

Friday, May 27, 2005

CONSUMER AFFAIRS CONDUCTING UNANNOUNCED SPOT CHECKS AT GAS STATIONS CITYWIDE BEFORE PEAK HOLIDAY DRIVING SEASON

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Gas Unit is conducting unannounced spot checks at gas stations citywide before the peak summer driving season, including the upcoming holiday weekend, to:

- Check for short measure at the pump.
- Check water levels in gas tanks.
- Check for incorrect price posting.
- Take test samples of octane and MTBE levels.

"DCA is protecting New Yorkers at the pump," said DCA Acting Commissioner Jonathan Mintz. "We inspect every gas station in the City at least once and often multiple times all year to make sure consumers are getting what they pay for. During the holiday weekend we'll continue to make unannounced spot checks citywide and will seal any pump that isn't in compliance."

Overall compliance for the City's approximately 1,200 gas stations is high at 98%, but officials credit tough enforcement as key to protecting drivers from getting shortchanged at the pump. The DCA inspects approximately 14,000 pumps citywide each year, visiting every station at least once, and many times twice or more.

To file a complaint, call 311 or go online at www.nyc.gov/consumers.