



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

MARK G. PETERS
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

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**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
NICOLE TURSO
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF TAXI DRIVER
CHARGED WITH FALSIFYING DRIVING RECORD TO AVOID SUSPENSION OF TLC LICENSE**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a Taxi and Limousine Commission ("TLC") licensed taxi driver charged with allegedly altering a New York State Department of Motor Vehicle ("NYS DMV") Driving Abstract to reflect a reduction in points for various driving violations and submitting that abstract at a TLC hearing to avoid having his license with the agency revoked. The driver, JOHNNY LOUIS, had accumulated 18 points over 15 months for violations, including speeding, failure to stop at a stop sign, and disobeying a traffic device, according to the charges. A TLC prosecutor referred the case to DOI upon learning of the conduct. The office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This taxi driver not only manipulated his state driving record to avoid the suspension of his TLC license, according to the charges, but time and again, ignored the rules of the road and jeopardized the safety of other drivers and pedestrians. Other drivers should take heed of this case and appreciate the conduct that is expected of New York City's taxi drivers."

LOUIS, 33, of New York, N.Y., was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, which upon conviction, is punishable by up to seven years in prison. LOUIS' TLC license has been revoked.

According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, LOUIS submitted a NYS DMV Driving Abstract dated November 20, 2016 at a TLC hearing regarding the possible revocation of his TLC license that had been altered to show a reduction in points on the dates of two of his convictions, May 26, 2016 for "Speed in Zone," and July 8, 2015 for "Speeding," by an amount of four points and two points, respectively. Investigators found the Abstract submitted appeared to have been copied multiple times and the New York State seal in the background of each page was faded. An official DMV Abstract did not reflect the same reduction in points on LOUIS' license. LOUIS had 18 points on his driver's license, which would have led to the suspension of his TLC license. The alleged altered Abstract reduced the points enough that LOUIS' TLC license would not have been suspended.

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, TLC Commissioner Meera Joshi and their staffs, and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Executive Deputy Commissioner Terri Egan, for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission, specifically Special Investigator Deirdre Senft, under the supervision of Inspector General Shannon Manigault, Assistant Commissioner Michael Healy, Deputy Commissioner/Chief

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of Investigations Michael Carroll and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner. DOI was assisted by New York State Department of Motor Vehicle Investigators Eric Hecker and Christopher Hollister.

The case is being prosecuted by the Queens County District Attorney's Office, specifically Assistant District Attorney Theresa Smith.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

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