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MEERA JOSHI

Meera is a global leader in shaping transportation policy with deep expertise in the intersection of tech and labor. Business Insider 2020 Transformer As Chair and CEO of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), Meera passed landmark regulations making New York the first city in the nation to mandate the reporting of granular trip data from large app based rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft. Much of this information is now publicly available and an invaluable asset for transportation planners. In a global first, she spearheaded passage of legislation and regulation protecting the wages of the city's 80,000+ app drivers, now a model for other jurisdictions. She led the nation's largest accessibility initiative, providing users of wheelchairs reliable travel options. Crain's 2018 Newsmaker

Meera Joshi is a valued government leader, attorney and strategist. She is recognized for her ability to navigate politically charged environments to enact novel and effective policies and legislation. She achieves consensus without sacrificing standards. She is insightful in her approach to problem solving, making unconventional connections, undertaking expansive investigation and proactively addressing potential legal challenges. Meera is committed to transparency and a proponent, in practice and in principal, of data driven policy. She is a sharp and persuasive communicator, able to distill facts for the public and stakeholders, keeping them well and accurately informed. NYT Coverage

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EXPERIENCE

SAM SCHWARTZ TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, New York, NY 2020 – Present

Principal & General Manager New York

- Lead largest and flagship office of transportation consulting firm nationally recognized for solving the industry's most challenging problems; congestion pricing, public transit pivots in pandemic times, long term infrastructure savings to account for new work from home trends, and creating vital and unconventional open public space.
- Recipient of grant funding to work with governments across the nation to implement TNC data mandates necessary to form data driven congestion mitigation and driver pay protection policy.
- Provide guidance and management on airport redevelopment while maintaining service, effective Vision Zero strategies for safer highways and streets and integrating new mobility options.

NYU ROBERT F. WAGNER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE, New York, NY 2019 – 2020

Visiting Scholar - Rudin Center for Transportation

- Researched regulation, traffic management, data collection and analysis related to new mobility services in major global cities as well as the integration of technology in municipalities' governance of these services.

NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION, New York, NY 2011 – 2019

Chief Executive Officer and Commission Chair (2014 – 2019)

Appointed by NYC Mayor to lead 600-person agency and nine-member Commission with annual budget of over 65 million. Set and ensured compliance with regulatory framework that governs daily transportation of over one million people, performed in over 130,000 vehicles, ranging from taxis to Uber and Lyft, local car services and luxury limousines, driven by 200,000+ drivers -- the largest for-hire market in the nation. Previously served as agency General Counsel.

Regulatory & Policy Work

- Enacted novel regulatory framework to establish the highest levels of accountability among app-based car services, including Uber and Lyft. Mandated the submission of detailed trip records providing the City, policy makers and the public visibility into trip density and scarcity, vehicle utilization and overall use of shared City streets as well as social and economic impact of growing rideshare services.
- Developed novel policy to increase and protect driver income after establishing that most of NYC's 80,000 app drivers made less than a livable wage. Defeated legal challenges from industry seeking to undo this key labor protection.
- Ensured that new market entrants such as Uber & Lyft adhered to core consumer protections such as adequate insurance, price transparency, access for the disabled, and fingerprint background checks for all drivers.
- Passed the nation's first and most comprehensive accessibility mandate for popular app-based car services. Successfully defeated legal challenges to such mandates due to their foundation on comprehensive data analysis and due diligence. Negotiated federal settlement that transformed nation's largest taxi fleet into nation's largest accessible taxi fleet.
- Led nine-member commission to pass dozens of groundbreaking regulations to address novel issues arising out of industry's meteoric growth.

Safety & Enforcement Initiatives

- Addressed street safety goals of Vision Zero by changing for-hire driving culture through specialized speeding enforcement, vehicle safety technology solutions, producing safety video from the victim's perspective "Drive Like Your Family Lives Here" for TLC driver training, now used in safety training nationwide, and enacting data driven and enforceable limits on driving hours to combat fatigued driving.
- Spearheaded strategic deployment of over 200 enforcement officers citywide to enforce against illegal and unsafe activity.
- Rebuilt administrative unit charged with prosecution of field summons, consumer complaints and safety violations, resulting in 90% being upheld at hearing.
- Created Office of Inclusion to raise awareness about and curb the incidence of service refusals based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and disability.
- Improved vehicle inspection efficiency to maintain wait times and standards in the face of a 75% increase in vehicle inspections volume.

- Overhauled outdated vehicle and driver standards governing over 300,000 licensees to accurately reflect vehicle advancements and to provide drivers with a broader range of income opportunities.

Operations & Technology

- Led organizational restructuring to improve overall agency alignment with mission involving a range of employment consequences from executive hiring and separations to broad union negotiations on pay and work conditions for hundreds of law enforcement officers.
- Modernized agency from paper to online licensing while simultaneously creating savings and keeping abreast of a 70% increase in demand for licenses.
- Instituted continuous technology and analytics improvements to ensure ability to host, keep secure and analyze one of the City's largest data sets -- billions of daily trip records.

Communication

- Face of the Commission, lead spokesperson and advocate on headline and politically complex issues at public meetings, panels, and on radio and TV.
- Ensured that public messaging and agency programs supported agency reputation for objective good governance.
- Communicated to over 300,000 licensees through easy to understand text and email messaging, social media and thoughtful design.

Deputy Commissioner Legal Affairs, General Counsel (2011 – 2014)

- Fostered creative and innovative legal solutions to novel issues while ensuring that all agency action was within charter mandated mission.
- Ensured compliance with Open Meetings Law for all aspect of Commission action/communication.
- Navigated myriad legal challenges successfully to improve for hire service in New York City. Led dozens of complex and high-profile negotiations resulting in landmark legislation and settlement agreements, including federal agreement to make 50% of the taxi fleet wheelchair accessible by 2020.
- Led all aspects of complex procurement processes including Requests for Proposals, vendor selection, multiparty contract negotiation and execution.
- Established new licensing standards and processes for emerging tech operators.
- Developed 30+ regulatory solutions to problems that streamlined service to public, including dispatch system for disabled passengers, overhaul of in taxipayment system and outer borough taxi service.
- Spearheaded policies to deter employee misconduct and mete appropriate discipline for staff of 600.

NEW YORK CITY CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD, New York, NY

2008 – 2011

First Deputy Executive Director

- Streamlined investigative process of 130-person unit annually conducting over 7,000 investigations of police misconduct; reduced case completion time by more than a month and increased prosecution rate by 35%.
- Developed solutions for critical issues in police misconduct cases, including stop and frisk.
- Oversaw negotiations with the NYPD for successful creation of independent prosecution unit, permanently expanding the agency's jurisdiction.

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION, New York, NY

2002 – 2008

Inspector General / First Deputy, Correctional Services Unit

- Supervised timely and thorough investigation of 3,000+ allegations received per year of alleged criminality and corruption in the Departments of Correction, Probation, Juvenile Justice and Taxi and Limousine Commission.
- Led over 30 cases to state and federal criminal conviction of city employees and vendors for crimes including inmate assault, drug smuggling, conspiracy, bribery and fraud, including one of the first "Program" prosecutions.
- Implemented policy for oversight agencies to curtail instances of corruption and excessive waste.

MORVILLO, ABRAMOWITZ, GRAND, IASON & SILBERBERG, P.C., New York, NY 2000 – 2002

Associate

- Handled all aspects of criminal and civil litigation for clients facing allegations of securities fraud and federal crimes including, investigation, depositions, responding to subpoenas, motion practice, trial preparation, sentencing and plea negotiations.

LATHAM & WATKINS, New York, NY 1996 – 2000

Associate

- Practiced complex multistate civil litigation. Managed client relations, discovery, depositions, trial preparations and settlement negotiations.

US DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA 1997

The Honorable Ronald L. Buckwalter, Law Clerk

- Drafted judicial opinions for judge's civil caseload and received permanent clerkship offer.

THIRD CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS - OFFICE OF THE STAFF ATTORNEY, Philadelphia, PA 1995

Staff Attorney

- Drafted Court of Appeals decisions on *pro se* constitutional claims and for individual circuit court judge

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

J.D., 1995

- *Activities*: Penn Legal Assistance Clinic, Philadelphia Law Forum, Morris Fellow Mentor

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA

B.A., Sociology, *cum laude*, 1992

- Honors Degree Recipient: Senior Project - Community Policing through Ministrations; Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Award
- *Admitted*: New York State, October 1996.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

• *Recognition*:

- **2020: 100 PEOPLE TRANSFORMING BUSINESS IN NORTH AMERICA – BUSINESS INSIDER**: Recognized in 2020 as one of ten people in North America transforming the supply chain industry through use of data for policy making and city planning.
- **2018: NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR - CRAIN'S NEW YORK BUSINESS**: Named 2018 New York Newsmaker for setting national standard of regulation over app-based transportation companies.

• *Publications*

- **TRANSPORTATION DURING CORONAVIRUS IN NEW YORK CITY**, July 2020, Sam Schwartz Transportation Consultants and NYU Rudin Center for Transportation Policy, [NYC Transportation During Covid](#)
- **EHAIL REGULATION IN GLOBAL MARKETS**, November 2019, NYU Rudin Center for Transportation Policy, [Ehail Regulation Global Markets](#)

• *Leadership*:

Member of Advisory Council, Remix New York, NY: 2019 – Present

Advise on software solutions for municipalities and government agencies using scooter, bike and app-based car service trip data to develop informed policy for improving transportation access, traffic management, safety and ensuring consumer and driver protections.