



Government of the District of Columbia

## Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6C06

February 13, 2019

Testimony for the Performance Oversight Hearing  
On the DC Department of For-Hire Vehicles

Chairperson McDuffie and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robb Dooling and I am the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) for 6C06, representing NoMa and Old City. This is my individual testimony on the performance of the Department of For Hire Vehicles (DFHV) and does not represent ANC 6C.

DFHV has made outstanding progress since 2016 in government transparency, one of the causes closest to my heart. I encourage other DC agencies to emulate DFHV's creativity, proactive handling of complaints, and thorough responsiveness to citizens on both social media and emails. I also applaud DFHV working with the app developers of How's My Driving DC to better track traffic violations and bad driver behavior.

However, DFHV should do more to discourage these traffic violations in the first place. DFHV needs to become much more outspoken on Vision Zero and help lead the city on the mayor's initiative to reduce traffic deaths to zero by 2024. Sadly, the current pace of change suggests we will regress from the status quo in 2024. DC traffic deaths increased by 20% in 2018. As of February 12, 2019, for-hire drivers operate the following vehicles:

- MD:2BP4242 owes \$16,198 in traffic tickets
- MD:7CT7440 owes \$2,460 in traffic tickets
- MD:1CZ9647 owes \$2,820 in traffic tickets
- See more examples on the How's My Driving DC Twitter account

Other ANCs, Vision Zero activists, and I have publicized countless photos and stories of the same bad driver behavior from some of the same drivers over months and years, especially them speeding and blocking spaces for pedestrians and bicyclists. But too many of these drivers continue to operate. DFHV has limited enforcement powers up against ridesharing companies and I urge the DC Council to give them more teeth or facilitate them doing more with the Metropolitan Police Department and the Department of Public Works.

While we're waiting for that, DFHV should use their platform to demand better behavior from the people operating 4,000-pound steel machines at often illegal speeds in our downtown public spaces. DFHV should help the DC Department of Transportation create more drop-off / pick-up zones citywide because the current six zones do not match demand. They should publicly engage in more driver education efforts. They should ask ridesharing companies to stop blocking crosswalks and bicycle lanes and to place "Look for Cyclists" stickers in their vehicles.

Eighty-six percent of NoMa residents commute car-free. The DC government does not serve our neighborhood when it allows for-hire drivers to use pedestrian crosswalks and the First Street Northeast cycletrack as loading zones. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Robb Dooling

6C06 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (NoMa, Old City)

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