



## Upcoming Events

**UTWSD**  
Membership Meetings  
5348 University Ave, Ste 110

- Monday, Oct 21, 3:00-4:30pm
- Monday, Nov 21, 3:00-4:30pm

Information Sessions  
4265 Fairmount Ave. Suite 180

- **OPEN HOUSE** Monday, Sep 23, 3:00-6:00pm
- All October through November 19, knocking on doors, get up to vote, **voter registrations**. PLEASE JOIN US!
- Early October we are expanding Education and Training with in house **computer classes**. Please come and register

**Taxicab Advisory Committee**  
1255 Imperial Ave, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

- Friday, Sept 6, 10:00am, WORM subcommittee
- Friday, Sept 20, 10:00am
- Friday, Dec 13, 10:00am

**Metropolitan Transit System (MTS)**  
1255 Imperial Ave, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

- Thursday, Sep 12, 9:00am
- Thursday, Oct 10, 9:00am
- Thursday, Nov 14, 9:00am
- Thursday, Dec 12, 9:00am

*For more information about important industry meetings and events, contact UTWSD today!*

### Mission:

The mission of UTWSD is to unify taxicab workers, to improve working conditions through direct advocacy and empowerment, to increase education and civic participation by taxi drivers and their families, and to improve professional transportation services for San Diego communities and visitors.

### Vision:

We envision a driver-led taxi Association that provides exceptional, efficient, and safe service for residents and visitors, and that meets the comprehensive and diverse needs of taxi drivers. We also envision a taxi industry environment free from humiliation, intimidation, discrimination, and exploitation, which will improve the transportation services of San Diego County.

### UNITED TAXI WORKERS OF SAN DIEGO (UTWSD)

UTWSD was founded in January 2010 to sustain and advance the leadership and empowerment of the Dec '09 drivers' strike.

The *UTWSD Meter* is published to support driver leadership, to document and disseminate drivers' voices, and to inform and educate drivers and allies for better organizing.

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**CONTACTING UTWSD**  
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<http://www.utwsd.org>



## Task Force Leads Way

Drivers, Owners, and Stakeholders Lay Foundation for Industry Reform

This past June and July UTWSD participated on the Mayor's taxi advisory group. The meetings were closed to the public, yet a broad panel of drivers, owners, industry representatives, and stakeholders brought a wealth of experience and perspectives to the table to assess the current industry, and point the way forward to a better one. UTWSD conducted extensive research into other City taxi industries and received various recommendations from our members and developed the following platform that we put front and center during the Task Force meetings:

1) The City of San Diego needs to take over administration of the taxi industry to ensure transparency and to better address driver and public safety concerns.

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

In 2012 after a year-long campaign and hundreds of hours knocking on doors, phone banking, registering new voters, and working with our friends and labor allies, we elected those who promised to improve the quality life of our members and their families. Here we go again. But, We are not going back! This is not different! We will campaign and elect a mayor who is committed to finalize our drivers' issues, a mayor who



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2) Receipts should be mandatory for all Lease payments and copy of Lease Agreement Given to Drivers. We also asked that lease payments made by drivers be allowed to be paid in cash, check or money order.

3) If medallions are released 100% of them should go directly to lease drivers who have been driving for a minimum of five years, not corporations or "co-ops".



Drivers Push City Council for Real Industry Reform

- 4) Uniform Written Lease Agreements.
- 5) Increased Bathroom Access for Drivers. End 12 foot rule.
- 6) Lease caps that serve the public good and allow a living wage.
- 7) Anti-retaliation regulations that include penalties for permit holders who fire drivers for voicing concerns.
- 8) An administrative complaint process to create a system of checks and balances
- 9) Mileage/Age restrictions on vehicles.
- 10) Stop the unregulated medallion transfer market.
- 11) Set up driver health fund and cover drivers under vehicle insurance.
- 12) At least one day off for drivers where they don't have to pay their lease.
- 13) Stop credit card over charges.

### *this issue*

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**Director's Message**  
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stands up for lease drivers, their families, and the neighborhoods they live in. The power is in our hands. We have to come out and fight for our rights to vote for our next Mayor. This is especially important because special elections typically have low voter turnout. Many people do not believe we care enough to participate, to vote. We must prove them wrong!

First, come to our new office to volunteer. We will mobilize to once again empower ourselves by voting for the candidate committed to rebuild our taxi drivers cause. We will continue to demand that all elected officials understand and support our just cause. We demand a democratic system and a fair taxi industry that protects us rather than those who have bigger wallets and bigger mouths, but who lie, intimidate and mislead in order to exploit us. And remember:

*We are not alone. We have rights!*

-Mikail Hussein, Executive Director

**Task Force Leads the Way**  
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What's Next?

Much has happened at City Hall. Bob Filner is no longer our Mayor. What this means is we're going to have to work even harder to make sure our voices are heard, but we will not go back. We saw our power when we mobilized last November with our communities to elect a Mayor who cared about our work and our neighborhoods. We still have that power today with our community and labor behind us! And we're going to make sure that whoever takes office will fight for working people and our right to support ourselves and our families.

We're going to do this by mobilizing our communities to stand behind us while we

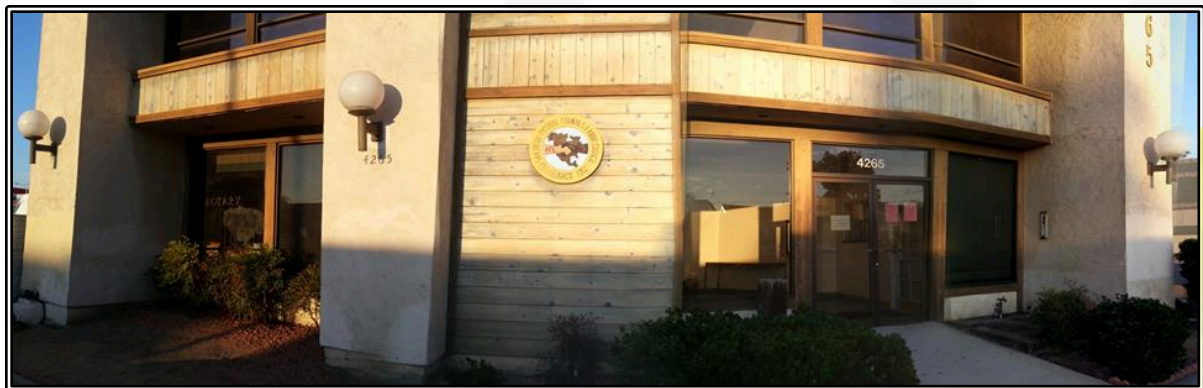
fight for taxi reform. Every Mayoral candidate should be ready to answer to questions about the future of our taxi industry in San Diego. If they don't support a transparent and equitable taxi industry we will actively campaign against them. If they say they stand for drivers, their families and the neighborhoods they live in we'll make sure they have the political past that supports those claims and hold them accountable. If they support lease drivers we'll phone bank and walk and volunteer to make sure they're the next Mayor of San Diego. But it's all up to us. The power is in our hands to elect a Mayor who advocates for ALL San Diegans.

We are pleased to announce UTWSD's new headquarters is in the heart of City Heights at **4265 Fairmount Ave, Suite 180**. Our team has moved to the perfect location on the first floor of the former San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council building.

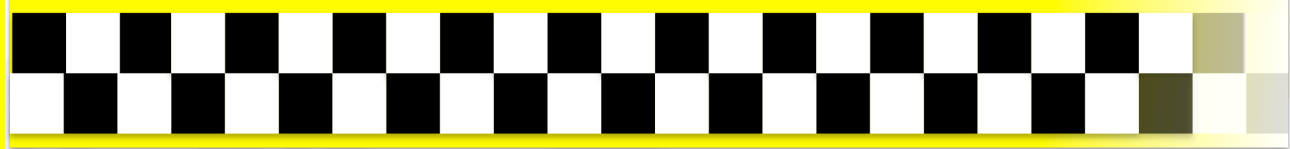


We are thankful for everyone's support through the years and with the move. We look at this move as the start of a bright chapter in our history! We're already open for business so please stop by! We will also be holding an **open house on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00p** so let's bring members, supporters, and the community together to celebrate this next step in our fight for a better taxi industry!

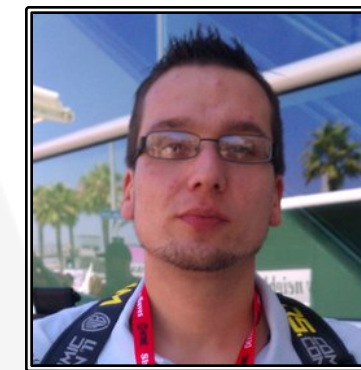
Our new office enables us to offer convenient meeting facilities for our members, so that you can have access to services and organize around a better taxi industry. The previous office on El Cajon Blvd. served us well for the last three years and half, leaving us with great memories, but we are very excited about having more space and a more convenient location. We are excited to also share the building with our sisters and brothers at Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and our long time partners, the Employee Rights Center (ERC).



**\*\*\*Open House\*\*\*  
Mon. Sep 23, 4-6**



**ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT**



**Oliver James**

UTWSD honors Oliver James, Director of Realize Internet Marketing and a long-time volunteer who has built and maintained the UTWSD website and managed our social media and Search Engine Optimization (SEO - how Google helps people find us).

events, precinct walked, phone banked and even recently helped us move our office! At his core Oliver believes in the principles of honesty, duty and integrity and we are honored to call him part of the UTWSD team.

Realize Internet Marketing is a company that helps small businesses and nonprofits handle everything from concept and design, to campaign implementation and management. The Internet can be a scary place to navigate and understand. Oliver has helped us make sense of our web presence, guiding us with some of the newest and most effective nonprofit strategies and tools.

As we settle into our new home on Fairmount Ave. and expand services available to drivers, Oliver plans to help us conduct workshops for drivers on computing skills and navigating the Internet. We hope these increased skills will help drivers more effectively provide for their families and engage in industry reform.

Thank you Oliver for all of your many contributions to UTWSD and for being the epitome of what a dedicated volunteer and ethical small business should be!

Oliver has gone far beyond this technical assistance role. He has volunteered for

To be updated about classes email us at [info@utwسد.org](mailto:info@utwسد.org)



★ **All drivers on board!**

★ **Help us organize to WIN!**

★ **Become an active  
UTWSD MEMBER!**

★ **Get involved!**

**We need all drivers on board to make  
sure our voices are heard and our  
work is recognized!  
TAXI REFORM  
NOW!**

