



For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center to Submit Testimony on Taxicab Discrimination in D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 20, 2011– This Wednesday, June 22nd, the ERC will appear before the D.C. Taxicab Commission (DCTC) at a public hearing to submit testimony and written comment regarding taxicab discrimination in the District.

ERC testing investigations have established widespread taxicab discrimination based on disability and race. In late 2010, the ERC published a report based on an investigation that uncovered a 60% rate of discrimination against individuals who use service animals when attempting to hail a cab. In 2003, the ERC documented a 36% rate of discrimination against African Americans seeking taxi service. A subsequent study showed that an individual requesting dispatch service from an address in Northwest, D.C., was 14 times more likely to receive service than a caller with an address in Southeast D.C. To read these studies visit, www.equalrightscenter.org/reports

The DCTC scheduled the Public Hearing to receive comments on the Commission's proposed amendments to Chapter 5 of Title 31 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations regarding taxicabs. The Proposed rulemaking is published at: <http://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/NoticeHome.aspx?noticeid=1175948>

**What: Public Hearing on Chapter 5 of Title 31 of the District of Columbia
Municipal Regulations**

**When: Wednesday, June 22, 2011
10:00 am to 12:00pm**

**Where: US Park Police Building
1901 Anacostia Drive, SE (in Anacostia Park)
2nd Floor Auditorium
Washington, DC 20020**

Please contact Ashley White at (202) 370-3204 or awhite@equalrightscenter.org for more information.

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About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Originally formed in 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. With members located in 46 states and the District of Columbia, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights, and access to public accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.