FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TLC ANNOUNCES SWEEPING IMPROVEMENTS TO DRIVER LICENSE APPLICATION PROCESS
“EZLicense” Pilot Program to Expedite Applicants For TLC Driver Licenses Faster & Easier Than Ever Before

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) has authorized a pilot program, effective immediately, that will allow new taxicab driver license applicants to take a condensed, three-day (24-hour) training course, rather than the current 80-hour required course. This course will feature an eight-hour module focusing on each of the following: Rules and Regulations, Geography and Driver/Passenger Relations. In addition to completing the 24-hour course, students will be required to pass an English Proficiency Test and Final Examination on taxi-related subjects.

To allow more flexibility in the application process, the TLC will allow, for purposes of this pilot program, new applicants to sit for the exam at any time during the four-month application period whether they have taken the course or not. The new course, however, must be completed in full prior to licensure. Each applicant will be permitted to sit for the examination twice per application file with the TLC. Students may take the examination at the designated school of their choice, regardless of the school that they have chosen for the 24-hour course.

The 24-hour course will cost $105, which includes all pertinent study materials. In addition, students will pay their chosen school $25 for each examination sitting. This pilot program could result in cost savings of up to $195 from the current tuition fees for students who pass the Final Examination the first time.

The current 80-hour course, at a fee of $325 including study materials and two examination sittings, will continue to be available at Master Cabbie Taxi Academy and HANAC New York City Taxi Academy for those who wish to take it.

The TLC has authorized three schools to offer the new 24-hour course:

- **HANAC N.Y.C. Taxi Academy**
  - 29-28 41st Avenue, 3rd Fl, 11101
  - Tel: 718-433-0493

- **LaGuardia Community College Taxi and FHV Driver Institute**
  - 31-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, NY, 11101
  - Tel: 718-432-5335

- **Master Cabbie Taxi Academy (A DriverOne Company)**
  - 24-05 Jackson Avenue, Long Island City, NY, 11101
  - Tel: 718-472-1699

For those who wish to self-study and take the Final Examination before completing the course, each of the above schools will offer supplemental training materials, designed as an independent study guide for the final examination, for a fee of $25.

In addition to the above reforms, the TLC is pleased to announce that the following documents or processes will no longer be required prior to submitting an application for either a medallion taxicab or for-hire vehicle operator’s license:

- Photographs (TLC takes photographs on-site.)
- Collared shirts or blouse requirement for photograph.
- N.Y.S.-certified Defensive Driving Course (course may be completed at any time before a license is issued.)
- Fingerprinting for those licensees, with current fingerprints on file, seeking a different class of TLC license.

For more information on this pilot program and the revisions to licensing procedures, log onto the TLC’s official website, [www.NYC.gov/taxi](http://www.NYC.gov/taxi), or call the TLC’s Customer Service Hotline at 311.