

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TAXICAB COMMISSION**



September 23, 2013

Passengers have recently submitted stories of DC taxicab drivers providing outstanding service and the DC Taxicab Commission commends them for their efforts.

Gilbert Huerta recently moved to the metropolitan DC area and expressed his delight with the helpfulness of Tedla “Teddy” Negussie who drives for Black Pearl Taxicab Company. Huerta left his backpack that contained a computer, phone charger, checkbook, books, business cards and other personal items in the backseat of the taxi. Teddy called Huerta and drove to meet him at the George Washington University campus to return the backpack with all of its content intact. Huerta wrote to say that he wanted to publicly recognize Teddy for “his honesty and generosity.”

The good fortune of Shelby Leonard to be reunited with her purse was due to the effort of Black Pearl Taxicab Company Isknder Eyob. The night before Leonard was to leave DC for a year she realized her purse containing her car keys and wallet among other items had been left in Eyob’s cab. A few hours after the realization, Eyob’s wife sent Leonard a Facebook friend request with a message that her purse was in their possession and provided a phone number to call. Elated to get this news given the circumstances and rather than wait for Eyob, Leonard went to meet them to retrieve her purse. Leonard was extremely grateful and said it proved “that there are some good people out there.”

Jeff Boss of Alexandria believes independent taxi driver Rufus Aregbesola deserves praise and recognition. Boss unknowingly left his wallet in the cab. Despite finding his California driver’s license Aregbesola was perceptive enough to realize he had dropped off Boss in Alexandria. So he found a business card and called Boss to offer to return the wallet. Boss felt this proactive approach along with the honesty and integrity displayed by Aregbesola are traits that every business should seek in their employees.

Taxi driver Tigist Habtewold “went above and beyond his duties” according to Candice Closs after she left her wallet in his cab. The wallet had her driver’s license, credit card and keys in it. Upon finding it, Habtewold returned the wallet by certified mail the next day. Closs expressed gratitude and referred to Habtewold as “an exceptional man.”

An email message from Zachary Thomas stated that he wanted to “simply commend Mr. Mason Clark for his professional service and demeanor.” Thomas added that Clark, an independent taxi driver, has a refreshing attitude and stands out for taking great pride in doing his job.