

TLC LAUNCHES NEW ENFORCEMENT SATELLITE AT JFK AIRPORT

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) has unveiled a new dedicated satellite enforcement facility at John F. Kennedy International Airport. The new facility, created in coordination with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), allows the TLC to have a consistent presence at the airport to combat illegal for-hire activity.

“JFK is an exceptionally active transportation hub,” said TLC Commissioner and Chair David Yassky, “and for that reason, it is a magnet for illegal for-hire activity. It’s very natural for us to be here and have a permanent ‘home’ at JFK, and we’re very grateful to the Port Authority for embracing this initiative and for so effectively partnering with us on enforcement in general.”

“There is no place at Port Authority airports for illegal taxi hustlers and we are pleased the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission is enhancing its crackdown initiatives to supplement those by Port Authority police officers,” said Port Chief Security Officer Joseph Dunne. “The TLC’s increased vigilance will help protect passengers at JFK Airport by reducing the chances they may unwittingly accept a ride from a fraudulent and potentially unsafe driver pretending to be a legitimate taxi operator.”

During enforcement operations, the facility becomes home base for squads of 10-15 TLC inspectors – known as *New York’s Proudest* – and supervisors. Anti-hustler operations launched from the new facility at JFK Airport have yielded a record 442 seizures of illegal, unlicensed vehicles since its doors opened on October 8 – more than five times the productivity level experienced during the similar period last year. We continue to maintain a broad-based enforcement presence at LaGuardia Airport as well, with efforts there yielding 192 seizures this fiscal year. There were more than 800 seizures of illegal hustler vehicles fiscal-year-to-date (starting July 1) at both airports. There have been a total of 4470 seizures of unlicensed vehicles performing illegal for-hire activity citywide this fiscal year.

Further enhancing the TLC’s enforcement efficiencies, the agency’s recent contract with Knights Towing allows field officers to focus fully on operations rather than on paperwork and the transportation of seized vehicles. The contract also includes the auction of vehicles that aren’t redeemed in a timely manner by violators, resulting in fewer repeat offenders turning up on the TLC’s “hook.” As of late October, 509 vehicles have been auctioned.

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) was created in 1971, and is the agency responsible for the regulation and licensing of almost 200,000 yellow medallion taxicabs and for-hire vehicles, their drivers, and the businesses that operate and support their industries. It is recognized as the largest and most active taxi and limousine regulatory body in the United States.

David Yassky
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