

**EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**



September 4, 2015

Hon. Port of Seattle Commissioners
Port of Seattle
P.O. Box 68727
Seattle, WA 98168

RE: Port Support for Taxis and Other Minority Business Owners

Dear Honorable Commissions,

We, the leaders of the King County East African Community Business Associations, write to the members of the Seattle Port Commission and Port of Seattle staff about our support for the hard working migrant and minority owned business community members who service the traveling public at SeaTac Airport.

Over the last ten years, elected officials and King County regulators have heard frequently from the East African community regarding area taxi services and diversity needs of these unique migrant businesses.

As our elected leaders, we want to remind you that we are at the frontline and ambassadors of the travelers at SeaTac; and we value the job opportunities provided at our airport. Our organization's leaders support all of our community member's representation and diversity, including the hard working owner operators who have made significant investment at the airport and supporting the state's economy.

As you know, our community members hold a variety of jobs at the established businesses at the Port; and, SeaTac creates much needed jobs that feed our families and keep us healthy and active members of this community. We thank you for providing these opportunities for our community and for listening to us.

Owning a small business like a taxi can provide stability and opportunity for immigrant/minority business and their families. These hard working drivers are often sustaining other families by provide economic means for driving additional shifts using their county provided licenses and vehicles.

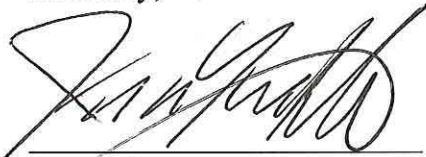
Taxi owner/operators can earn a good living, but need drivers to work long hard hours and significant upfront investments needed to be repaid. Additionally, taxi fees and maintenance costs, require owners to make sure their taxis are in operation at 24/7.

Indeed, it is a tough business that requires continues support and understanding of the impact and the unique characteristics pertaining to the employment needs of these minorities. There isn't any other way that these folks can partake of the economic prosperity that our ports generate.

In light of this, we once again would like to thank you for your continues understanding of our concerns and herby request our participation in upcoming meetings and decision making processes that members of other communities are going to be heard; and to finding a better ways to empower for those who supported and worked hard to making the port of Seattle a world-class airport.

Thank you in advance for your kind understanding of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jama Musse
Founder/Executive Director

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



Sergei Chuprina
Liaison, Transportation & Business Associations