



City of Cambridge

R-112.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 30, 2001

COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR BRAUDE
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
MAYOR GALLUCCIO
VICE MAYOR MAHER
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its thoughts and prayers to Youssef Jilal; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Youssef Jilal on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council July 30, 2001.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



Home Improvement

keyspan.myhomekey.com

7/23/01
5:05 am

THIS STORY HAS BEEN FORMATTED FOR EASY PRINTING

"Speedy Recovery" Cabdriver is found badly beaten

MPS 7/23

Second near-fatal attack this month

By Douglas Belkin, Globe Staff, 7/23/2001

SOMERVILLE - Less than a month after Youssef Jilal started driving a taxi, the Moroccan immigrant was clinging to life yesterday after being severely beaten and left bleeding on the streets he navigated for a living.

Jilal, 25, was listed in critical condition in Massachusetts General Hospital following surgery to relieve bleeding on his brain, the hospital said. He was unconscious, his jaw broken, and his face severely bruised.

"He looked awful," said a friend and fellow cabdriver who saw him in the hospital. "I don't know that he is going to be the same, no matter what happens."

Police identified the victim as Jilal Youssef, but a boyhood friend insisted his name is Youssef Jilal.

Jilal, who was a flight attendant in Morocco, moved from Casablanca to East Boston in March 2000. Until recently, he worked as a clerk in a convenience store, but took the job with Cambridge Checker Cab because the hours were flexible and the pay was better. He was working only his second overnight shift when he was assaulted late Saturday or early yesterday.

The beating of Jilal is the second nearly fatal attack on an area cabdriver this month. On July 3, Yves Andre, 43, was shot in the back and paralyzed from the waist down. Prosecutors say Raymond Robinson, 18, was with two other men when he allegedly opened fire on Andre with a 9mm gun. Robinson is being held on \$100,000 bail.

Before the attack, Jilal had met up with a boyhood friend and fellow taxi driver about 11:30 Saturday night in Harvard Square. As they watched a magician perform, he told the friend, who spoke on condition of anonymity, that he had about \$200 in his pocket.

An hour and a half later, police received an anonymous call from Jilal's car radio asking for help. The man who made the call, described by a witness as a white man with gray hair and in his 40s, left the scene after he got off the radio. Police said he is not a suspect but they would like to speak with him.

Moments after the dispatcher called police, a driver from Ambassador Cab saw Jilal's taxi

pulled over to the side of the road at the intersection of Summer and School streets near Union Square. The door was open and Jilal was lying on his back, blood pooling around him. He had been hit in the head and face, said a driver who drove past the scene and stopped.

Police are not certain of Jilal's destination at the time of the beating, because he may have been called on his cellphone or waved down on the street. "It makes it very hard for us to determine where he was going," said Somerville police Lieutenant Paul Upton.

Upton also said that Jilal still had some money in his wallet, so they are not certain robbery was the motive.

Taxi drivers, after police and private security guards, have the third most dangerous job in the country, according to data from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Of every 1,000 drivers, 184 have been assaulted.

Generally Somerville and Cambridge are considered safe territory by cabbies and dispatchers. "It's mellow here," said Milan Chahine, who has been driving for five years. "We don't have so many problems."

But Jilal's beating has spooked new drivers and veterans alike. Unlike Boston taxis, there are no partitions between the front and the back seats of Cambridge cabs. Several Cambridge cabdrivers said they prefer not to take passengers to Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan because they say they have been cheated out of fares.

Some drivers admit to carrying weapons. Abdel Berraban, from Algeria, said he kept a knife in his pocket for protection until a few months ago when he realized he could get in trouble with the police. "Now I just keep my eyes open," he said.

"It gets worse when there are a lot of layoffs," said Mounir Mrabet, who has been driving for Cambridge Checker for nine years.

Friends of Jilal said he never worried about the danger in driving at night or considered carrying a weapon. "He didn't think there was going to be a problem," said the boyhood friend. "Nobody talked about it. Now, I don't know."

This story ran on page 1 of the Boston Globe on 7/23/2001.
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TO Paula

FR Michael

DATE July 23, 2001

RE ORDERS

Please put the following
in for me

(1) on the death of

____ Anna (Hudson Friedman)

(2) on Speedy Richard Vassoff
Tilal (to Noy, Globe)

(3) on the death of Frederick
P. Ikels (Globe 7/23)

(4) on the death of

Barbara McKellegat (Globe 7-23)

(5) on the death of Phyllis Mello
(Globe 7-23)

MAS 7/23 5:55 am
~~7/23 7:50 am~~



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R-112.

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COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

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1092 R

Resolution #112

Resolution extending sincere
thoughts and prayers to Youssef
Jilal.

Councillor Sullivan

In City Council July 30, 2001

ORDER ADOPTED