

# Addressing Illegal Street Hails

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## Briefing to the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission

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# Existing Conditions: Laws

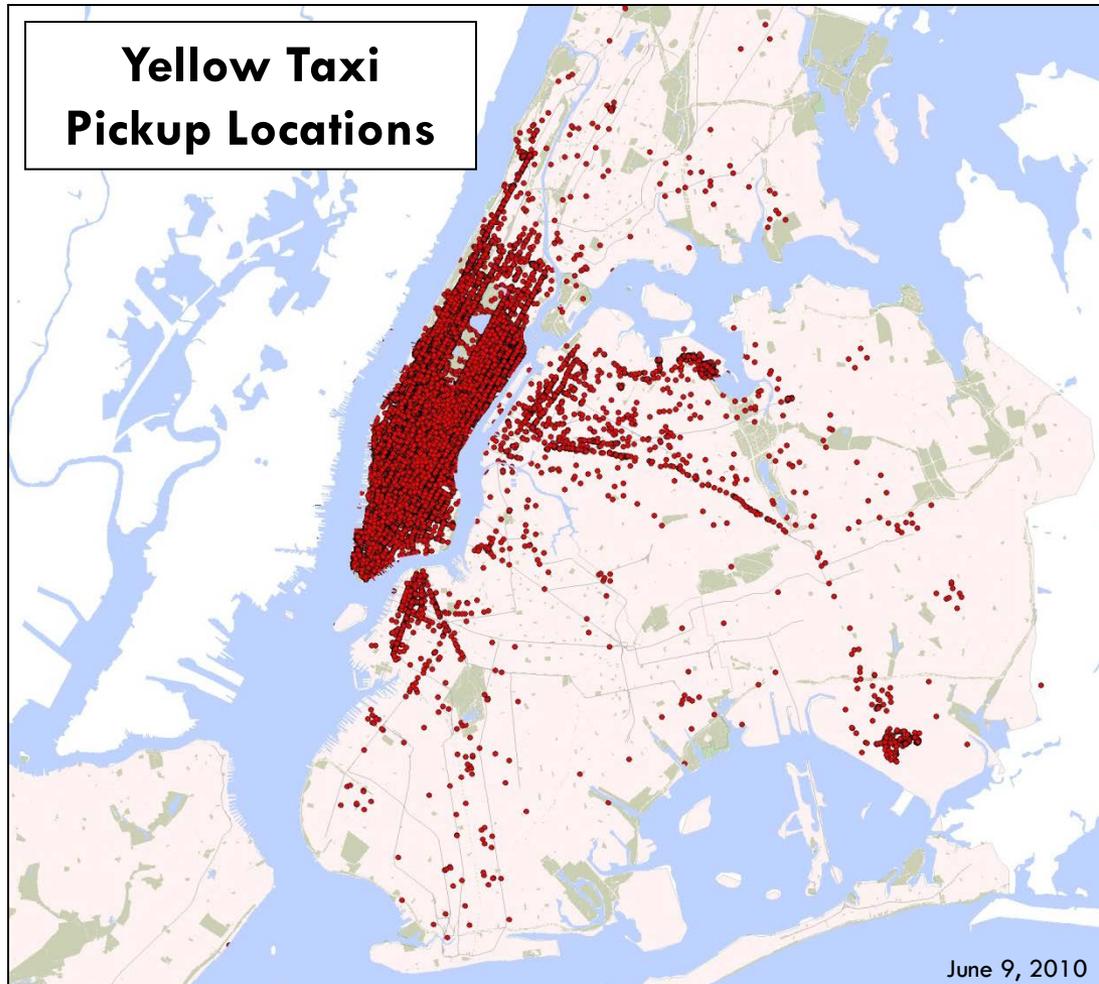
- Only yellow taxis may pick up street hails
- Liveries may only pick up by prearrangement
  - If caught doing illegal street hails, both drivers and vehicle owners face penalties.

	<b>Drivers*</b>	<b>Owners</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> offense	\$350	\$100
2 <sup>nd</sup> offense	\$500 (within 24 months)	\$200
3 <sup>rd</sup> offense	Revocation (within 36 months)	\$300, increasing by \$100 for each subsequent violation, to \$10,000 max within license term

\*City Council considering raising fine up to \$500 for 1<sup>st</sup> offense, up to \$1000 for 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, and up to \$1,000 for 3<sup>rd</sup> offense.

- Bases must maintain and enforce policies to prevent affiliated drivers and vehicles from accepting street hails.
  - No penalty for base unless it has been proven that it does not have or enforce a street-hail policy; if proven, base is suspended pending compliance.

# Existing Conditions: Virtually No Legal Hail Service Outside Manhattan

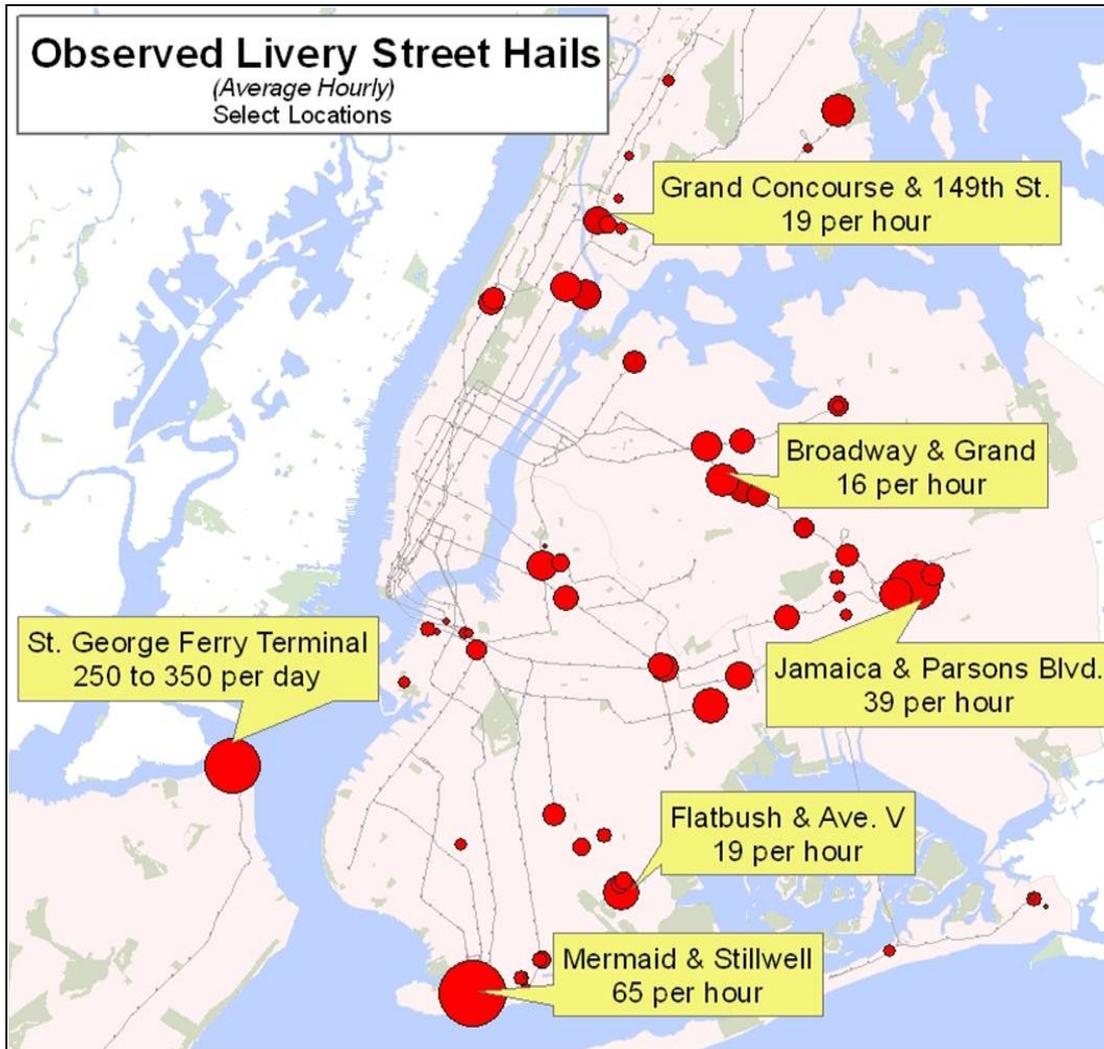


97% of yellow taxi pickups are in Manhattan or at airports

Yellow Taxi Pickups	
Manhattan	94%
Airports (JFK + LGA)	3%
<b>Manhattan + Airports</b>	<b>97%</b>
Bronx	0.1%
Brooklyn	1.5%
Queens (not at airports)	1.4%
Staten Island	0%
<b>4 Boroughs (excludes airports)</b>	<b>3%</b>
New York City	100%

8 sample days from past 12 months.

# Existing Conditions: Observation Data Demonstrates Prevalence of Illegal Hail Activity



TLC field teams have observed high volumes of illegal street hails at:

- Subway stations
- Shopping areas
- Nightlife districts

# Existing Conditions: Dispatch Data Suggest “Phony Bases” Business Model

- 30% of bases failed to respond to a recent TLC directive requesting a tally of their dispatch calls
- 42% of responding bases reported fewer than 10 calls per car per day; 29% reported 5 or fewer
- Many bases reported “round numbers” (e.g., exactly 2,500 calls in Dec., exactly 3000 calls in Jan.) – not credible as an actual record of calls

# Why Illegal Street Hails are a Problem

- Passenger Safety

- Hailing passengers unknowingly enter wholly unlicensed vehicles, where drivers and vehicles may not be up to TLC standards.
- Even licensed liveries do not carry insurance for street hails.

- Unfair Competition

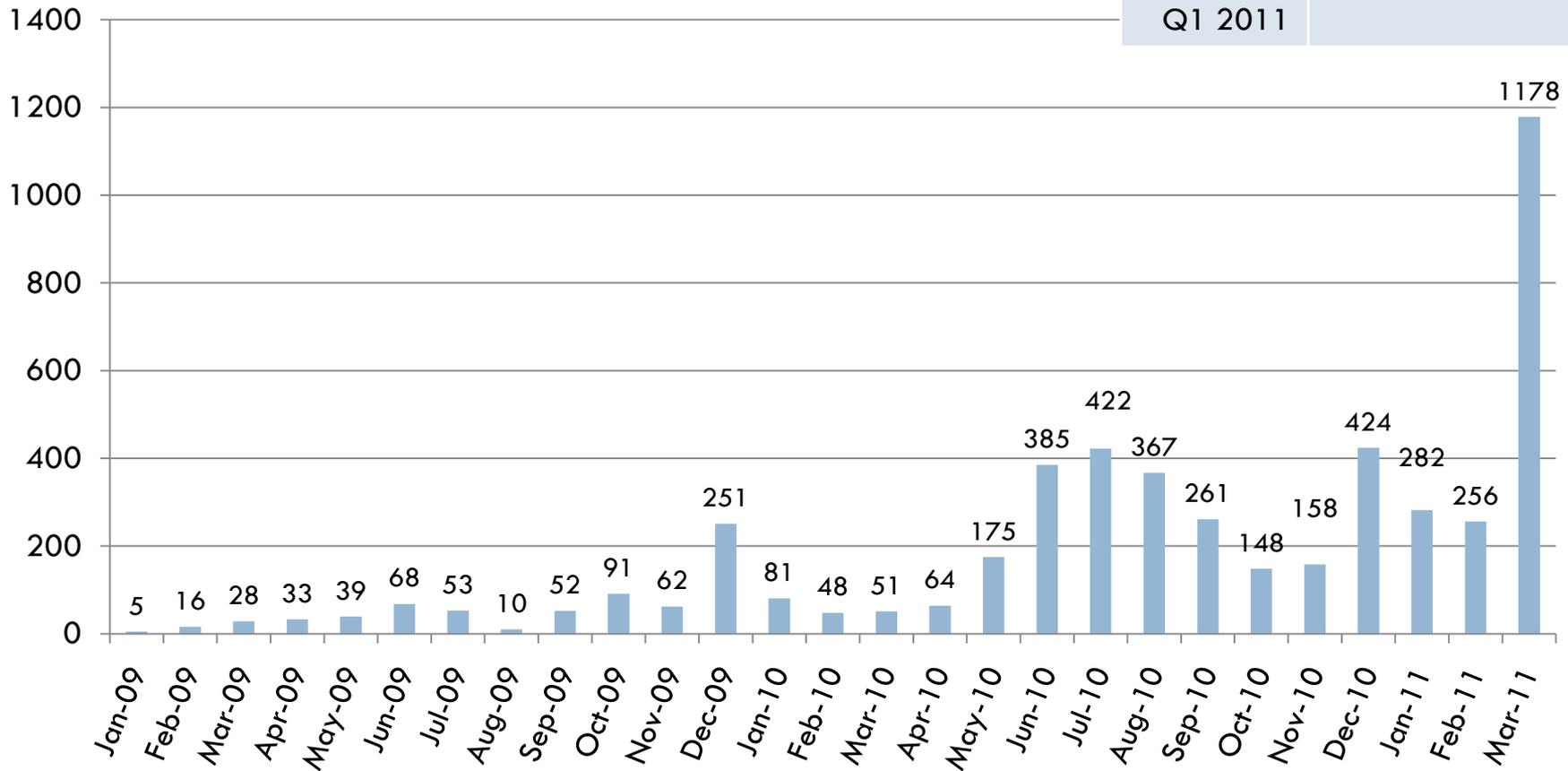
- Legal operators who follow the rules (yellow taxis) should not face competition from vehicles operating illegally.

# Solution:

## Field Enforcement Against Illegal Street Hails

### Street Hail Summonses Issued to Drivers

Year	Street Hail Summonses
2009	708
2010	2,584
Q1 2011	1,716



# Solution:

## New Tools for Enforcement

Tool	Existing Condition	Proposed Change
<p><b>“Runners” Bill</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Suspects flee TLC enforcement officers</li> <li>-TLC officers try to track down suspect by contacting the base</li> <li>-Very limited capacity to take action against unaffiliated vehicles until next car stop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Criminal fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment up to 120 days</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TLC civil fine of \$200 to \$1,500</li> </ul>
<p><b>Scofflaw Penalties</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TLC seeks forfeiture of vehicle after being caught doing unlicensed activity 3 times in 3 years</li> <li>-Vehicle is returned after payment of just 1 fine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TLC seeks forfeiture of vehicle after being caught 2 times in 3 years</li> <li>-Owner of forfeited vehicle must pay all TLC fines to get vehicle back</li> </ul>
<p><b>Hand-helds</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TLC enforcement agents write tickets by hand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hand-held electronic devices expedite and increase accuracy of ticket-writing</li> </ul>

## Solution:

# Include Bases in Accountability for Street Hails

### Proposed TLC rule change:

- New fine of \$100 per incident to the base that affiliates offending vehicle
- Base would then have incentive to:
  - Prevent its drivers from doing illegal street hails
  - Not affiliate drivers who will not obey the law