

**DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES**

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**Connecticut Gets First Wheelchair-Accessible Taxicab: Metro Taxi's
~~Metro~~Access Offers New Freedom for People
who Use Wheelchairs for Mobility**

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Oct. 14, 2009 – Today, The City of New Haven's Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities along with Metro Taxi, the state's largest, full-service taxi company, jointly launched Connecticut's first wheelchair-accessible cab, "~~Metro~~Access." The state's first ADA-compliant taxicab is owned and operated by Metro Taxi in West Haven. Supported by a recently-passed state regulation permitting this type of wheelchair-accessible taxicab, ~~Metro~~Access is ready to begin around-the-clock service to customers who use wheelchairs and scooters within Greater New Haven.

"We're very excited for New Haven to be the first city in the state to have MetroAccess service available to residents with mobility disabilities; said Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. "We congratulate Metro Taxi for taking leadership in this area. It's important that we work together to ensure that all residents have access to quality transportation services and not allow disabilities to become barriers."

An inaugural demonstration of ~~Metro~~Access was held this morning at Metro Taxi's headquarters. The ~~Metro~~Access cab will transport its first customer, Michelle M. Duprey, Esq., director of The City of New Haven's Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities, to New Haven's Union Station on her way to Washington, D.C.

Opening Doors to Employment and Community Events for the Mobility Disabled:

"Here in New Haven we knew there was a large gap in the mass transportation available to individuals with mobility disabilities," said Duprey. "If you needed a ride

entry ramped vehicle that includes tie-downs to secure the passenger and his/her wheelchair or scooter. ~~Metro~~Access has a lower floor than standard vans to help ensure that customers can enter the vehicle with sufficient headroom easily and comfortably. As of today, ~~Metro~~Access will service 13 towns and cities in Greater New Haven, 24 hours a day; seven days a week. MetroTaxiCT.com/MetroAccess.

Metro Taxi:

Founded in 1987, Metro Taxi has been lauded for its state-of-the-art use of technology by the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, recognized for exceptional service by the Governor and the Connecticut General Assembly, named a *Business New Haven* Rising Star and was voted "Best in New Haven" every year that *New Haven Advocate* readers have been polled. Recently, the American Red Cross acknowledged Metro Taxi with the Pearce Award. Named after business and community leader Herbert H. Pearce, H. Pearce Real Estate Co., the award recognizes Metro Taxi's volunteerism and in-kind contributions, which aid the American Red Cross' year-long humanitarian relief efforts. Metro Taxi is also a community partner with The Governor's Prevention Partnership, a not-for-profit organization co-chaired by Governor M. Jodi Rell that works to keep the state's youth safe, successful and drug-free.

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Editor's Note: ~~Metro~~Access logos or photographs are available upon request, (203) 444-2851.