

December 1, 2020



TLC Recognizes Drivers for Excellence in Safety, Accessibility, and Emergency Food Delivery in Seventh Annual Honor Roll

Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk
Commissioner/Chair
tlccommissioner@tlc.nyc.gov

Allan J. Fromberg
Public Affairs
frombera@tlc.nyc.gov

Rebecca Harshbarger
Public Affairs
harshbargerR@tlc.nyc.gov

33 Beaver Street
22nd Floor
New York, NY 10004

+1 212 676 1013 tel
+1 212 676 1100 fax

NEW YORK -- Today, the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) hosted its seventh annual Honor Roll Ceremony, recognizing the excellent safety records of Drivers, Taxi Fleets and For-Hire Vehicle Bases from across all the industry segments it regulates. The TLC also recognized Drivers for their leadership in providing wheelchair accessible trips, and Drivers that delivered meals to New Yorkers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This was the first time TLC held this ceremony in a virtual format, which gave the TLC the opportunity to celebrate these achievements without delay. The celebration also includes congratulatory messages from TLC's Vision Zero partners, such as New York City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, who chairs the Council's Transportation Committee. You can view the video premiere at 12 PM today on the TLC website at nyc.gov/taxi or view it anytime at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/NYCTaxiChannel>.

Drivers recognized for safety achievements in this year's Honor Roll did not have any safety violations over the past four years and were not involved in any serious collisions. Combined, these honorees completed almost six million trips between 2017 and 2020, illustrating both their commitment to Vision Zero and to serving the riding public in New York City.

NYC TLC-Licensed Drivers are the best in the for-hire transportation industry, said **TLC Commissioner and Chair Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk**. Today, we celebrate all TLC-Licensees with special recognition for those that have gone above and beyond their call of duty. Day in and out, TLC's exemplary Licensees transport passengers of all backgrounds safely and during the worst of the pandemic they ensured New Yorkers were fed. We are especially grateful for all our hero Drivers and Operators."

"As Chair of the City Council Transportation Committee, and as a former livery taxi driver, I want to congratulate all of today's honorees," said **City Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez**. "Thank you, not only for taking care of yourselves and your families, but also for taking care of pedestrians and cyclists."

“These individuals waited long hours in line at the food distribution sites, before spending their entire day delivering meals,” said **New York City Sheriff Joseph Fucito**. “They demonstrated extreme bravery in facing continuously unknown danger and performed wonderful acts of humanity and kindness for those most in need. Thank you.

“Your stellar driving records covering thousands of miles are truly impressive, and so important to the people of this city, and the businesses being honored today have set a great example for the city’s for-hire industry,” said **Noah Genel, Commissioner, New York City Business Integrity Commission**. “Congratulations on your safe driving records and your service to the people of New York. Take pride in being safe, and please, keep it up! You set an example for us all and you make our city a better, safer place to be.”

“While COVID-19 has been difficult and challenging for this city, I commend the TLC drivers for their generosity and for the great work they’re doing in keeping our city moving,” said **Dr. Torian Easterling, First Deputy Commissioner, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene**. “I also want to thank you all specifically for the work you’ve done to deliver food to vulnerable New Yorkers through our GetFoodNYC program.”

“I know that you fully understand and embrace the goals of Vision Zero and how important it is to everyone who drives, walks or bikes in the City of New York,” said **Deputy Chief Michael Pilecki, New York City Policy Department Transportation Bureau**. “On behalf of the NYPD I would like to express my great admiration to each and every one of you, and my profound thanks for your service to NYC.”

“You’ve shown us the best of New York City, and you helped keep our city moving during one of the most difficult times in our history,” said **Julia Kite-Laidlaw, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the NYC Department of Transportation**. “As a Vision Zero city, we’re committed to preventing serious crashes, and you’ve set a wonderful example through your safe and professional driving.”

“We honor the drivers participating in the City Accessible Dispatch service and recognize their achievements in providing wheelchair accessible trips to everyday New Yorkers,” said **Keith Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer, New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS)**. “We know driving is challenging. It all still comes down to the care, caution and commitment of fleet operators and drivers every day, every mile, being alert, driving slowly and respecting those who share the roads with us. I also want to thank everyone who participated in GetFoodNYC, a critical and essential relief program from the harm caused by COVID-19, and you’ve played a huge role in making this initiative successful. NYC Fleets and DCAS were with you every part of the way these past eight months working through the NYC Office of Emergency Management, helping to deliver food relief to millions of New Yorkers.”



Of the safety honorees today, 202 drive Yellow Cabs, 16 drive Green Cabs, 42 are behind the wheel of our Commuter Vans, and 230 work in the For-Hire Vehicle sector, including Community Car Services, Traditional Black Cars, Luxury Limousines and High-Volume Apps.

Here is a closer look at some of the statistical highlights of this year's group of outstanding Drivers and Businesses:

Safest Drivers

- 161 of the 411 total drivers being honored are repeat honorees from previous years.
- 63 drivers are three-time honorees
- 39 Drivers are four-time honorees
- 13 Drivers are five-time honorees
- 2 Drivers are six-time honorees
- One Driver, Howard Kugelman, has been honored every year since the Honor Roll began in 2014
- Honoree speaker Karttik Joadder shared in his remarks the importance of driving carefully and looking out for cyclists, including delivery workers, as well as being vigilant of the bus lane.

Our Safest Drivers represent all five boroughs:

- 159 reside in Queens
- 128 hail from Brooklyn
- 58 call The Bronx their home
- 27 represent Manhattan
- 11 bring honor to their home borough of Staten Island
- 28 live outside New York City

Safest Businesses

Our honorees include:

- Five Yellow Cab Fleets
- Twenty Car Service Bases
- Our Safest Business honorees are located throughout the five boroughs and Yonkers, and none had crashes involving their affiliated vehicles since 2017

- The five safest Yellow Taxi Fleets honored this year have had no crashes involving their affiliated vehicles since 2017
- Safest Business Honoree Scott Rutter of Commonwealth Worldwide spoke of the extensive safety training that drivers complete, as well as financial incentives for safe driving.

Accessibility Leaders

- Through the TLC’s Accessible Dispatch program, passengers citywide receive on-demand wheelchair accessible Yellow or Green Taxi service anywhere in the city.
- One Accessibility Honoree completed more than 250 Accessible Dispatch trips between July 2019 and March 2020.

TLC Emergency Food Delivery

- This year TLC also honored the TLC-licensed drivers who delivered more than 65 million meals this year through GetFoodNYC to the most vulnerable New Yorkers who were unable to get food due to medical or financial challenges, helping them stay home to stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Syed Bukhari, who shared remarks with his fellow Honorees today in our digital celebration, performed almost 800 routes, delivering meals to nearly 5,000 households.

About Vision Zero and the NYC TLC

Mayor Bill de Blasio began the Vision Zero Action Plan in 2014, a comprehensive strategy designed to move the city closer to ending traffic deaths. As one of three lead agencies-- including the NYPD and Department of Transportation-- the TLC has implemented many different safety-focused initiatives, including driver outreach and education, traffic safety enforcement, and recognizing licensees’ commitment to safety in events like today’s Honor Roll ceremony.

Created in 1971, the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission is the largest for-hire vehicle regulatory body in the United States. It licenses over 180,000 drivers, almost 120,000 vehicles, and the businesses that operate and support them.

You can learn more about TLC and the Vision Zero Driver Safety Honor Roll by visiting nyc.gov/taxi.

###