



# NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Industry Notice #02-29](#)

[November 18, 2002](#)

### **WAITING TIME AT LONG ISLAND CITY ADJUDICATIONS TRIBUNAL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED DUE TO NEW TLC PROCEDURES**

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) announces the continuation of a Pilot Program which began on August 1, 2002 to streamline Adjudications procedures and enhance service to visitors of the Long Island City Adjudications Facility, located at (32-02 Queens Boulevard, Long Island City, N.Y. 11101). Pending the final outcome of the Pilot Program, the amendments may be subject to further modification.

#### **I. Bond Requirements Waived**

Any respondent appearing for a hearing at the Long Island City Adjudications Facility who is not on suspension may proceed to the hearing without filing a credential (Hack License, FHV Operator's Permit, Owner's Permit) in accordance with TLC Rule 8-11(a) but MUST have their credential available. Pursuant to TLC Rule 8-11(e), respondents are required to pay any assessed fine immediately following the hearing. Any respondent who fails to pay following the hearing will be placed on suspension and will be further directed to surrender their licensing credential until payment is made.

#### **II. Guilty Plea Window**

The TLC has changed procedures for respondents who wish to plead guilty. This was accomplished by opening a window to expedite the processing of guilty pleas. Previously, all respondents were required to appear before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) in a hearing room, including those wishing to plead guilty. Now, an ALJ is stationed at the guilty plea window to expedite all respondents wishing to plead guilty - thereby significantly reducing the waiting time to plead guilty. The window is on the 3rd floor at the Long Island City facility and operates between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and between 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### **III. Expedited Processing of Decisions and Shorter Waiting Periods**

In 1999, the TLC estimated the average waiting time for a respondent wishing to have a hearing at Long Island City to be over 3 hours (waiting time does not include the time spent in the hearing room with the ALJ). A recent survey conducted in October 2002 at the Long Island City hearing section revealed that the average waiting time has been reduced to under 30 minutes. The TLC has accomplished this goal in part by the waiver of the pre-hearing bond and in part by distributing the ALJ's decision to the respondent immediately following the hearing. The TLC is working on additional changes to further reduce waiting time, including a process by which respondents will be able to submit a written defense instead of having to appear for a hearing.