

Originally Posted - Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 2:18pm PDT

Attention All UTWSD Driver Members and Supporters! We are compiling information and evidence regarding illegal activities by TNCs (Uber, Lyft, Sidecar, F.R.E.D., etc), TCPs (Shuttle services, company vehicles, black limousines), and "Rateros" (individuals using personal or company cars and operating close to, or at taxi stands and offering rides to people on the street). We are looking for pictures, video, and any evidence of these vehicles and drivers behaving like taxis. Please email info@utwsd.org with any evidence or information. Please attach any pictures or videos to the email and give us a description of each picture, including any pertinent background information. If the file is too large, please use this easy file uploader that we have linked to below. Depending on the size of the file, it may take a few minutes to a few hours to upload, so please do not close the page until you get a confirmation that the file upload is complete. If you have any trouble using the uploader, please call our office. Thank you all! Together we will protect our careers and this industry!
https://script.google.com/macros/s/AKfycbw6zTLCq7TnaqY_pLW6o6WcjNKqSivhYDJMU104Mm7H222TTP47/exec

Originally Posted - Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7:08pm PDT

Thank you to all the drivers who came to the Airport Authority Board Meeting today. As many of you know, UTW has been fighting to open the Airport permitting process for 14 months now. There has been a lot of push-back, and this campaign has been met with many delays by airport staff (including some last-minute attempts to push the resolution to December), but walking into this meeting this morning we had a lot of hope that today was going to be the day that we were finally going to open the airport permitting process, and that our new owner-operators would be able to service the airport during this year's holiday season (the busiest time of the year for the airport). We went to this meeting to support Resolution 2016-0095, which would allow the President/CEO of the Airport to set the maximum number of cabs at the Airport, and to establish the operating authority of each vehicle. This resolution was not scheduled for a vote today, but because we packed the room, and showed strong support for this resolution, the Authority Board decided to schedule the vote for today. However, right before the resolution passed unanimously, the Airport Board discussed that, despite the language of the resolution, that this resolution WOULD NOT be used to increase the amount of permits issued by the airport. We left the meeting very disappointed in the decision to not implement the resolution in the way our drivers were requesting. This fight isn't over though, and we will not let this setback stop us. UTWSD is still committed to opening up the permitting process. We will be reaching out to the Airport President/CEO in the next few days, and we will ask that she utilize the authority that the Airport Authority Board has granted her so that our drivers can start serving airport customers THIS holiday season.

Originally Posted - Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 11:27am PDT

Some of our drivers have been asking us about the new FRED (Free Ride Everywhere Downtown) program will take anyone anywhere downtown for free. We have been fighting against this program for nearly two years, and the launch of this program yesterday was a massive slap in the face to all taxi drivers working downtown. Downtown is one of the few places where taxis can still make money on a consistent basis, and offering the same service for free using money from the city's general fund directly undercuts the taxi business. We will not let this stand. We will be organizing with our drivers in the coming weeks to fight back against this assault on our business and our livelihoods.
<https://www.sandiego.gov/mayor/news/releases/mayor-announces-launch-of-downtown-circulator-program>

Originally Posted - Friday, July 29, 2016 at 5:53pm PDT

Yesterday morning MTS held their monthly board meeting, and many UTW members and driver advocates spoke upon the necessity of regulating Uber and Lyft, and the underhanded way that MTS has given preference to TNCs (Transportation Networking Companies) in marketing and in servicing San Diegans. We demanded MTS to stop giving our business away! We are the partners that pay you! Not UberPool. We estimate that Uber and Lyft have now taken over 60% of the taxi business in San Diego over the last few years, and they've been able to do this because MTS has refused to regulate them, while MTS taxi enforcement is very heavy-handed. Our drivers should no longer be held back by unfair competition! MTS - Do the right thing! Regulate TNCs!



Advocates and Drivers
demand that MTS regulate
Uber and Lyft



Originally Posted – February 3rd

UTWSD Members and Staff participating in an action on UberHQ with the [The Center on Policy Initiatives](#)! We delivered a letter demanding that they need to halt anti-worker and anti-union activity, and they need to end discriminatory practices against their drivers and customers!

Thank you also to the San Diego Labor-Council and [SEIU Local 1000](#) organizers, and all the other community supporters who came out for this action!

[#DeleteUber](#) [#UberRideswithHate](#) [#whosdrivingyou#SanDiego](#) [#SD](#) [#Taxi](#) [#Union](#) [#UnionCab](#) [#1U#StandwithRefugees](#)



Originally posted on March 2nd,

Our UTWSD Organizer, William, spoke up at the Otay Water Board meeting yesterday and demanded that Hector Gastelum resign his position, or be prepared to be removed from office. Racist, Islamophobic rants by elected officials are not welcome in our community. Here are a few links to news stories about the meeting

<http://www.10news.com/news/demands-for-resignation-following-racist-rant>

<http://www.10news.com/news/team-10/demands-for-recall-election-over-anti-muslim-tweet>

Originally Posted November 29th,

Media Statement about UTWSD/SEIU USWW action at the Airport



United Taxi Workers of San Diego, OPEIU Local 1218, AFL-CIO
4265 Fairmount Ave. Ste. 180, San Diego, CA 92105

MEDIA RELEASE 11/29/16

UTWSD will join today in solidarity with SEIU-USWW, our labor family, and dozens of community groups to stand for a \$15/hr minimum wage at the Airport and across the City and County of San Diego! We understand that ensuring that people make living wages is not only the right thing to do, but it will keep our economy moving; as ensuring that people can pay for their basic needs such as healthy food, housing, and transportation, will make the economy and our lives healthy and prosperous.

We have many challenges in this struggle. We have seen our housing and food prices go up. Our Taxi Driver's high car insurance prices take hundreds of dollars out of our paychecks every month, all the while our business has been declining, and many of our drivers have seen the sharpest decline THIS MONTH. We see that many normal people have to squeeze their dollars for everything its worth, and when they can get a ride across town from a TNC for under \$4.00, we just can't compete with that. We estimated a few months ago that Uber and Lyft have taken over 75% of the business city-wide, and it's just getting worse.

We in the labor community call this a "Race to the Bottom". Uber and Lyft flood the market with new drivers on a daily basis, in the same way that McDonald's and other fast food chains flood their stores with new hires constantly, so they can keep labor costs at a minimum, and make us scramble for what fares or hours there are, respectively. Uber and Lyft keep their fares at the base price most of the times in most locations, and at that point the Uber and Lyft drivers are barely making ends meet. Uber and Lyft's recruitment strategies are extraordinarily predatory, and the sub-market-value fares that their algorithms put out are putting taxis out of business, and impoverishing both their drivers and our drivers. We demand that Uber and Lyft stop their digital market manipulation that impoverishes their drivers, and threatens the very existence of the taxi industry!

The main reason we are here at the airport today though is that we are upset at Airport Ground Transportation and the Airport Authority for not working with us to open the permitting process. Like we said before, our drivers have been really hurting, and many of them use to drive here at the airport, but when we opened the City permitting process, we could not get the airport stickers we had before because those cars and permits were owned by the old owners. While the business has been really slow in the city, business at the airport picks up in the holiday season, and a lot of drivers wanted to get in to the airport to serve the holiday rush, but Ground Transportation continued to delay the decision, and now it won't be up for a vote until next year. We are struggling, and hurting, and the permits process as it is creating inequality amongst taxi drivers, and TNC drivers, and we demand a fair and open airport permit!

We will fight at the Airport, the City and County of San Diego, and in Sacramento to make sure that TNC and Taxi drivers have regulatory equality and the ability to make decent livings and have union representation! Nobody should be living in poverty, and we will keep fighting until poverty is ended and all workers have justice and a union!

Solidarity Forever! For UNIONS make us STRONG!

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