



NEW YORK CITY LAW DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

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Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**LAWSUIT CHALLENGING TAXI GPS REQUIREMENTS WITHDRAWN,
RESULTING IN COMPLETE VICTORY FOR THE CITY**

TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE CUSTOMER SERVICE CAN CONTINUE WITHOUT FURTHER INTERFERENCE

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New York, March 13, 2008 – The New York City Law Department announced today that the plaintiffs seeking to stop the Taxi and Limousine Commission's (TLC) program of taxi technology service improvements, including GPS equipment, have withdrawn their lawsuit. The suit, brought last September, sought to prevent the program from going forward as scheduled. But the court – the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York – rejected the plaintiffs' request last September to grant a preliminary injunction, finding that plaintiffs had failed to demonstrate that they were likely to succeed on any of their claims. Today, the Court signed off on a legal stipulation ending the lawsuit.

The lawsuit had challenged the innovative program initiated by the TLC to provide improved technology in taxicabs that enabled passengers to pay by credit card, to monitor travel on video screens, and to provide automated trip records through GPS equipment. The service enhancement program has been in effect since October 2007, and is viewed by both the TLC and the public as a success.

The plaintiffs, including the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, continued to press their claims after their initial loss in court on the preliminary injunction issue. However, after several months of successful operation of the program, they agreed to withdraw their complaint "with prejudice" – meaning they cannot bring the suit again. As noted, the Court today approved the agreement of discontinuance of this litigation, in which it is agreed that the TLC will continue its enforcement of its rules and regulations, including the requirements for the GPS technology and customer service improvements.

"Just as taxi riders have embraced the conveniences of the new technology, taxi drivers are now likewise seeing the benefits of the systems in their own lives. Drivers are earning more money in tips on credit card rides, and this payment option is growing more popular every day," said TLC Commissioner/Chairman Matthew W. Daus. "It is particularly gratifying that this comes within days of our having achieved the milestone of seeing the 10,000th taxicab equipped with the new systems, and this victory will speed us on to see this already successful project continue toward the goal of equipping every taxicab in the city."

Paula Van Meter of the Law Department's Administrative Law Division led the legal team, with input from Division Chief Gabriel Taussig. "This is a complete victory for the City, and it will allow all taxi passengers to enjoy the benefits of these service improvements," Taussig noted.

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