



**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
**INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

**To** James L. Sullivan  
City Manager

**Date** July 12, 1979

**From** Mary E. Calnan, Chairperson  
License Commission

**Reference**

**Subject** Taxicab Leasing and related matters

This is in answer to your letter of May 7, 1979. As requested by the City Council, the License Commission sent out a questionnaire to all owners and drivers of taxicabs in the City of Cambridge.

Some points on the questionnaire:

|                                          |     |
|------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of questionnaires mailed          | 642 |
| Number of responses                      | 200 |
| Number returned unclaimed by Post Office | 29  |

The questionnaire (copy attached) provided for four options.  
The results were as follows:

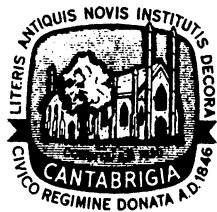
|          |                            |     |
|----------|----------------------------|-----|
| Option a | (all cabs being leased)    | 27  |
| Option b | (50% of cabs being leased) | 47  |
| Option c | (No leasing whatsoever)    | 121 |
| Option d | (Other)                    | 5   |

Obviously "No leasing" won hands down.

In addition, I am attaching Exhibit A, Background on Leasing Decision, which explains why the Board of License Commissioners voted to permit leasing on a limited basis.

Exhibit B is also attached which outlines our present procedure for keeping taxicabs in good condition in Cambridge. It is my belief, concurred in by both Chief Cremins and Chief Davenport, that strict enforcement of the License Commission's rules and regulations governing owners, drivers, and taxicabs would result in the Cambridge taxi industry being a credit to the City.

*Mary E. Calnan*



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL. 876-6800

## LICENSE COMMISSION

June 22, 1979

### QUESTIONNAIRE

(as requested by the Cambridge City Council)

TO ALL TAXI OWNERS AND DRIVERS IN THE  
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE:

1. Are you in favor of permitting taxicabs to be leased  
in the City of Cambridge:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                              | YES                      | NO                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. All Taxicabs being leased                                                                                                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. 50% of taxicabs being leased<br>50% being driven by drivers on an<br>employer-employee basis<br>(owners of 3 taxicabs or less may lease<br>all of them or keep drivers on an employee-<br>employer basis) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. No leasing - continue on present basis                                                                                                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Other (Specify) _____                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please indicate by an X which one of the four options you prefer,  
namely a, b, c, or d.

2. Are you an owner, working for a taxi company on a full-time basis, or  
working for a taxi company on a part-time basis?

☐ Owner

☐ Full Time

☐ part-time  
(working less than  
20 hours weekly)

PLEASE RETURN THIS QUESTIONNAIRE NO LATER THAN JULY 9, 1979.

NO SIGNATURE NECESSARY

*Inspection Certificate*

Owner \_\_\_\_\_

Medallion No. \_\_\_\_\_

d/b/a \_\_\_\_\_

Registration \_\_\_\_\_

Yes

No

Current State Inspection Sticker

Legibility of Medallion and Registration Plate

Meter Seal and Light on Meter

Interior and Exterior Appearance

Medallion Attached to Right Rear of Vehicle

Two (2) Registration Plates

No Broken Glass, Doors or Windows

Doors in Good Working Condition with Working Locks

Automatic Lock on Trunk

Vehicles Clearly Marked with Word "Cambridge"

Company or Business Name Clearly Painted

Vehicle Must have Bumpers and Fenders

No Protruding Sheet Metal

General Cleanliness

Rate Card and Hackney Carriage License  
Conspicuously Displayed

Operator Must have valid Hackney Driver's  
License on Person

Carriage License must Correspond to Mass.  
Registration Certificate

By \_\_\_\_\_

No Hackney Medallion will be renewed without presenting One Copy of this  
Certificate signed by The Inspector.

PROCEDURE FOR IMPROVING CONDITION OF TAXIS  
IN CAMBRIDGE

Our present procedure is to inspect taxicabs annually during the month of April. Our inspector, Frank Bombino, conducts this inspection along with an employee of the Public Works Department and a representative of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. This year neither the Public Works Department nor the Registry could spare an employee to conduct this inspection. Frank Bombino and Joseph Miceli, of the Cambridge Police Department conducted these inspections.

All taxis were inspected and several needed repairing, washing, or mechanical work done on them. These matters were all taken care of before May 1, 1979, the renewal date of hackney carriage licenses. Attached is a copy of the Inspection Certificate which is filled out for each taxicab. Mechanical fitness was not thoroughly checked since neither Frank Bombino nor Joseph Miceli have the necessary background in mechanics to qualify them to properly evaluate mechanical defects.

In June, 1979 Mr. Sabatino of the Registry of Motor Vehicles along with several inspectors made a surprise inspection of all Cambridge taxicabs. They checked primarily the front end of the cabs and found many violations which resulted in warnings being issued and some cabs taken off the road. All violations were remedied within a few days of this inspection.

The License Commission also has rules and regulations relating to the cleanliness of taxicabs, the responsibility of owners and drivers, and the maintenance of taxicabs. Violation of any of these rules and regulations results in a hearing before the Board and possible suspension or revocation of the license of an owner or driver.

In connection with the cleanliness of taxicabs, our rules require the owners of taxicabs to see that taxicabs are thoroughly cleaned and washed at least once a week. In this regard, the owners have a contract with car wash establishments and the owners give the drivers tickets once a week so that the taxis may be washed.

It would appear that the regulations already on the books should be sufficient to assure that Cambridge taxis are in good condition, both inside and out. The enforcement of these regulations should be more vigorously pursued.

July 13, 1979

## GUIDELINES ON LEASING TAXICABS

1. All Leasing must be done by signed contract. A draft of said contract shall be submitted to the License Commission for it's review.
2. Contract shall contain the following.
  - a. Period of leasing - week, month or 1/2 year.
  - b. Rate or rent to be charged shall be clearly spelled out by week, month or 1/2 year.
  - c. Is Lessor or Lessee responsible in case of accident - personal injury or property damage?
  - d. Who pays for gasoline, oil, maintenance, equipment such as tires and batteries?
  - e. Who is responsible for repairs?
  - f. Where is vehicle to be garaged?
  - g. Adjustment in rent or rates in event of sickness of Lessee?
  - h. Whether or not Lessee may allow vehicle to be driven by another licensed cab driver?
  - i. Two copies should be executed - 1 to Lessor and 1 to Lessee.
  - j. Provision for replacement in case of damage or disablement.

## OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- k. Leased cabs cannot be more than five years old.
- l. Any breach of contract shall result in in a Court case - not to be resolved by the License Commission.
- M. Leased vehicle must be marked to indicate that is so leased.
- N. Leased vehicle must meet safety specifications established by the Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- O. Probationary period - not more than six months.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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## LICENSE COMMISSION

March 5, 1979

To All Owners of Taxicab Companies:

RE: Leasing of taxicabs.

Gentlemen:

The Board of License Commissioners voted unanimously to allow you to lease taxicabs on a limited basis for a period of six months beginning May 1, 1979. Rule 4 is hereby suspended for said six month period. The limitation is as follows:

Owners of four or more taxicabs may only lease up to one-half of their fleet of cabs. The other one-half must be maintained as presently, on a commission basis, the relationship of the driver and owner being that of employee - employer.

Owners of less than four taxicabs may lease all their cabs or keep their drivers on a commission basis, if they so desire.

Before leasing may be instituted by you, the Board requests a copy of the agreement you will use so that the Board may determine whether or not it is an equitable arrangement for both parties.

Yours very truly

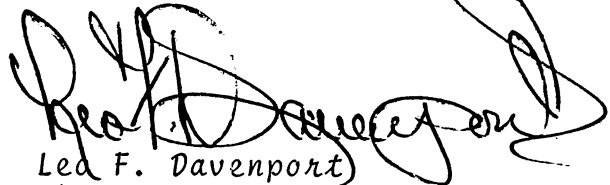
Mary E. Calnan,  
Chairman.

MEC:pam

February 16, 1979

Vehicles relative to vehicles used for hire  
and/or the transport of persons.

Said leasing should be allowed a sufficient  
period of time for a true probationary period.  
I would suggest six (6) months then action  
should be taken to conform or discontinue the  
same based on the merits of the probationary  
period.



Leo F. Davenport  
Chief of Police

LFD:smp

Rates of the lease or agreement shall be established and set by the individual lessor based on the year of the vehicle to be leased none of which shall be in excess of five (5) years old. Said rates shall be made a matter of record and filed in the Office of the License Commission and may be revised without Commission involvement during the life of such probationary period. Commission to be notified of raise.

Each person entering into such lease agreement shall obtain a copy of said signed lease which shall in layman's language ~~which will~~ spell out his liabilities and/or his benefits during the life of said lease which, in fact, shall set forth his or her insurance coverage under said agreement. No costs, other than those set forth in said agreement, shall or will prevail. Gas cost shall be included in said agreement if the same is to be included in said agreement or understanding, it shall be in writing.

Provisions shall be set forth for replacement of a vehicle if the same becomes damaged or fails to function during the life of said agreement so as to allow for no loss on the part of the lessee or excessive or additional damage to the lessors equipment.

The collection of any and all monies involved in the transactions between both parties shall be a matter handled in its entirety by the signatories of such agreement without any involvement of the License Board.

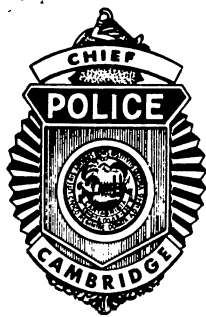
Any and all actions instituted regarding violation of such contract and/or agreement shall, under contractual law, be instituted in a court of law in this Commonwealth which determination shall be binding.

There should be a distinct marking upon each vehicle to allow police and patrons to be aware and recognize the same as a leased vehicle.

Said leased vehicles shall conform to the safety specifications as set forth under the dictates established by the Registry of Motor

continued





# City of Cambridge Police Department



TELEPHONE  
(617) 868-3400

*Office of the Chief of Police*

LEO F. DAVENPORT

CHIEF OF POLICE

L EUTENANT ANTHONY G. PAOLILLO  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CAPTAIN THOMAS F. BURKE JR.  
DAY OPERATIONS

CAPTAIN HENRY W. BREEN  
NIGHT OPERATIONS

CAPTAIN LAWRENCE J. BRUTTI  
FRANCIS A. PISANI ACADEMY

CAPTAIN JAMES F. SUGRUE  
CRIME PREVENTION

CAPTAIN JOSEPH P. CUSACK  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

LIEUTENANT HENRY P. GALLAGHER  
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES

LIEUTENANT EDWIN C. PETERSEN JR.  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

DANA A. SKIFF ED. D.  
PLANNING AND RESEARCH

HEADQUARTERS

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

February 16, 1979

Ms. Mary Calnan  
License Board  
City of Cambridge

Dear Ms. Calnan:

To Lease or not to Lease?

First and foremost let us agree that regardless of the action we contemplate and/or take, we shall not satisfy each and every person concerned in this controversy but steps must be taken.

First, let us grant on a probationary period the right to lease to the owners of four or more cabs. Said owner to maintain at least half of his fleet on a commission basis for drivers who are not in accord with the lease principle. Said benefits and prices to stay the same with the exception of nominal price increases for the duration of the probationary period.

Owners with less than four cabs shall be afforded the right to lease or remain as commission agents as they so desire on a probationary period. The owners who do, in fact, lease shall submit a copy of the contract and/or agreement they propose to use involving leasing. They shall maintain readily available for police information the name, address, registration, make and model of each and every operator and vehicle.

That when and if a lease agreement is reached between both parties that it be for not less than a seven day period so as not to create a gypsy type operation with constant changes whereby the lessor is unable to maintain operational and/or informational control.

continued

Background on Leasing Decision

Hearing on February 13, 1979 - several drivers appeared in opposition and several in favor of leasing, including the owners. The hearing was advertised 2/1/79. All Councillors were notified.

Decision rendered on February 27, 1979 - Chief Cremins and Chairperson Calnan deferred to the opinion of Chief Davenport expressed in his letter of 2/16/79 addressed to Ms. Mary Calnan.

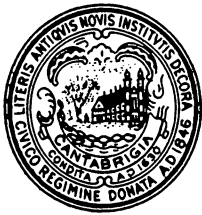
Board vote was as follows:

Voted unanimously to permit leasing of taxicabs essentially in accord with Chief Davenport's letter of February 16, 1979. The effective starting date will be May 1, 1979. Such leasing shall apply to 50% of the taxicabs of those owners having more than three taxicabs. The other 50% must remain on a commission basis - an employee - employer relationship. Those owners having three or less taxicabs may lease any or all of them or remain on a commission basis at their option.

Letter of Notification to Owners

By letter dated 3/5/79 owners were notified that leasing would be permitted beginning May 1, 1979. A copy of "Guidelines on Leasing" was attached to that letter which spelled out provisions which must be included in any agreement between owners and lessees.

7/13/79



## CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Tel. 498-9011

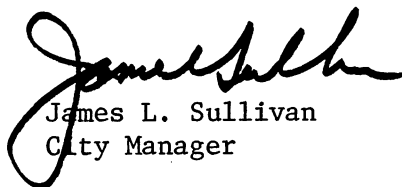
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
JAMES L. SULLIVAN  
City Manager

September 10, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Reports Item No. 5 and Item No. 10 relative to taxicabs, enclosed please find copy of a report from Mary E. Calnan, Chairman of the License Commission.

Very truly yours,

  
James L. Sullivan  
City Manager

JLS/mbf  
Enc.

Agenda #2

S-485

Response to Awaiting Report #5 and #10 with  
a report from Mary E. Calnan, Chairman of the  
License Commission, re: taxicabs.

In City Council,

Sept. 10, 1979

9/10/79

Placed on File

See Notes re  
hearing of Car