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**November 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021**

**Hon. Tom Hucker, President  
Members of the County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville MD 20854**

**Re: Statement in support of**

**Members of the County Council:**

**My focus on the Montgomery County Taxicab Services Commission is to represent low income, disabled and elderly residents of the County.**

**The acute worldwide supply shortage of new automobiles including taxis exists. Replacements are not available. Yet, after December 31<sup>st</sup> this year, all 2013 taxis now serving Montgomery County will be prohibited from operating, regardless of having passed rigorous safety inspections and with comparatively low mileage use during the Covid crisis. Montgomery County Code Sec.53-228. prohibits licensing of vehicles more than eight model years old. Enforcing this provision will severely reduce the availability of taxis and will drastically reduce service to all citizens of Montgomery County, especially impacting the elderly, disabled and low income residents needing taxis for medical and other necessary travel. The County Council and County Executive must act now to place a moratorium on this draconian provision which hurts both the public and the badly battered taxi industry.**

**While the pending bill affords timely interim relief it is merely temporary relief . The uncertainty of the length, reoccurrence and persistence of vehicle shortages suggests the advantage of allowing the DOT further discretion in lengthening the moratorium.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**CHARLES KAUFFMAN**

**The writer serves on the Taxicab Services Commission;  
Chair, of the Commission on Aging Alumni Group;  
Board Member of Visit Montgomery  
and Secretary-Director of Friends of the Human Rights Commission**