



## NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Industry Notice #00-20

May 2000

#### TLC & MAYOR'S COMMISSION TO COMBAT FAMILY VIOLENCE PROVIDE 9-1-1 ONLY CELLULAR TELEPHONES TO FOR-HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) is pleased to announce that the P.H.O.N.E.S. (People Helping Others in Need of Emergency Services) program, a project of the Mayor's Commission to Combat Family Violence, will make 9-1-1 cellular telephones available to livery drivers to enhance their personal safety. Also recently announced by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani was an extension of the date by which the public may donate cellular telephones and chargers to May 15. Aside from enhancing the safety of livery drivers, the program is designed to enhance the safety of victims of domestic violence, senior citizens, and many others who would benefit from having immediate 9-1-1 access.

#### DETAILS OF 9-1-1 CELL PHONES FOR DRIVERS PROGRAM

Licensed livery drivers who do not have cellular telephones can call the TLC to register to receive a cellular phone, reprogrammed for 9-1-1 only access by Bell Atlantic. In addition to the phone, recipients will receive a charger, a rechargeable battery and instructions on the phone's use and care.

To participate in this program drivers must possess valid TLC and DMV licenses. In addition, vehicle owner/operators must hold a valid TLC vehicle permit.

Drivers interested in obtaining a cellular telephone should call **(212) 676-1056** Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Hours of distribution are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Those interested in donating used cellular telephones should call the P.H.O.N.E.S. Program at **(212) 788-7878** for instructions and drop-off sites.