

Date: November 26th, 2023.

Subject: Questions Regarding Taxi Permits Regulation, Issuance and Tourism Industry.

We are writing to seek clarification and information on several matters pertaining to taxi permits Issued in the months of **October and November 2023**, and their impact on the tourism industry in our region. These questions have arisen from concerns within our community, and we believe that addressing them is crucial for the well-being of our local taxi operators and the tourism sector

****Question 1: **** What is the legitimate reason for the issuance of 120 additional taxi permits, and how will this affect the existing taxi operators and the overall transportation landscape in our 16 square mile area?

****Question 2: **** Was there a formal transportation committee involved in the decision to issue these permits, and was a comprehensive survey conducted to assess the potential impact on the tourism industry? Were the findings of this survey considered?

****Question 3: **** In 2011, we had 200 permits given out, and this number increased significantly after a change in government. Could you provide some insight into the reasons for this and how it has affected our taxi transportation services?

****Question 4: **** In 2013, an additional 100 permits were issued, 10 each to major associations on the island. Was there a thorough study conducted to assess the feasibility of this decision, considering economic reports on the tourism sector and visitor numbers?

****Question 5: **** With discussions about Uber and other ride-sharing services, can you share details of the feasibility report conducted regarding their potential introduction into our market? How might this impact existing taxi permit holders?

****Question 6: **** With the addition of 120 permits, along with the existing 500, and not forgetting the French side's 300, what measures are in place to ensure that these additions do not oversaturate the market and negatively impact those already operating without the benefit of feasibility studies?

****Question 7: **** Will our permits one day have an economic value that could serve as collateral for obtaining loans or other financial assistance? Are there plans to offer subsidies to taxi operators during low seasons, such as assistance at gas pumps or supermarkets?

****Question 8: **** What is the yearly revenue generated from the 545 plates currently on the road, and how will the addition of 120 permits affect government revenue? How does this contribute to the yearly budget?

****Question 9: **** Considering the challenges faced since 2017, which includes the impact of Irma, the pandemic 2020-2021, and lockdowns etc., could you provide information on the number of permits issued during this period and the rationale behind these decisions?

****Question 10: **** Given the cap on taxi operator concessionaires at the harbor and airport, what impact will the additional permits have on both the harbor and airport operations? Has there been a

comprehensive study on passenger flow in and out of these areas to justify the issuance of 120 new permits?

****Question 11: **** Based on the legislation from 1969, it was my understanding that taxi permits were intended for born Antilleans. Have there been any recent changes to this legislation, and if so, what are the current criteria for granting taxi permits?

****Question 12: **** Are there any permit holders currently in service without Dutch Passports in their possession?

****Question 13: **** We, as taxi operators, are committed to providing the best experience for our guests and showcasing our best product. How does the issuance of 120 new taxi permits enhance our ability to compete in this field and improve the overall experience for our customers? Will there be enough to provide for all permit holders?

****Question 14: **** Could you please provide detailed information on the criteria for obtaining a taxi permit as per the current law? Have there been any recent changes or amendments to the legislation governing taxi permits? I noticed a policy from 2014, but it doesn't appear to be a law.

****Question 15: **** In 2018, Mr. Rolando Brison discussed the possibility of Uber operating in our region, and it was unanimously opposed. With the new Minister, Mr. Lambrieux considering the introduction of Uber, can you provide insights into the feasibility study conducted? Additionally, who will be responsible for the costs associated with bringing Uber here, government tariffs etc. if it indeed comes to fruition?

****Question 16: **** In our community, many individuals rely on taxi operations as their main source of income as per legislation, while others diversify their income sources. We have observed that some government officials, mainly civil servants, hold taxi permits. Could you please provide clarification on the specific legislation that allows civil servants to obtain taxi operating licenses?

****Question 17: **** Furthermore, we are interested in understanding the criteria and the responsible authority for granting these permits to civil servants. For instance, there is knowledge within the taxi community of a civil servant in the V.S.A. ministry who holds a taxi permit. This individual's taxi permit Named Groeneveldt was involved in an incident in the French part of the capital, where the vehicle capsized and entered the water. Thankfully, the guests were unharmed. Could you explain why someone working in the cabinet of V.S.A. was granted this permit and is this individual still in possession of the permit?

These inquiries are essential to ensure transparency and accountability within our local taxi operations. We appreciate your prompt and thorough response to these questions and look forward to discussing these matters further.

We appreciate your assistance in addressing these questions, as they are vital in understanding the current state of taxi operations and the potential impact, which are of great concern to our local taxi operators and the tourism industry. Clarity on these matters will help us make informed decisions about the future of our transportation services and tourism sector.

Your insights will help us make informed decisions and adapt to the evolving transportation landscape in our region. Thank you once again for your time and attention to these matters. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Concerned Taxi Permit Holders.