

**Cab Gab**  
by Abe Mittleman

**Revisiting an Old Ongoing Problem**

One of the biggest insults to the taxi drivers of New York is the failure of the powers that be to have some kind of plan, especially in Manhattan where it is almost impossible for drivers to park legally in order to use rest room facilities. Even worse is the ticketing of taxis that park in so called “Taxi Stands” that are not specifically “Taxi Relief Stands” in desperation when the need becomes an emergency situation.

There is much confusion about the difference between the two types of taxi stands. Despite the confusion, the rules are not unclear. “Taxi Stands” are for the purpose of sitting in your taxi while waiting for a fare. “Taxi Relief Stands” are for the purpose of parking for up to an hour while a driver takes care of whatever needs he or she may have. Usually this would be to eat and or use a rest room if there is one that is available where the “Taxi Relief Stand” is.

There are locations where there are “Taxi Stands” that are obviously for the purpose intended. Some examples may be in front of Penn Station or the Port Authority Bus Terminal. But for many other “Taxi Stands” that are not in busy passenger locations, these “Taxi Stands” would be better served as “Taxi Relief Stands”. Many taxi drivers use these stands as relief stands and risk a \$115 summons for doing so. This couldn’t be more unfair. Blatantly, these summonses are harassing! The City of New York, the Department of Transportation, the T.L. C. and the Mayors office should bow their heads in shame until these “Taxi Stands” are converted to “Taxi Relief Stands”.

It’s no secret that even if legal parking can be found, there are a limited number of facilities that taxi drivers or anyone from the general public can use without the good nature of the businesses where these facilities are located. Taxi drivers have to rely on private businesses for their hospitality since there are few if any public

**locations.**

**Having said this, we would like to compliment McDonald restaurants for the hospitality that they extend to just about anyone who desires to use their rest rooms. We are aware of three McDonald restaurants in the borough of Manhattan that extend this friendliness. One is located at the corner of 125<sup>th</sup> street and Broadway. The restaurant has parking on premises and many taxi drivers take advantage of this. Another is on 23<sup>rd</sup> street between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenues. There is a “Taxi Relief” stand on the opposite side of 23<sup>rd</sup> street where there is room for 3 or 4 taxis. The third McDonald restaurant is on the corner of W34<sup>th</sup> street and 10<sup>th</sup> avenue. This facility in the heart of midtown is one of the very few locations that is left available to taxi drivers in this section of town where several diners have gone out of business in recent years. Diners were a very good source until their demise. Most Diners had “Taxi Relief Stands” in front. But now they are gone causing the desperation level to rise.**

**As for the McDonald**

**restaurant on 34<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> there is an on site parking facility.**

**However since the demand for use of this facility is so great the parking lot is usually filled to capacity. Across the street on the corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> street and 10<sup>th</sup> avenue is a perfect example of a harassing “Taxi Stand”. This stand has no purpose for what the rules intend it to be. There is no great demand for this stand as a place for taxis to wait for taxi fares. But there is a very great demand for taxi drivers to park there in a desperate attempt to get into the McDonald rest room just across the street when the parking lot of the restaurant is filled to capacity. The ticket writing people know this and the moment the taxi driver walks away the ticket goes on the car. THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!**

**My purpose for writing this article is for those who have some power to help. So don't misunderstand and think that three McDonald restaurants are the solution to our problems. I'm only using McDonald as an example of the greater help that taxi drivers need. We need**

**parking and hospitality all over Manhattan before we are worriless and our toilet needs are met.**

**We believe that the last TLC chairman didn't care. But we are hoping that the current chairman who is still new to this position can at least gather a committee of some experienced drivers and make a real attempt to find a solution to this major problem of our industry! Please do so. If we can't get help from you, then there is no help. Please don't let the Status Quo be your position as those in your office have done in the past!**