



# NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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## TLC NEWS | PRESS RELEASES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release #03-99

March 1999

### TLC ANNOUNCES DISCONTINUATION OF DOUBLE ADJUDICATION CRITICAL DRIVER PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED

New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) Chairperson Diane McGrath-McKechnie today announced that, due to the positive benefits of the Critical Driver program, the process by which certain summonses are adjudicated in both TLC and State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) tribunals will be discontinued. Chairperson McKechnie additionally announced the implementation of the Critical Driver program, which went into effect on February 15, 1999.

"One of the many positive benefits of the Critical Driver program, which allows the TLC for the first time to act on DMV points for all violations of vehicle and traffic laws, is that there is no longer any pressing need to hold a separate TLC hearing for these violations," said Chairperson McKechnie. "Of course, the licensee would remain responsible for the adjudication of summonses in State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) court."

The TLC also announced today that it would begin implementation of the Critical Driver rule, which was officially in effect as of February 15, 1999. The Critical Driver Rule stipulates that holders of both Taxicab Operators and FHV (For Hire Vehicle) licenses may be suspended if they have accrued six or more DMV license points within 18 months, and revoked if they have accrued ten or more DMV points within 18 months. The program is triggered by a future violation conviction, which would require that the Administrative Law Judge then review the driver's DMV history for the preceding 18-months and add the number of points accrued within that period. If the total meets either the six or ten-point thresholds, the appropriate action, whether suspension or revocation, is then taken.

The Critical Driver program is also notable in that it takes into consideration the entire driving history of the licensee. The TLC would no longer be limited by considering only those violations taking place in the context of TLC-licensed activity.

"It is entirely relevant that the TLC consider traffic violations taking place outside of the driver's TLC-licensed activity," said Chairperson McKechnie. "If a TLC licensee has been convicted, for example, of speeding 40 miles above the speed limit in Binghamton, or Poughkeepsie, or anywhere in the state outside of the City of New York, that has a direct bearing on whether that licensee is deserving of the privilege of a professional TLC license. The Critical Driver program allows us for the first time to take the points they would receive from such a conviction into account."

"The Critical Driver program sets an appropriately high standard for our licensees," concluded Chairperson McKechnie, "and it is a standard that, while being true to the TLC's primary mission of public safety, also successfully balances the needs of the industry and the needs of the driver."

The Critical Driver program is one of 17 Giuliani Administration industry reforms formulated and initiated as a reflection of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's Safety, Quality of Life and Customer Service Initiatives.