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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Industry Notice #02-34
December 31, 2002

NOTICE TO THE TAXICAB INDUSTRY REGARDING NEW YEAR’S EVE CONDUCT

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission’s (TLC) regulated industries for the outstanding job they have done this past year. Through your hard work and dedication, consumer complaints have fallen to their lowest level in a decade. Drivers are more courteous, and through the TLC’s new positive reinforcement program, they are receiving the recognition they deserve. That said, however, it remains possible that there may be certain drivers who believe “anything goes” on New Year’s Eve. These drivers may find it tempting to conduct themselves in an unprofessional manner and partake in illegal activities, such as soliciting trips with their Off-Duty light on, overcharging, or refusing passengers. The penalties for these illegal activities are appropriately stringent, and range from monetary fines to the mandatory suspension and/or revocation of TLC licenses.

TLC licensees should be aware that the agency will conduct “Operation: Nightwatch” on New Year’s Eve, an initiative that will include the enforcement of both TLC and traffic laws. The TLC’s Call Center will remain open on New Year’s Eve until 2 a.m. to answer questions from the riding public, take complaints and communicate vital information to TLC enforcement personnel in the field.

New Year’s Eve is an opportunity for the TLC’s regulated industries to enjoy one of the most lucrative and busy nights of the year. Your success will be ensured if you drive carefully, obey the law, and serve your customers well.

Please accept our most sincere wishes for your safety and success in 2003 and beyond.