

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for Act 119 of 2012!!! I have aggressively been trying to attain wheelchair accessible taxies since 1998. My goal from the beginning is simple; to attain wheelchair access and to get equal access for equal service, not with any red tape or special consideration. We want equality, our money is just as valuable as able-bodied, and our needs are just as valid.

Because of my steadfast tenacity, that in November 2011, six WAV exist in the city of Philadelphia. The demand is so great that customer need to make a reservation 2-3 days prior and pay standard prices.

I had the good fortune of attending college by commuting to Temple University and having full time employment for 27 years at a job that respected my abilities. I went to work daily, earned my paycheck, and paid all my bills, including taxes. I have never used my disability as any kind of excuse for accomplishing whatever task I needed to accomplish.

I am a very proud person with a disability and strive for equality! I am standing for the hundreds and hundreds of professional individuals, visitors, and our other wonderful citizens of this great city who are wheelchair (or other devices) users. We receive absolutely no subsidies, pay here and co pay there. Taxies are very expensive for anybody. I just want the option of having WAV when we need them without all the red tape.

A person on SSI told me that someone dear to her died and she was very grateful to call on a WAV to bring her to her friend's final resting place. She said yes, it was expensive, but worth every penny because she got to say goodbye.

I wish anybody who uses a wheelchair would be able to flag down any taxi at the airport, train station, our busy streets or anywhere in our beautiful city area. For now we will thankfully accept and use the 15 per year over the next 10 years. I have been working on this issue for the past 3 decades and truly understand all sides, over the years I am fighting for equality. This is my opinion and backed by so many future customers.

The technology already exists that everyone can use WAV's but not vice versa. I hope in the near future my brother and sisters can wave down any taxi and getting a WAV!!!

INCLUSION,  
Filomena Ranieri Ward