

**TAXI  
GLOBE**



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City Hall is home to a new Mayor

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS ...

### CONGRATULATIONS TO BORIS JOHNSON

London's new Mayor, Boris Johnson accepted the seals of office from Mr Livingstone at midnight on Friday 2nd May 2008. During his campaign to be re-elected as Mayor, Ken Livingstone called Conservative opponent Boris Johnson a joke. On 28th April he said: "Don't vote for a joke, vote for London" – now famous last words from the out-going Mayor.

Londoners who have chosen Boris as Mayor cannot be in agreement with Ken. Boris was heard to refer to Ken Livingstone as "Mayor Leaving-Soon" and his 48.4% of the vote, beat Livingstone, who got 42.6%.

### PLEDGES MADE TO THE CAB TRADE

Boris Johnson began his campaign to win the votes of taxi drivers in an event at the Royal Oak, Paddington in January. There he launched his policies to help the cab trade.



Boris meets taxi drivers at the Royal Oak

Boris Johnson told taxi drivers that he is on their side, saying: "Taxi drivers give London a great service – they are an institution. They work hard to earn the right to drive on the streets of the Capital and I do not believe in trying to wreck their trade in the way that Mayor Livingstone has been doing over the last eight years." Let's hope that his words do not turn out to be famous last words as he made four main promises to the trade.

Firstly, he promised to scrap mid year inspections. He said: "These inspections are adding to the cost of the taxi drivers' livelihood, increasing the cost of their licence, putting an unnecessary burden on drivers." Secondly, Boris said he would scrap PCO Notice 44/06 which penalises cab drivers for stopping on Red Routes to allow passengers to use cashpoints. Thirdly, Boris promised to work with local councils to make the rules on using bus lanes the same across London, enabling cab drivers to use all bus lanes.

Boris also believes that pedicabs are "a mediaeval menace which pose a risk to passengers" and he wants proper regulation put in place to regulate them. He also wants to pension off bendy buses. Lastly he also promised the cab trade a seat on the TfL Board.

### BORIS IS AGAINST PH PLYING FOR HIRE

Boris was adamant during his question and answer session with cab drivers at the Royal Oak that minicabs will not be allowed to ply for hire if he were elected as Mayor. At that time he said: "The current Mayor has made a big push to licence more private minicabs. This, on the whole, has been good for Londoners, providing more accountability. However, the Mayor also wants to consider giving minicabs more rights, like plying for trade on the streets and using bus lanes. We believe the separation between private hire minicabs and London's historic black cabs should remain. This separation reflects the differences in training and vehicle quality. Only black cab drivers have to pass the extensive and detailed 'Knowledge', which leaves them uniquely equipped to provide a first class service. And, only black cabs are especially designed for the job, with disabled access and cleaner exhaust systems.

"Private hire vehicles have their place, but as an addition to the cab trade, not a replacement.

We will not allow private hire minicabs to use bus lanes, or ply for hire."

In an interview with Taxi Globe, Boris told our reporter that he felt Ken Livingstone had done little to help the taxi trade. Over the next few months the trade will find out if Mayor Johnson will do more and whether he will keep the pledges he made when he was campaigning or if these will also join the list of "famous last words." Changes cannot be expected overnight as Boris takes on his new role, but the taxi trade will be watching to see whether his election promises are fulfilled.



Taxi drivers were given receipt pads by Back Boris campaigners