



TLC TIMES

Commissioner's Corner	Page 1
Garden In Transit	Page 1
A Summer to Remember	Page 3
TLC Medallion Auction	Page 3
USB Graduating Class	Page 4

Michael R. Bloomberg, *Mayor* Matthew W. Daus, *Commissioner/Chairman*

Commissioner's Corner

By Matthew W. Daus



One of the matters foremost on the minds of those of our regulated industries this summer is the high price of fuel. I must regretfully inform our readers that the taxicab industry petitions – exclusively requesting various types of fuel surcharges – were rejected in early July, as I do not believe it is in the best interests of both the industry and the riding public to add more “surcharges” to the taximeter. While we sympathize with the legitimate concerns of our hardworking drivers about the increased fuel costs they must bear, the next TLC fare increase will address rising fuel prices. The price of fuel is one of several expenses that may individually decrease or increase over time, and must be analyzed to determine whether the overall levels of driver and owner income are appropriate and sufficient. While gasoline costs have risen, the average level of driver income remains within the amounts targeted by the last fare increase in 2004 – where the TLC built-in “extra cushion” to prepare for situations such as this.

On a more positive note, there was much fanfare and media attention devoted to the outcome of the recent medallion sales. The record prices and robust bidding are certainly an indication of both confidence and support for the future of New York City and its taxicab industry. First, it was nice to see the tangible evidence of our outreach efforts to prospective bidders – attracting many more bidders than medallions offered for sale.

Continued on pg.3



Mayor Bloomberg welcomes members of “Children For Children” who will participate in the volunteer effort.



Planting a “Garden In Transit” are Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (3rd from left) and (left to right) TLC Board members Noach Dear, Elias Arout, Edward Gonzales, Howard Vargas, and Chairman Daus.



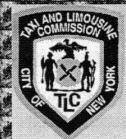
Commissioner Daus and Mayor Bloomberg discuss the massive art project.

Planting a “Garden In Transit”

In celebration of the centennial of the metered taxicab, New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg recently announced that the Design Trust for Public Space's TAXI 07 project and a private-funded, but *very public* art project would partner to combine taxicabs, children, and the healing power of art. Beginning September 2006, the project would unite school-age children, including children that are ill or disabled, along with thousands of volunteers from corporations and community programs in painting large, colorful flowers onto decals that will be placed onto thousands of yellow medallion taxicabs.

Continued on pg.2





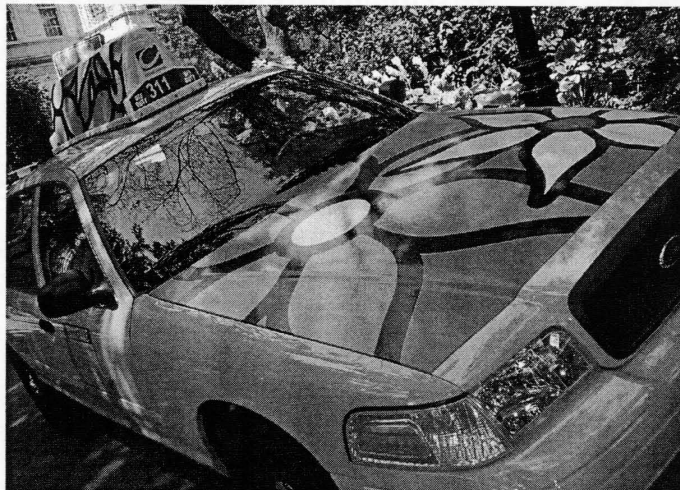
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Commissioner's Corner	Page 1
Garden In Transit	Page 1
A Summer to Remember	Page 3
TLC Medallion Auction	Page 3
USB Graduating Class	Page 4

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and the TLC Plant a "Garden in Transit"

This is what it will look like.



Continued from pg.1

With the help of the Mayor's Volunteer Center, the Taxi and Limousine Commission, and a gamut of City agencies and leading taxi industry organizations, the decorated cabs will constitute a mobile art exhibit that will have its "run" between September and December 2007. "Garden in Transit" is the latest concept of Ed and Bernie Massey, founders of *Portraits of Hope*, a public art, creative therapy and educational program for hospitalized and physically disabled children.

While many children and volunteers who do not face illness or disabilities will be taking part in this particular effort, those children who will be participating that are disabled or ill will have available to them a series of specially designed paintbrushes and tools including shoe paintbrushes, telescope brushes and flavored mouth brushes.

"From the silver screen to our City's street corners, our yellow cabs are an essential part of the New York experience and our daily life, and now our City's children will have the opportunity to use them as their canvas," said Mayor Bloomberg. "'Garden in Transit' will be a great way for New Yorkers of all ages to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the metered taxi. The mobility of this innovative project is particularly exciting as New Yorkers and visitors across the City will be able to see works created by volunteers, largely children, temporarily adorning one of the City's most iconic symbols - the yellow cab. With our unbeatable cultural and recreational attractions, it's no wonder that visitors are coming here in record numbers. By hosting these kinds of imaginative and inspiring events we are both enhancing our landscape and aiding our economy. We look forward to this unique installation, and we thank Bernie and Ed Massey for bringing this exciting project to New York City."

"No other city's taxis are more celebrated or internationally recognized than the yellow cabs that ride the streets of New York City," said TLC Commissioner Daus. "Combining the healing power of art with the talents of enthusiastic children is just a wonderful way to celebrate this milestone year for New York City's iconic yellow taxicabs. We are delighted to receive these beautiful mobile gifts, which will renew focus on our taxicabs on and above our City streets."

The "Garden in Transit" project was approved unanimously by the TLC's Board of Commissioners at its last public meeting, which allows for the painting of the panels for the project to commence in September 2006. The painting process will last approximately one year, and will culminate in the installation of the panels beginning in September 2007. A preview of the installation will take place during the New York International Auto Show in April 2007, and the installation itself will be on display for a total of sixteen weeks ending in December 2007. For more information on how to volunteer and participate, contact 311 or visit www.nyc.gov.

From left to right, taxi drivers Serigne Tall, Mohammad Miah, Newton and Ardella Adegbo, James Griego, Michael Bree, Umar Tahiru, Manjit Singh and Yosef Rosner join Mayor Bloomberg (center) in celebrating "Garden In Transit".

