

UTCC VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED TAXIDRIVERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

STRIKE!

MONDAY, JULY 2, 6AM - 11AM

The City Will Listen

BY LIZ NERAT

THERE IS A STRONG DISSENT BREWING IN THE minds of Chicago's Taxi drivers. This is compounded with the new ordinance that goes into effect July 1, 2012 which promises to increase lease caps 20-30% while keeping the drivers themselves locked in the vicious cycle of poverty.

It took 15 years for lease rates to reach the cap that had been set at an exaggeratedly high rate 18 years ago. However, since those caps have been reached, many affiliations have taken it upon themselves to raise the leases higher than the allotted charge that the city set into place. The city has decided to solve this problem by simply raising the cap, thus justifying the amounts that those affiliations have been charging.

This lease increase offers nothing to the drivers. A flag pull increase of \$1.00 is also going into effect. This is a fake increase, as it is simply moved over from the "extras", and the fuel surcharge is

going away. Moving the \$1 from the extras to the flag-pull does NOTHING to increase the wages of drivers. However, with the growing lease rates, that one dollar Band-Aid is hardly enough to compensate the drivers.

This is just one example of the city's exploitation of taxi drivers. By title in Chicago, a taxi driver is an independent contractor, which carries with it the assumption that each driver stands alone, fighting alone for him or herself. This is not true.

It is not through a title, a position or economic status that an individual amasses power. It is through community and through strength in numbers. Building unity in the taxi driver community is integral in this fight. If the city does not listen to one driver, the city will listen to 10,000.

And very soon, the city will listen.

This has reached a tipping point. And that tipping point is today. **Today July 2, 2012, WE STRIKE.** ■

ACTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WILL BE HELD AT UTCC OFFICE EVERY MONDAY AT 6:30 PM. LET'S COME TOGETHER TO MAKE PLANS, AND DEVELOP UNITY, COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION AMONG ALL CHICAGO CABDRIVERS!

MONDAYS - 6:30PM
2040 N. MILWAUKEE AVE.
UTCCCHICAGO@GMAIL.COM
(773) 342-8822

REASONS WE ARE STRIKING:

BY FINN EBELECHUKWU

- * The lease cap is being raised 20-30% for each shift to the tune of \$98 a week; nearly \$5,096 annually per driver per shift
- * Credit card with 5% fee is mandatory and is wage theft to the tune of \$15 million annually
- * Fines from 400 W. Superior have tripled and it's a Kangaroo Court
- * Worker's Compensation is mandated and unconstitutional and costs each cab driver \$1512 annually to the tune of \$17 million for the whole industry
- * We have been stripped of the right to petition the City of Chicago for any reason
- * No health care coverage

 AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY ALLY

UNITED TAXIDRIVERS

CABDR

ON ST

JULY 2, 2012

DEMANDS

- * **FARE INCREASE EFFECTIVE**
- * **FREEZE ON LEASE CAP RATE**
LAWFUL LEASING PRACTICE
- * **MORATORIUM ON LEASE IN**
- * **ELIMINATE 5% CREDIT CAR**

CALL 773-342-UTCO

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

RIVERS

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6AM-11AM

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C OR 312-427-8294

TOP TEN REASONS CHICAGO CABDRIVERS WANT TO STRIKE

BY PETER ENGER

10. SEVEN YEARS SINCE LAST PAY RAISE!
9. AVERAGE WORK SHIFT = 13 HRS/DAY!
8. AVERAGE WORK WEEK = 85 HOURS!
7. INCREASED FINES, INCREASED TICKETING OF CABDRIVERS BY CITY! (MAXIMUM FINE = \$1000!!)
6. LEASE RATES GONE UP 10-20% AND CITY DOES NOT ENFORCE CAP ON LEASE RATES!
5. FAKE "FUEL SURCHARGE" PAY RAISE! (ADD \$1 EXTRAS ALL DAY—GIVE TO GAS COMPANY AT END OF DAY)
4. HURT FEELINGS! (WE ARE CONSUMERS AND WE NEED PROTECTION TOO!!!)
3. COST OF LIVING!! (NEED WE SAY MORE?)
2. JEALOUSY (MAYOR AND ALDERMEN GET YEARLY COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES IN PAY!)

AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON CABDRIVERS WANT TO STRIKE?

1. WE FINALLY GET AT LEAST ONE FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP!!!

USE THE INSIDE OF THIS PAPER TO ADVERTISE THE STRIKE IN YOUR CAB WINDOWS! WE WILL BE HEARD!

UTCC: YOUR ORGANIZATION!