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## **TLC ENFORCEMENT SETS A RECORD FOR ILLEGAL LIVERY SEIZURES**

New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission officers – aka *New York's Proudest* – have another reason to be proud today, thanks to a record-setting month of illegal vehicle seizures. One crucial aspect of the TLC's enforcement mission is to seize – or take possession of – vehicles that are not licensed by the TLC, but are illegally used as bogus livery vehicles. The TLC's Enforcement Bureau reports that it finished the month of January 2013 with 849 seizures. The prior seizure record – 719 seizures - was set in January 1998.

Aside from the fact that illegal liveries poach business from hardworking, legitimate taxicab and livery drivers, these vehicles and their potentially unlicensed drivers pose a serious safety risk to riders who patronize them.

“At best, these illegal vehicles and their drivers are stealing from legitimately licensed taxis and liveries,” said TLC Commissioner David Yassky. “But at worst, they are potentially unlicensed, anonymous drivers with underinsured, inadequate vehicles.

“Our officers perform a crucial public service by taking these vehicles off the road and disrupting their illegal activities, and they're doing it more efficiently every day.”

Aside from the \$180 tow fee that violators must pay for redeeming their impounded vehicles, fines for illegal livery activity can go as high as \$1,500.

While the Enforcement Division grows more technically proficient on a daily basis at seizing the offending vehicles, the agency is also benefitting from additional resources, having added more than 100 new officers in the past year, honoring a commitment made to its regulated industries.