

LICENSEE LEADERS

DEC 2023

HATUEY MOYALUNA

Community

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission’s (TLC) Licensee Leaders is a media program that highlights the stories and voices of TLC’s community of drivers and other licensees, amplifying leadership in accessibility, customer service, and safe driving.



Licensee Leaders’ monthly program engages the TLC community through long and short-form features. The series also recognizes citywide and national awareness months while celebrating the viewpoints of our licensees as they relate to culture and heritage, industry, and safety.

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TLC's Licensee Leaders programming recognizes and salutes New York City's taxi and for-hire vehicle (FHV) drivers and their dedication to road traffic safety and excellence in customer service.

Drivers represent the heart of a pivotal transportation industry in a City that is in motion 24/7 constantly focused on progress.



To close out the year, TLC speaks with December 2023 *Licensee Leader* Hatuey Moyaluna, a Dominican Republic native and FHV driver based in the Bronx.

An electric vehicle (EV) owner and enthusiast, Moyaluna shares his thoughts on intelligent vehicle technology and the importance of supporting a clean environment.

INTRODUCTION



Driver Spotlight

Hatuey Moyaluna

TLC: Where are you from and what first brought you to New York?

Hatuey Moyaluna: I am originally from the Dominican Republic. I have been living in the U.S. for six years, in the Bronx.

My son was born here, and I came with him. There is not much economic stability in my country, the Dominican Republic.

It took some time to get adjusted, but I am used to big cities like NYC.

TLC: When did you first become licensed by the TLC? What led to that choice?

HM: Around 2019. I had recently arrived to this country. I got my license and saw the chance to grow in this community. Being an FHV driver gives me the ability to dedicate more time to my family.

TLC: At the beginning, did you encounter any difficulties? If yes, what did you learn from them?

HM: Yes, I had many challenges: the language, the traffic, the laws, but I overcame everything. When I first started driving, licensed by TLC, I was very nervous since I knew very little English and did not know my way around the city that well. On one of my first trips, in the end, it was the passenger that actually guided me to their destination. I even have a photo with him.

The most important thing I learned from driving in NYC has been patience. You have to always be very patient.

TLC: Tell us about the vehicle you drive.

HM: I drive a Volkswagen. It's a model ID.4, year 2021. It's a fully electric car. I don't think that there are any vehicles out there that can compare. An electric vehicle is like driving an airplane. Everything is electronic. And it's an intelligent vehicle.

The only complaint that I have – though not about the vehicle but rather on the city – is that there are very few EV charging stations.



TLC's Office of Community Affairs met Moyaluna in Midtown Manhattan

TLC: How does an electric vehicle (EV) compare to a gas-powered one, in your opinion?

HM: Previously, I used to drive a Toyota Camry 2015. The differences are enormous. During the winter, I no longer have to heat or warm up my car in order to drive it.

Everything is done intelligently and electronically. The lights go on automatically, the system tells you where the nearest charger is located, and it sends you updates and information.

TLC: What are some of the smart features of your vehicle?

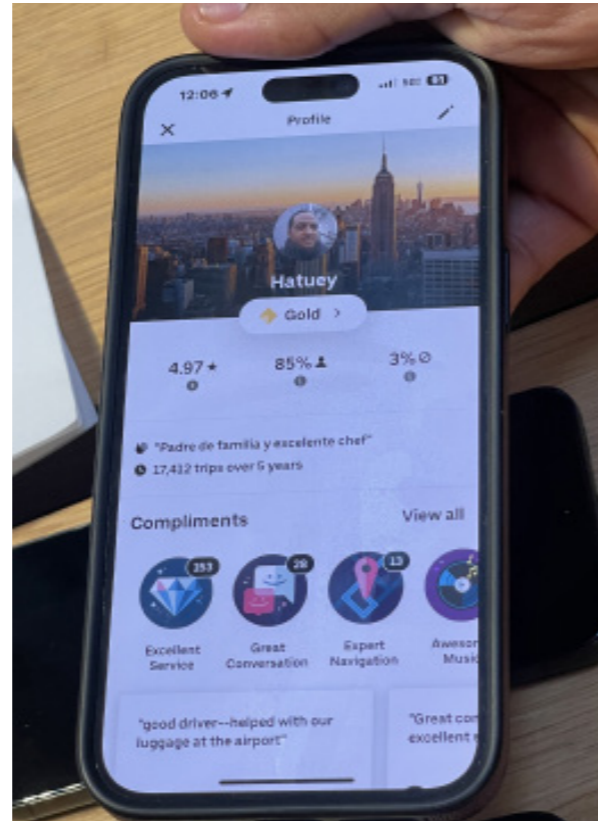
HM: First of all, the safety features. It detects the amount of space between your vehicle and other vehicles. And safety sensors are able to automatically engage the brakes. The most important feature is the added safety. Also, it tells you where the chargers are located depending on the city you are located in. And possibly the most intelligent thing is that there is a built-in translator that answers you in the language of your choice, and you can even use it to have conversations.

TLC: Where do you typically charge your vehicle?

HM: I always go to a fast-charging station. There's one I go to located in New Rochelle, in White Plains, and at JFK.



A Bronx resident, Moyaluna often works in the Borough of Manhattan



Moyaluna prides himself on high ratings he receives from passengers

TLC: How long does a full charge last?

HM: More than one day.

TLC: And how long does it take to fully charge your EV?

HM: I always charge it before I start working. To reach a full charge, it depends on the time of the year. For example, during the summer, it takes about 30 minutes to fully charge. During the fall and winter, it takes me up to 1 hour. That's for a fast charger.



SAFETY SENSORS ARE ABLE TO AUTOMATICALLY ENGAGE THE BRAKES.

IT TELLS YOU WHERE THE CHARGERS ARE LOCATED, DEPENDING THE CITY.

AND POSSIBLY THE MOST INTELLIGENT THING IS THAT THERE IS A BUILT-IN TRANSLATOR...

YOU CAN EVEN USE IT TO HAVE CONVERSATIONS.





“ AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE IS LIKE DRIVING AN AIRPLANE. ”
EVERYTHING IS ELECTRONIC AND IT'S AN INTELLIGENT VEHICLE.

FHV driver Moyaluna appreciates the safety features and fast charging of his EV

However, if it's a regular or slow charging station, it could take from 4 to 10 hours to fully charge.

TLC: How important, for you, is contributing to a cleaner environment?

HM: We must conserve the environment and its biodiversity. It's where we are living. If we don't have a clean environment, how are we going to breathe and how are we going to live? So far, I think electric vehicles are one of the best creations to reduce carbon emissions.

I think every New Yorker must contribute to it to have a better life.

TLC: Is it exciting for you to see a greater EV presence in the City?

HM: It's good because the more EVs, the more we can breathe better. It's a big city and it is very congested and polluted.

TLC: Are there any other EVs you'd like to drive in the future?

HM: Of course, the Porsche [Taycan sport sedan].

TLC: What do you value most about being self-employed?

HM: Well, so far, I'm doing good now. I have my own car and my own TLC license plate. Before, when I drove a rental car, it was very difficult for me to pay, and I did not have much time for my family. But now, I have more time to spend with my family and I love my work.

TLC: What do you enjoy about engaging with your customers?

HM: Well, something I do is I treat them well. I treat them the way I want to be treated. I greet them "good morning" and "good afternoon."

I always keep my car clean, and I put on music according to their tastes or what they might like. If they talk to me, I talk to them. It depends on the customer.

TLC: Lastly, what advice do you have for fellow drivers in NYC?

HM: The last advice that I can give, from the bottom of my heart, is to keep up with the City's laws and TLC's rules. Have respect for vehicle and traffic laws, especially the "STOP" sign and for pedestrians.

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity and length.

Moyaluna emphasizes courtesy in engaging with passengers and safety in navigating the City



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SO FAR, I THINK ELECTRIC VEHICLES ARE ONE OF THE BEST CREATIONS TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS.



THANK YOU



TO GENERAL
TECUMSEH SHERMAN
JANUARY 4, 1820
FEBRUARY 11, 1891
NEW YORK