



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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April 25, 2023

TLC Honors the City's 500 Safest Drivers at Celebration in Queens

Agency Holds First in-person Annual Vision Zero Safety Honor Roll Ceremony Since the Pandemic

Queens, NY – The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission honored 500 of its safest drivers at a ceremony in Queens today, as well as bases, fleets, and accessibility leaders for their outstanding safety, service, and commitment to providing transportation for those who use wheelchairs.

“Our taxi and for-hire drivers are the lifeblood that keep New York City’s heart pumping, and these honorees do it all with top-notch professionalism and safety first,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “In a bustling city, filled with people that are constantly on the go, we all too often forget to thank the men and women who get us where we need to go safely, and I’m thrilled we are taking the time today to do just that. I want to extend my utmost gratitude to every single honoree for doing such a great job keeping New York City moving and out of harm’s way. Your hard work is an achievement that you and your family’s should be proud of. I know I am.”

All 500 of the drivers, who represent every borough and 78 nations of origin, have gone four or more years without crashes involving a fatality or injury, have no traffic violations and no violations of TLC safety-related rules. Collectively, they have completed 7.4 million trips since January 1, 2019.

“The TLC Honor Roll represents the absolute safest drivers on the planet. Full time professional driving in NYC is a skill and these are the masters,” said **Deputy Mayor Meera Joshi**. “Thanks to the hard work of Commissioner Do and the entire TLC team this event is now back in person, bringing together TLC licensees and their families to celebrate all the great work they do.”

“Most New Yorkers take it for granted that when they enter a TLC-licensed vehicle that they will have a safe, uneventful trip,” said **TLC Commissioner David Do**. “Our Honor Roll drivers embody the commitment and care underlying that confidence, and I am so proud of them.”

This year’s Safest Driver honoree, Patricia Ramirez, has been a TLC driver for 6 years, and has a spotless record from both TLC and the State DMV. In 2022, she completed 2,393 trips. Staten Island’s Matamoros Car Service is the Safest Base, with only one crash last year out of a fleet of 21 vehicles.



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“These drivers are Vision Zero heroes. As a former taxi driver myself, I’m always impressed by TLC’s honorees, whose upmost professionalism and commitment to safety set an example for New Yorkers,” **said NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez**. “The DOT is proud to partner with TLC on educational programming to promote safe driving and we congratulate this year’s honor roll.”

“These drivers operate their vehicles responsibly every time they get behind the wheel because they – like all the people we serve – understand that traffic safety is public safety,” **said NYPD Chief of Transportation Kim Y. Royster**. “We commend and thank these women and men for their professionalism and commitment to safety, and for embodying the ideals that make New York City a destination for people from around the world to live, work, and visit.”

“Today, we honor drivers who get New Yorkers where they need to go – safely – each and every day,” **said NYC Council Majority Whip Selvena N. Brooks-Powers**, Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. “These honorees have demonstrated a commitment to road safety and act as an example to which all New York’s road users should aspire. I celebrate their service, and I thank Commissioner Do and the TLC team for their work to uplift these drivers.”

The gathering, which was held at the Queens Theater in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, was the 9th in the Honor Roll’s history, and the first in-person ceremony since 2019. Ceremonies during the pandemic were held remotely, and included special recognitions for drivers who had provided transportation for the City’s emergency workers as well facilitating vaccinations.

2022 Honor Roll: By the Numbers

What They Drive:

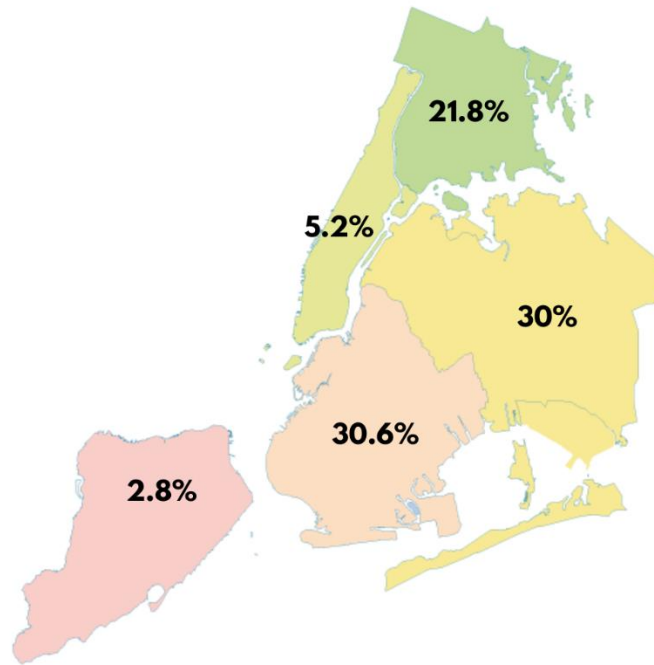
35 Yellow taxi drivers

465 for-hire vehicle drivers

Fleets and Bases:

A total of **35** yellow taxi fleets, car services, and luxury limousine bases made Honor Roll

Where They Live



On an Honor Roll Roll:

8

The number of times Taxi Driver Howard Kugelman has been honored!

Female Honorees:

14

Accessibility Achievements

850,000

Number of trips our accessibility honorees have completed since the start of the Citywide Dispatch Program in 2017

400

The number of trips one of our accessibility honorees completed in 2022.



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About Vision Zero and the NYC TLC:

The Vision Zero Action Plan, launched in 2014, is a comprehensive strategy designed to move the city closer to ending traffic fatalities. As one of three lead agencies—along with the NYPD and Department of Transportation—dedicated to achieving Vision Zero, the TLC has implemented many different safety-focused initiatives, including driver education, enforcement, and recognizing the safest drivers. You can learn about the Vision Zero initiatives by visiting [TLC's Vision Zero page](#). The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission is the largest for-hire vehicle regulatory body in the United States, created in 1971. It regulates over 100,000 drivers, more than 96,000 vehicles, and the businesses that operate and support them. To find out more about the TLC, we encourage you to visit our official website nyc.gov/taxi.

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