



NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION AND POLICE DEPARTMENT TEAM UP TO PUT THE BRAKES ON MILLENNIUM EVE OVERCHARGES WITH "OPERATION UP ALL NIGHT"

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) today announced that it will once again be on the job Millennium Eve, ringing in the year 2000 with a joint TLC/Police Department initiative that will respond instantly to reports of illegal activity by taxicab drivers throughout the five boroughs. The operation was conceived as an outgrowth of the Giuliani Administration's commitment to enhanced quality of life and law enforcement.

"Operation Up All Night" will see the TLC's Consumer Relations Unit -- which may be reached by calling **212-NYC-TAXI** -- manning the phones and on the lookout for taxicab drivers taking advantage of reveling Millennium Eve celebrants. These Customer Service representatives will maintain constant radio contact with the TLC's Uniformed Services Bureau personnel, which will be deployed at maximum field strength, as well as the Police Department's Taxi Enforcement Unit, for rapid assignment to any point in the five boroughs where problems may occur.

"As in years past, last year's operation was highly successful," said Chairperson McGrath-McKechnie. "I have every reason to believe that New York City's taxicab drivers will offer a high quality and professional level of service on Millennium Eve, and that we will see a high level of compliance with the laws, rules and regulations of the City. But in light of New York City's status as the Millennium Capital of the World, it's vitally important that those who use taxicabs as a means of transportation may continue to do so with complete confidence that they will not be exploited by those few unscrupulous taxicab drivers who may seek to take advantage of the hoopla. These riders have my assurance, and the assurances of Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani and Police Commissioner Howard Safir, that the laws, rules and regulations of the City will be enforced to the absolute maximum for their protection.

"Our message to drivers who would contemplate rule violations on the Millennium Eve shift is loud and clear -- we're watching you, and the penalties for overcharging, soliciting with the off-duty light on and service refusal may even cost you your license to operate."

The public should be aware that it is illegal for taxicab drivers to solicit passengers while their off-duty light is lit, and to offer rides for higher than normal, non-metered prices (other than the normal additional \$.50 evening surcharge, in effect from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.). Passengers who experience this are urged to call the TLC's special operations staff at **212-NYC-TAXI** with such information as the taxicab's medallion (or license) number and the driver's name and license number, if possible. The public is also encouraged to report any incidences of drivers illegally refusing to take passengers to certain destinations, or disregarding traffic laws and operating taxicabs in a reckless or unsafe manner.

The TLC's 24-hour Consumer Hotline is normally answered by agency personnel during business hours, and a computerized referral system after-hours. Any messages left with the Consumer Relations Unit after-hours are returned rapidly, usually by the next business morning.