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Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition of Connecticut Names Metro Taxi and Metropolitan Livery President and CEO Bill Scalzi to Board of Directors

HARTFORD, Conn. (Jan. 6, 2011) – The Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition of Connecticut (ADACC) has appointed William Scalzi, president and CEO of Metro Taxi and Metropolitan Livery, to its Board of Directors, effective immediately. Metro Taxi in West Haven is one of Connecticut’s largest providers of non-emergency medical transportation and launched the state’s first wheelchair-accessible taxi (“MetroAccess”) in October 2009.

“The Board’s vote was unanimous,” said Janet Van Tassel, president of ADACC and an attorney who serves as the executive director of the Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP), a statewide non-profit agency which provides free legal services to low income adults with psychiatric disabilities. “Bill was the driving force behind recently-passed legislation that permitted wheelchair-accessible taxicabs in Connecticut,” said Van Tassel. “Soon after, with the Greater New Haven Transit District and the City of New Haven’s Department of Disabilities, he introduced the state’s first New Freedom Fund Taxi Voucher Program to offer passengers with disabilities a 50 percent discount from a normal cab rate.”

As part of his ADACC Board service, Scalzi will serve on two committees: Board Development and Marketing and Public Relations.

“I’m delighted to join ADACC’s Board of Directors and help advance an organization that is dedicated to fostering equality and independence for those with disabilities, and one that envisions new innovations and freedoms for those with disabilities for the next 20 years,” said Scalzi. “Pending DOT approval, Metro Taxi and The Yellow Cab Company of Hartford hope to substantially expand wheelchair-accessible taxi service in Hartford, New Haven, Middlesex and Fairfield Counties, Scalzi said. “Together, we have committed to purchase 140 new wheelchair-accessible vehicles powered by compressed natural gas. These taxis are made specifically to help lower carbon emissions, reduce our dependency on foreign oil and provide long overdue, demand-response transportation for the mobility impaired.”

In Oct. 2010, Scalzi was awarded the Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition of Connecticut’s **2010 Spirit of ADA Award** for “demonstrating the essence of the ADACC consistently day to day” and received the International Taxicab, Limousine, and Paratransit Association’s (TLPA) **2010 Taxicab Operator of the Year Award** for “most effectively serving local public transportation needs.” Also last Oct., Metro Taxi received the **Green Fleet Award** from the Connecticut Clean Cities Future Fuels Project.

Scalzi serves the Board of Directors of Qualidigm, the health care consulting and research company in Rocky Hill with a mission to continuously advance improvement in the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of Health Care. Scalzi has been a TLPA member for 23 years. He also serves on the international trade organization’s Steering Committee and is serving his second term as a TLPA Board Member.

About the ADACC:

The Americans with Disabilities Act Coalition in Connecticut is the state’s only organization singularly devoted to educating individuals with disabilities, businesses and governmental entities about the ADA. ADACC provides information about the

Americans with Disabilities Act to people with disabilities, employers, state agencies, municipalities, private businesses and many others. ADACC's core funding comes from the ADA Center of New England from the National Institute on Rehabilitation and Research.

About Metro Taxi and Metropolitan Livery:

Metro Taxi is Connecticut's largest, full-service cab company, serving 16 towns and cities in Greater New Haven and Bridgeport. About one third of its 161-cab fleet provides essential transportation for special education students. Metro Taxi drivers, with additional licensure and training, transport special education students to their schools and after-school programs, as well as provide transportation for the blind or hearing impaired. Metropolitan Livery, an affiliate company, augments Metro Taxi by providing specialized school transportation and as a large provider of Medicaid transportation. Additionally, the company offers luxury SUV and Black Car transportation.

- ADACC: www.Adacc.net/about-us/
- Connecticut Legal Rights Project: <http://www.clrp.org/>
- International Taxicab, Limousine, and Paratransit Association's: <http://tlpa.org/>
- MetroAccess: <http://metrotaxict.com/metroaccess/index.htm>
- Metro Taxi: www.MetroTaxiCT.com
- Qualidigm: www.Qualidigm.org

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