



**PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

November 10, 2011

David Yassky
Commissioner

Allan J. Fromberg
Deputy Commissioner for
Public Affairs

212-676-1013
Allan.fromberg@tlc.nyc.gov

33 Beaver Street
22nd Floor
New York, NY 10004

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION JOINS GREATER
JAMAICA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION IN
CELEBRATING “RIDE SAFE” LIVERY STAND’S SUCCESS**

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) today joined leaders from the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation (GJDC) and other officials in celebrating the success of the RIDE SAFE Livery Stand pilot program, located near the Jamaica Long Island Rail Road station at Sutphin Boulevard and Archer Avenue. The stand, which has been operating at full capacity since September, has provided almost 3,000 safe, convenient livery rides to passengers since its inception.

The dispatch booth features an on-site dispatcher 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and electronically records passengers’ trip information and offers them the ability to pay by credit card. Two Queens Village Car Service vehicles are always queued up and ready for dispatch at a moment’s notice. New, boldly designed signage has been installed to assist LIRR riders in finding the dispatch booth



Another key aspect of the Stand’s success story is the effective collaboration between the Long Island Rail Road, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department, and the 103rd Precinct who, alongside the TLC’s Enforcement Division, have drastically reduced the illegal livery activity in the vicinity of the Sutphin Boulevard, Archer Avenue intersection and on 91st Street, which helped to pave the way for the pilot program livery stand.

“This station is a key transportation hub, serving the core of Jamaica’s vital commercial district,” said TLC Commissioner/Chair David Yassky, “and the ability to offer passengers the high-quality, safe and convenient taxi-like service they need and deserve in an area that is historically not served by yellow taxis is an innovation whose time has come.”



“I’d like to thank the GJDC for its vision in seeking this pilot program and partnering with Queens Village Car Service,” continued Commissioner Yassky, “as well as the LIRR and the MTA Police Department for the support that made this initiative possible. Not only will this stand serve thousands of commuters and visitors in support of its residents and its thriving business community, but it will fuel continued growth and development while combatting the illegal poachers who put riders at risk.”

"The presence of aggressive taxi hustling around the Long Island Rail Road/AirTrain station created serious quality-of-life problems and contributed to the public's misperception of Downtown Jamaica," said GJDC President Carlisle Towery. "The institution of the Ride Safe program has transformed the area around the station. It was accomplished thanks to a strong partnership between Mayor Bloomberg's Taxi & Limousine Commission, led by David Yassky, the Long Island Rail Road, the MTA police, Queens Village Car Service, the Sutphin Boulevard Business Improvement District, the 103rd Precinct of the NYPD and Greater Jamaica Development Corporation. The Ride Safe program is the result of the creativity and talent of the TLC staff and the agency's commitment to problem-solving and passenger service and safety. TLC's efforts in the creation of this program are a demonstration project for the kind of best practices in public administration that are the hallmark of Mayor Bloomberg's government. Those efforts are enhancing the opportunities for transit-oriented development for the environs of LIRR and AirTrain."

“The LIRR and MTA Police have been very supportive of the ‘Ride Safe’ Livery Stand program at Jamaica Station,” said Long Island Rail Road President Helena E. Williams. “It provides our customers access to well-organized, safe and convenient car service at our busy station and for customers using the AirTrain connection to and from JFK airport.”

The pilot program was established via separate Memoranda of Understanding (“MOUs”) between the GJDC and the TLC, and also the Queens Village, Inc. Car Service and the TLC, which have an official term of one-year, which may be extended or terminated early depending on circumstances. The GJDC will be required to submit a report to the TLC that encompasses the first six months of operation that will include such information as the volume of usage, the number of passengers, passenger/base and driver satisfaction, and peak usage data.