE CITY OF CHICAGO DATA PORTAL!

The City of Chicago Data Portal contains the most recent license status information. Visit <https://data.cityofchicago.org/> for current licensing information regarding City of Chicago licensees to verify that a license is ACTIVE and in good standing to operate.

VIOLATION status = NOT in compliance with City of Chicago laws

- A license in **VIOLATION** status may not operate and pick up passengers.
- Taxicab affiliations and medallion license managers should not lease out or support operation of a taxicab license in **VIOLATION** status.
- Public chauffeurs should NOT lease out or operate a taxicab which is in **VIOLATION** status.
- Taxicabs operating in **VIOLATION** status are subject to enforcement action including citations and vehicle impoundment.
- PV Inspection Facility (39th Street) staff will not be able to inspect a vehicle in **VIOLATION** status.
- A taxicab must be in compliance with City of Chicago laws in order to provide taxicab services.

Questions regarding licensing information and status of a license on the Data Portal should be directed to BACPPV@cityofchicago.org.

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- ▲ For questions, comments, or to join the City of Chicago's Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection-Public Vehicle Operations (BACPPV) e-mail list to receive industry notices and other news, send an email to BACPPV@cityofchicago.org.
 - ▲ Rules and Regulations governing City of Chicago licensed public vehicles and public chauffeurs are available at www.cityofchicago.org/bacp.
 - ▲ The Municipal Code of Chicago is available at www.amlegal.com.

Public Vehicle Operations Division • 2350 W. Ogden, First Floor, Chicago, IL 60608
BACPPV@cityofchicago.org • 312-746-4300 • www.cityofchicago.org/bacp

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UTCC members that joined through our affiliations program (\$2 Weekly) for Yellow & Flash Affiliations Please notify your respected affiliation or UTCC before taking a break, vacation, or retirement so we can suspend or pause your membership.

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