



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To James L. Sullivan
City Manager

Date June 9, 1977

From Richard Griffin *RBG*
Executive Director

Reference Council on Aging

Subject

Response to memo dated 5/26/77
Re: Implementation of the Taxi Discount Coupon Program
among all taxicab owners operating in the City

I have been taking action to extend the Taxi Discount Coupon Program to all the taxicab owners operating in the City. The situation, however, is more complicated than appears on the surface. That's for two reasons:

1. the major companies have absorbed cabs
which operate under many different names;
2. there are some 60 or so independent operators
licensed in the City.

The two major companies, Ambassador/Brattle and Yellow, are already part of our program. However, it's a source of confusion that they operate cabs under such names as Dot, Inman, Congress, etc. Many elderly are not aware, it seems, that cabs with these names honor our coupons.

A smaller company, Checker Cab of Cambridge, has not yet been integrated into the program. They have been forwarding some vouchers but their participation has been unclear and not widely known by the elderly. I have written them a

letter explaining the program and asking their full participation.

With regard to the Independents, things are mixed. Some of them are affiliated with a larger company and accept our coupons to be handed over to the parent company.

Others, however, do not accept the coupons. These small operators feel they cannot wait weeks to be reimbursed. Even the larger companies have some problem with waiting for their money.

What I plan to do is invite representatives of the Independents to a meeting. We will explore ways of getting them to participate. I will also see if something can be done about the present system to ensure faster payment.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

June 20, 1977

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 12 regarding the Taxi Discount Program for the independent operators, enclosed is a memo from Richard Griffin, Executive Director of the Council on Aging, outlining the difficulties involved and indicating a meeting will be held with the independents in an effort to resolve the difficulties.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
Assistant City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda #3 S-373

Response to Awaiting Report No. 12 re:
Taxi Discount Program.

In City Council,
June 20, 1977

6/30/77

Placed on File.