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Assemblymember 74th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

Comments on Proposed Traffic Rules--Horse Drawn Cabs
Office of Assemblymember Harvey Epstein
October 3rd, 2018

Existing regulations have led to dangerous conditions for horses, carriage drivers and passengers, motorists, and pedestrians making use of the streets surrounding Central Park. Horses have been exposed to extreme temperatures and car exhaust, and as a result of their proximity to vehicular traffic, they run the risk of causing or being involved in crashes. Over the years, we've seen the worst case scenario happen time and time again, with the horses, carriage drivers, passengers and pedestrians sustaining injuries that never had to happen.

This proposed rule change is a welcome effort to protect horses from the hazards they have been subject to as a result of the hacklines being located on Central Park South. New Yorkers benefit too: pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists will no longer have to compete for space with horses.

I believe this measure strikes a thoughtful balance between the needs of the horses, everyday New Yorkers, and carriage drivers by maintaining the current level of carriages and operators, reducing congestion along Central Park South, and providing a much safer place for horses to wait for customers. I am happy to express my support for this proposed rule change.

Thank you to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for working together to devise a holistic and sensible solution to this important issue.