

September 3, 2012

Ronnie Ellen Raymond
327 Central Park West
New York, NY 10025

Philadelphia Parking Authority
Taxicab and Limousine Division
2415 S. Swanson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148-4113

Attention: James R. Ney, Director
Taxicab and Limousine Division
Philadelphia Parking Authority

My name is Ronnie Ellen Raymond. I am a resident of New York City. I have Multiple Sclerosis and I use a motorized wheelchair for mobility. Years ago when I used a manual wheelchair, I used to come down to Philadelphia several times a year by train to visit a friend of mine. At other times, I came to Philadelphia to go to exhibit at the Art Museum. I would get out of my chair and into a taxi. The driver would fold up my chair and put it in the trunk. I can no longer do that. The only way that I would be able to come and visit my friend or go to the Art Museum today would be if Philadelphia had wheelchair accessible taxis available to me. The key element in making this possible is reliability of the system regardless of the day of the week, time of day or the weather. If I came all the way down to Philadelphia and then could not find accessible transportation within a reasonable period of time, that would be the last time that I ever attempted that. I hope that the decision that you are about to make about wheelchair accessible taxis does not limit the number of vehicles to be obtained to a point that the system would not be reliable for a user like me.

Most sincerely, Ronnie Raymond