



Hail a District Cab with a Push of a Button:



Last week, the D.C. Taxicab Commission launched a new app that allows riders to hail a cab through their smartphones. The new app, which the Commission invested nearly \$500,000 to develop, helps to bring the District's taxicab industry into the digital age and allows drivers to be more competitive with companies such as Uber and Lyft. Passengers will still be able to hail a cab the traditional way by standing on a corner; however, the app gives riders the option to order a regular, large or wheelchair-accessible taxi. Once the passenger selects the type of cab, the nearest cab is dispatched to him/her. Passengers will be allowed to pay for the trip by using the app or swiping a credit card in the vehicle.

The app is free to download and use. There are no dispatch fees associated with the app and the cost of the trip will be the same as if the passenger hailed a cab the traditional way. As you are aware, HAWDC has long been a proponent of modernizing the taxicab industry and worked with the District government to pass legislation that requires all District cabs to accept credit cards, install new dome lights and have a uniform color scheme. The new app is the latest step in the move towards modernization and helping the District's taxicab industry provide the service that travelers to our wonderful city expect and deserve.

For more information or to download the app click [here](#).

Universal Paid Leave Act of 2016:

Last week, prior to holding a third hearing, the District Council released a revised draft of Bill 21-415, the "Universal Paid Leave Act of 2016". The new draft would allow employees to take up to 12 weeks of paid leave, which would be funded by an employer tax based on a sliding scale of up to 1% of an employee's wages. Employees would be eligible to apply for leave for self-care or care of a family member that is related by "legal custody, domestic

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partnership, or marriage; or a foster child" for a "serious health condition." Employees would receive wage replacement, providing 90% income reimbursement to those covered employees earning less than double the minimum wage. For employees that earn above that, the wage replacement is 50% up to a maximum of \$1,500 weekly. The bill would provide for an "exemption" for those who are covered under a current Collective Bargaining Agreement ("CBA"); however, any CBA entered into after the effective date of the bill could not exempt an employee from coverage.

HAWDC understands that even with these proposed changes, the bill continues to pose a negative impact to businesses in the District and our Members. HAWDC remains diligent in working with the District Council and expressing our concerns. As is customary, we will continue to update our Members as the bill works its way through the legislative process.

National Cherry Blossom Festival - City in Bloom:

The 2016 National Cherry Blossom Festival (the "Festival"), held March 20 - April 17, will illuminate the region in pink this spring through its City in Bloom campaign. City in Bloom, now in its fifth year, allows businesses, organizations, and individuals to showcase spring and visually unite and energize the city for over 1.5 million people throughout the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Iconic buildings, retailers, public transportation entities, and more, showcase the start of spring with pink lighting and blossom decals, welcoming festival attendees with the energy and vibrancy of the nation's greatest springtime celebration.



To participate in the City in Bloom campaign and support the Festival, you can purchase one or more small/large blossom decal decorative packages. Pink LED outdoor string lights are also available for purchase. The lights are a great way to brighten your patio and outdoor spaces with a splash of cherry blossom this spring! To purchase a package or if you have any question, contact Remi Wallace, Program Manager - External Relations, at rwallace@ncbfdc.org or 202.638.8372.

Allied Member Highlight:

Talen Energy is one of the largest independent power producers in the United States.

Headquartered in

Allentown, PA, Talen

Energy helps hundreds of large businesses, manufacturers and



institutions save money with energy solutions customized to meet their unique needs.

To learn more on how Talen Energy can keep your bottom line strong, visit www.TalenEnergy.com. For a customized quote contact Alison Sheaffer at 443-655-6024.

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