

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Commerce Gets Tough: Operation Zero Tolerance Underway ***Mayor Healy Says Policy is Part of Citywide Quality of Life Enhancements***

JERSEY CITY—**Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** announced this week that the Division of Commerce will be implementing a “**Zero Tolerance Policy**” for taxi cab drivers and owners who fail to observe the law.

A continuation of Mayor Healy’s Quality of Life Initiative aimed at improving the everyday life of city residents, commerce inspectors have begun to take the necessary steps in weeding out the worst offenders.

“Our Zero Tolerance Policy applies to all aspects of life, including taxi service,” said **Mayor Healy**. “We want our residents to be proud of where they live and to know that the city takes their concerns seriously.”

Regulations that the Division of Commerce imposes for taxi cab drivers and which they will be inspecting as part of the Zero Tolerance Policy include:

- Taxi cabs **must have** a functional spare tire.
- Drivers are **not allowed** to leave their vehicles unattended while they solicit fares.
- Senior citizens are entitled a discount of **up to 50 %** on weekends and during off-peak hours.
- Additional passengers are **not allowed** into the taxi without the consent of the original passenger.

Mayor Healy said passengers are encouraged to report a driver’s failure to comply with taxi rules to the Division of Commerce, and should note their registration number which must be displayed in the taxi cab.

“Ultimately, the owner has the responsibility and duty to ensure that the vehicle is properly maintained and that the driver follows all local, state and federal laws,” said **Commerce Director Paul Barna**.

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Barna added that most drivers are now complying with the necessary standards. He attributed the positive turnaround to increased vigilance by the general public, who have become more educated and knowledgeable of their rights.

“The majority of these drivers are doing their jobs,” said **Robert Antonicello, Acting Director of Housing, Economic Development and Commerce**. “A few ‘bad apples’ are doing a disservice to the rest of the hard-working cabbies in our city. Our Zero Tolerance Policy will benefit both the drivers and their fares. Drivers doing their job have nothing to worry about.”

Patrons with questions or complaints are urged to call the Commerce Hotline at (201) 547-4232.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-686-7244.///