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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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New York Taxi Workers Alliance Files Federal Lawsuit Against NYC TLC Over New Technology Program, Which Includes a GPS Tracking System

Class Action Suit Says TLC's Plan to Place GPS Tracking Software on all Taxi Meters is an Invasion of Privacy and a Violation of Taxi Drivers' Constitutional Right to their Property

New York, September 19, 2007--- The New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA), which represents over 10,000 taxi drivers, held a press conference today at the office of their General Counsel, Koehler & Isaacs LLP, to announce their filing of a federal class action lawsuit against the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), which seeks both a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction to block the TLC from installing a technology software program that includes GPS tracking on all New York City taxi meters. The lawsuit was filed in United States Southern District Court on behalf of NYTWA and all drivers, particularly those drivers who own their own medallions and who are most at risk to incur penalties if they refuse to comply with the TLC's mandate. Drivers are facing a suspension of their medallions and additional fines if they refuse to sign contracts with the TLC's chosen GPS vendors.

“The technology system and equipment that the TLC is seeking to impose on city taxi drivers in an unconstitutional way will be contested vigorously in court,” said NYTWA’s General Counsel Richard J. Koehler. “We will fight any attempt by the TLC to encumber our client’s property without due process or which violates our client’s right to privacy under the guise of improving taxi service.”

The lawsuit follows a massive city-wide 48 hour taxi strike on September 5th and September 6th, and is part of NYTWA’s on-going campaign to protect the constitutional rights of taxi drivers and to ensure that their voices are heard.

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