



City of Cambridge

0-2.

Calendar Item #2
Amended Order

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 14, 2002
January 28, 2002

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: The Cambridge License Commission has voted on November 29, 2001 to increase the number of taxicab medallions from 255 to 262 and to raise the cost of riding in a taxicab by 15%, all to go in effect on March 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS: Over 260 taxicab drivers and owners have signed a petition opposed to the License Commission action claiming that increasing medallions in a time of economic recession and war is not good public policy and that no public need was established; and

WHEREAS: The petition was submitted to the License Commission on January 4, 2002 and to the City Council on January 8, 2002; and

WHEREAS: The License Commission staff has denied a December 22, 2001 request for an early hearing to the taxi industry representatives by scheduling a reconsideration of the decision for Tuesday, January 22, 2002; and

WHEREAS: Implementation of these decisions has already begun and preparations will be too far along to reverse by January 22nd; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in favor of giving the short-term measures already adopted by the License Commission a chance to work, and implementing the additional recommendations in the attached communication from drivers and owners, received tonight, before issuing any new medallions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That in six months, the City Manager confer with the License Commission to review the short term measures and evaluate their impact on the effectiveness of addressing the need of handicap accessible taxis before adding new medallions.

In City Council January 28, 2002.
Adopted as amended by the affirmative vote of seven members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY AND VICE MAYOR DAVIS RECORDED IN NEGATIVE.



CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION CITY OF CAMBRIDGE CR#2

831 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., 1ST FLOOR, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL 349-6140

BENJAMIN C. BARNES
Chairman


CHIEF GERALD R. REARDON
Fire Department
Commission Member

CR#2

CAPTAIN HENRY W. BREEN
Police Department
Commission Member

RICHARD V. SCALI
Commission Executive Officer

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Richard V. Scali, Executive Officer 

DATE: January 25, 2002

RE: Decision on Reconsideration of
Meter Rate Increase/Addition
Of Accessible Medallions

The following are the orders voted 3-0 by The License Commission on January 24, 2002 at the Decision Making meeting with regards to the reconsideration of the meter rate increase and the new accessible medallions approved on November 29, 2001.

1. That the meter rate increase be postponed until October 2002 due to the testimony and evidence submitted at the reconsideration hearing held on January 22, 2002 about the lack of need at this time and the delay in Boston raising its meter rate.
2. That there be a phase in program with regards to the seven new accessible medallions and that the License Commission commit to putting four accessible medallions on the road this year, 2002, and the remaining three medallions on the road next year, 2003.
3. That the License Commission implement a program with any radio service or other entity that would manage and oversee the existing seven accessible medallions and any future accessible medallions as well and that the funds from the sale of these new accessible medallions be used to fund that program.
4. That the program be called A.C.T. (Accessible Cambridge Transportation).
5. That the License Commission include all the people of the Taxicab Subcommittee and the people who testified before the Commission on January 22, 2001 to include their discussion of how to work with any company that would manage these seven and any new accessible medallions as well.

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DECISION ON RECONSIDERATION OF
METER RATE INCREASE/ADDITION
OF ACCESSIBLE MEDALLIONS

6. That the Commissioners ask the City Manager for another full time Police Officer assigned to the License Commission who could do the second shift and also a full time Hackney Office person for the License Commission.
7. That the four accessible medallions that will be sold during this year, 2002, and the three to be sold during 2003, not be sold until the current seven are managed by the A.C.T. Program under the management company. The License Commission will work with current owners on an incentive program to convert existing medallions into accessible vans in exchange for another accessible medallion.
8. That the License Commission also include all the other items that were already included in the November 29, 2001 decision except for the section on the meter rate increase and addition of seven new accessible medallions so that it would be the same decision excluding these two items.

cc: Benjamin Barnes, Chairman; Chief Gerald Reardon; Captain Henry Breen; Andrea Boyer, Chief Investigator; Henderson Headley, Investigator; Robert W. Healy, City Manager; All City Councilors; All Taxicab Subcommittee; Officer William Barnes; Inspector John Drewicz; Al Ewing, Taxischool Director; Jim Carbone; Pierre Divil; Jacques Blemur; Paul Tortolani; Juan Evereteze

We want to thank the city councilors that have followed this issue. We want to thank the License Commission for reconsidering their November 29th decisions on a meter rate increase and additional taxi medallions. We all recognize that some problems exist and we now have a updated blueprint for resolving those problems.

We believe that the following short term solutions will have a major impact on the delivery of service for Cambridge's senior citizens and people with disabilities.

1. adjusting the time when the day driver turns the cab over to the night driver;
2. requiring all new cars and transfers of medallions to connect to a two-way radio service;
3. the hiring of an additional full-time hackney inspector;
4. increasing the hours that the existing vans are on the road;
5. reinstating and enforcing regular van coverage of the senior center;
6. finding a way for the vans to service Medicaid accounts;
7. changes to radio service short fare policies;
8. coordination of coverage between companies to respond to demand from people with disabilities;
9. financial & other incentives for conversion of existing medallion taxis to vans;
10. require, or provide incentives for, co-owner operators on all vans (so that both shifts are covered); and,
11. the creation of a fleet of accessible vans run by a new structure &/or manager.

The impact of these changes should be measured before implementing the medallion decision. The method of measuring success should be generally agreed upon. The diminishing or absence of complaints is an obvious measure, but it shouldn't be the only one, from either party's perspective. Data from the waybills and radio services of the seven existing vans should also be examined. Not until it is clear that an efficient, productive, seven vans are inadequate to meet the need should additional medallions be added. We want the City Council to monitor this aspect of the resolution.

We believe that the Taxicab Advisory Committee is the right forum for all parties to work things out. A lot of work of a number of very dedicated individuals, many working on volunteer time, has already gone into trying to resolve these problems. We volunteer to join with them to bring this issue to a successful conclusion.



City of Cambridge

O-2.
Original Order

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 14, 2002

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The Cambridge License Commission has voted on November 29, 2001 to increase the number of taxicab medallions from 255 to 262 and to raise the cost of riding in a taxicab by 15%, all to go in effect on March 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS: Over 260 taxicab drivers and owners have signed a petition opposed to the License Commission action claiming that increasing medallions in a time of economic recession and war is not good public policy and that no public need was established; and

WHEREAS: The petition was submitted to the License Commission on January 4, 2002 and to the City Council on January 8, 2002; and

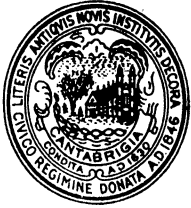
WHEREAS: The License Commission staff has denied a December 22, 2001 request for an early hearing to the taxi industry representatives by scheduling a reconsideration of the decision for Tuesday, January 22, 2002; and

WHEREAS: Implementation of these decisions has already begun and preparations will be too far along to reverse by January 22nd; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in favor of a fair and timely hearing to review, and reconsider the November 28, 2001 License Commission decision to raise taxi meter rates by 15% and increase the number of medallions by seven (7); and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the License Commission to put a stop to the process of implementing the issuance of seven new taxi medallions and the companion action of a March 1, 2002, 15% meter rate increase; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in two weeks.



CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

831 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., 1ST FLOOR, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • TEL 349-6140

BENJAMIN C. BARNES
Chairman

CHIEF GERALD R. REARDON
Fire Department
Commission Member

CAPTAIN HENRY W. BREEN
Police Department
Commission Member

RICHARD V. SCALI
Commission Executive Officer

Date: December 4, 2001

To: All Interested Parties

Fr: Richard V. Scali, Executive Officer 

Re: Decision on Taxi Meter Rate Increase and Taxi Study

Following the hearings of October 30, 2001 and November 13, 2001, the License Commission has voted 3-0 on November 29, 2001 the following proposals for an increase in medallions, better customer service and a taxi meter rate increase:

- 1) A 15% increase in meter rates.
- 2) The increase be divided as follows: initial drop be increased from \$1.50 to \$1.75; each 1/8 of mile thereafter be increased from .30 to .35, so that the first mile would go from \$3.90 to \$4.55. Waiting time should be increased from \$24.00 to \$28.00 an hour.
- 3) Lease rates be increased from \$55.00 to \$65.00 a shift which currently reflects current charges. All other categories of lease should reflect the same % change. Any overcharges by owners should be cited by the Commission.
- 4) Flat rates from the hotels to airport and flat rate books will be increased by 15% .
- 5) The timing of the meter rate increase and lease rates will be made in conjunction with the Sealer of Weights and Measures so that only one change will have to be made before April inspections. Also consideration will be given to allow time to print new rate cards, new senior discount coupons, and to give notice to the public.
- 6) The new rates will begin March 1, 2002.

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CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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- 7) **The vintage year of the cabs allowed on the road will be reduced from 7 years to 6 years, with any new cabs or transfers.**
 - 8) **A request will be made to the City Manager for the upcoming fiscal year to add a second police officer to the License Commission staff, to be used during a second shift, primarily for enforcement on the streets from afternoon rush hour, 3:00pm or so to 3:00 am.**
 - 9) **All new cars or transfers will be required to be on a radio service. No future independent cabs will be allowed. Radio services should provide a recording device if cabs are unavailable.**
 - 10) **All owners will be required to alternate shift changes away from the 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm hour to an earlier or later hour. Incentives to do so will be promoted by the License Commission.**
 - 11) **All 7 accessible vans will be given a value so that they are able to have better availability to financing and add a second driver for better service to the public. The reduced amount will be \$50,000. This amount will be paid to the License Commission and may be used for funding the taxischool, scholarships or for the cost of an additional police officer. A meeting will take place with these medallion owners to determine implementation. No current accessible medallion owner is required to pay this amount if they do not want value on their medallion.**
 - 12) **Seven new accessible van medallions will be added to the city by lottery, for sale at \$50,000. Since there was testimony of a shortage of accessible vans, this would relieve the burden to the disabled and seniors while allowing the general public to benefit as well. These new 7 accessible medallions and the previous 7 accessible medallions will be required to be on the road for all 3 shifts or 24 hours.**
 - 13) **The issuance of new regular medallions will be reviewed 6 months from the date of meter rate increase and issuance of the new 7 accessible medallions. While the economy may improve next year and the service issues may not be resolved, the Commission may reconsider new medallions at that time.**

Cc: Benjamin C. Barnes, Chairman; Henry Breen, Ret. Police Captain; Gerald Reardon, Fire Chief; All Taxicab Subcommittee; Officer William Barnes; Asst. Hackney Inspector John Drewicz; Al Ewing, Taxischool Director; Robert Healy, City Manager; All City Councillors; Robyn Thierenger, Tourism Dept.; Joseph Russell; Bill Cavellini; Amir Sassim; Edward Gulaserian, Sheraton; Jim Carbone; Pierre Divil; Jacques Blemur; Paul Tortolani; Juan Evereteze; Richard Carbone, Inn at Harvard

December 4, 2001

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On November 29, 2001 the Cambridge License Commission voted to add seven(7) more medallions, licenses to operate a taxicab, in the City of Cambridge effective March 1st. The Commission did so on the recommendation of its executive officer. This action is contrary to most of the evidence and testimony presented by the recent city-sponsored taxi study and hearings held on October 30th and November 13th. Increasing the number of taxicabs in a time of economic recession and war is never good public policy. But, doing it when no public need has been established is an outrage. Drivers' incomes will severely suffer from increased competition. For these reasons we Cambridge taxicab drivers and owners demand that the License Commission reverse its decision to add any more medallions.

<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Jackson Syhey	25	(617) 718-9004
J-D PAOL	219	617 823-2163
HENRI R JEAN	217	(617) 354-7296
Jacques Jules	32	(781) 306-1357
Joseph H Lehou	150	(617) 296-8881
BRUCE OKBAGBY	191	(617) 734-6788
JEAN I JAVIER	198	617 686-2670
POLTMANN BOSSE	126 + 54	617 568-3038
IOUSSAINT	42	617 320-982
Khalil y Dobeib	42	617-694 3363
Lowell Cadet	49	617 3871927
Lu Smith Liguori	44	617 993 6512
Joseph B Edwards	48 #	617- 354 8234
Rafael B Edwards	218 #	781- 2797766
ARTHUR MALOUF	112	617- 924-4591
Erwin Faustus	214	(617) 889-5276
Basile Jean Tillor m e	88	617 868 9651
IDRISS, ELHITAZI	078	617- 561-1220
Constantine Liguori	136	(781) 864-3546
AHMAD TRAD	149	(617) 680-1335
Abdoulkader S. Lee	118	617 312-4899
Alana Tomathne	032	617/678-4227

December 4, 2001

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<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Bill Avellino	#152	(607) 491-2933
Jean Georges	checker	617-591-9423
KHALID KARIBE	CHECKER	617-291-1852
Benjamin Keler	checker	617-876-3630
YVES-Charles BOIN	Checker	(617) 497-2125
Franklin J. May	Yellow Cab	(617) 492-2780
Robert O'Banion	Checker	(617) 661-7079
Jude Raymond	Checker	781-961-1962
Cherif Masloire	#186	
Mary J. Facella	#122	(617) 678-9502
ADIL SAISSI	Checker	617 306-3181
Joseph Joseph	checker	617 576-1540
BASSAM DIB	Amb. 226	617-365-503
Gracia JEAN	AMB # 76	617-628-240
Stephen Whitney	AMB # 84	617-661-0981
John J. Murphy	AMB # 152	(781) 662-7531
Jean Jomane	Cab # 85	617-548-0582
MARSEN HARIDI	Cab 248	617 5017865
MAN 23	CAB 225	(781) 845-8977
m. Sisco	Checker CAB	
Lionel Laure	#11	(617) 776-0824
Jean Laramo	-1-	(617) 441-7745

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<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Willy Guerner	#57	(781) 396-3184
AMR SASSINE	# 116 # 144	617-864-2781
Joseph Marc	#128	
Robare	# 15	617/877/42/45
Larry Prift	owner	617-592-6206
Gurjit Singh	# 93	617-276-1225
Imac Latorion	# 244	(617) 661 8319
JEAN C SAMUEL-LOUIS	# 238	(617) 943-0092
Stephen Jean B	# 34	781-391-1212
Kalid Barua	#206	617-491-3799
ZIAD ADILGARD	# 70	617-3125990
MAURO C.F. SILVA	# 23	617-628 0513
Salvatore LANTOUARI	153	617 625-7192
Jean Annon Louis Jean	# 105	617 364-0478
Richard Corion	# 40	617-460-4244
Fiber Hingut	#53/146/147/152/153/168	617-818 0182
Asaad Hameer	# 179	781-324-8744
Jean-Baptiste	109	617/389-0228
Gerebert Francipne	245	781-395-2452
Joaquim Blenn	183	781 6434935
ALEX MANI	48	617 329 5960
Joseph W. Silva		617-864-5000

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<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
David Scottberg	61	(617) 308-3812
Paul L. Murchell	52	↓ 461-5272
Yvon & Belen	33	
Joseph Singh	33 81	781-3884904
Paul J. Winter <small>MARCO FLIGHT</small>	39	617-818-2177
FRANCO F. CUMBRAT	26	
IDRI FARID	098	617 699 4339
* Julie VINCENT		617 256 7548
Flavio DeDonaallo	018	617 529 1323
Thant Villaver	71	617 789 3667
Marc Bien-Airé	163 owner	(617) 718-2162
Yves Hernandez	254	(617) 440 0642
Kamei Ayan		(781) 224 6728
CHAFIK HADDADI	61	(617) 549-4411
Youssef Tynail	23	(781) 388-0053
Perumbar Jyl	241	(617)-875-2940
Zeyad m Ayyad	253 A	617 633 3077
Mouir Salah	255 A	1978 7580421
ALI HOURABI	6 owner	617 872 0496

December 4, 2001

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<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Mohammad, Rahman		617 876 0973
J Gallo		931-5470
HABIB HANFADJ		(617) 269 27-91
Herbert Tropius		617 364 8722
David Younceaus	CHK. 112	781-933-9255
Pierre Amal	154	781-8646708
Henry Ruff	57	617-492-6006
Stephane Amal	Fleet	617-547-7919
FOUAD Freij	Fleet	617-215-3939
JEAN-MARIE LAMOUR	Fleet	617-381-6395
Richard Raffell	30 Cab	617-666-8955
Dean David	Fleet	781 596-1872
JEAN Eugene	Fleet	781 397-1770
George NASSIF	012	617-699 5508
Berald Dejeu	199	617-666 3970
Jean Joseph	91 CAB	617 666-6458
SAISSI. ADIL	checker	617. 306. 3181
Amari	Checker	617 289 3666
Victor Jean	Fleet	617-4133840
KHALID KARIBE		
Richard Jannet	Fleet	(617) 520-3572
Saad Yakoub	Fleet	(617) 363 9496

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<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Fouad Rachmoni	#144	781-326-9297
Jean Henderson	#03	766-0913
JOSEPH NOELSPIRT	238	617 816 6728
ISSAM DIB	13+38	617-2818364
Abner Akbar	#144	617-868-6864
Michel Pierre	#11	607-491-1843
Fritz	#126	617 603 5684
Joe Silva	#93 #162	617
Eleanor Fleming	#107	617-868-6661
Hector Thompson	#152 + 85	617 448 5254
Jacques Lormier	#215	(617) 827-2670
Jean Charles	#45	617 629 0254
Eugene Travers	#59	617 547-1180
Arnel Philis	#28	617-629-2317
Joseph Laskin	#165	617-628-7831
Samuel Jean-Mary	#04	(617) 387-1297
Joseph Pefes	#68	(617) 497 2316
Myer Wang	#235	(617) 429-9896
Whitney Lawrence	194	(617) 876 2314
MARIA Padroni	#039	(781) 718-6271
John F. Kunko	#46	617-627 9001
Holder, CAB (Andy)	115	7
Samuel Kim	#230	781-395-4747

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<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Nabil Fawal	43	(617) 1699-7420
Loeues Cyprien	196	617 656 1894
✓ Louai El-Joudi	240	617-361 6793
MARC Gerard	94	617 921 2882
Walt McCarroll	187	602 606 2713
Chamuel Isarr	206	781-893-9444
Emilio Lomel	200	617 678-5873
NEVE MEVELL	33	617 308 2663
Wladimir Jules	89	781-391 2491
RAJESH	220 AVAR	(817) 284-217
FERRIS N SANTOR	039	617 964 1463
MARC RAYMOND	171	617 943 4041
Shirley Harkin	290	617 442 4893
EMMANUEL PIERRE	51	(781) 355-2634
D. M. GAMANY	17	(617) 963-0657
EUR SMIK	139	781 284-9290
RACHID MOUCHARIT	241	617 921-1922
Jacques Philippe	172	(617) 827 5173
A. ALPZAY	166	(617) 429 9243
Jalcel M. Chut	234	617-779-0822
Willy Buisson	57	781-396-3184
Maceo N	057 + 206	305-335-2097
Rosemond Raymond	201	617 407-90-53

December 4, 2001

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<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
JACK AOUDE	41, 52, 106, 117, 137, 150	617-354-8243
David Younce	112	781-933-9759
John Sullivan	158	617-547-5490
Abner Polynice	164	781 598 8958
KEVIN HOGAN	118 checkers	617-441-8850
Wajid Shahana	218	617- 666 6665
Gene S. McIno	229	617-763-8272
Lucien Penseville	151	617 629-2457
Michael Kosmidis	204	781 648-2413
Fred Belafatti	192	617 872-3355
MATSEEN HARIDI	135	617 501 7865
Ann Hurley	96	617 625-6900
Andrew Gathney	228	617 864 2280
Al Scherpi	148	781 589 4607
ROBERTO COARES	107	617 759 8572
Ahmed Raad	216 + 170	(617) 248 6303
Pervinder Singh	246	617-875-2990
Ahmad Mallak	55	617-396-9025
B. Connors	221	617 640 3288
PIERRE DIMANCHE	210	(617) 974-0531
Sunil Sharma	144	(617) 666-1918
Wilmer Cab	167	(781) 322-8948
Abdallah Hajji	142	(617) (817-7419)

December 4, 2001

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<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Jean Louis Jean	Cab # 105	617 364-0478
ARMANDO FERTES	168	617 308-5055
ERNST TANGAR	# 131	(617) 901-5824
Eagle Taxi inc	# 138	(617) 429-4143
JEAN G. JOSSÉLIN	# 132	(617) 921-1662
Frenel Rene	# 202	617-388-0838
Gerardo Thomas	# 51	781 324 9965
CHARLES JOUJOUTE	# 196	781-391-6946
Nojib Nojeb	# 247	(617) 936-3677
Le lievre Polysee	# 224	781-395-2419
EPHRAÏM Raymond	51	781 321-7604
Mathurin Bazile	141	617-312-2926
JACKSON OBEI	173	781-424-0986
Hesham Sadek	218	(617) 616-6065
Ziael Deeb	# 70	617 312 5990
Mohammad Mallak	# 55	781-396-9025
Youssef Amour	114	(617) 568-6904
Mohammed AHDIYAD	# 124	(617) 5684904
ROGER WAGNAR	# 222	(617) 771-7702
J. Dominique	# 223	781 395-6848
m sisco	# 67	868-2845
Herrey Profr	# 82	617-492-6206
Reyesnel Charles	95	(617) 257-9488

December 4, 2001

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On November 29, 2001 the Cambridge License Commission voted to add seven(7) more medallions, licenses to operate a taxicab, in the City of Cambridge effective March 1st. The Commission did so on the recommendation of its executive officer. This action is contrary to most of the evidence and testimony presented by the recent city-sponsored taxi study and hearings held on October 30th and November 13th. Increasing the number of taxicabs in a time of economic recession and war is never good public policy. But, doing it when no public need has been established is an outrage. Drivers' incomes will severely suffer from increased competition. For these reasons we Cambridge taxicab drivers and owners demand that the License Commission reverse its decision to add any more medallions.

<u>Driver or Owners Name</u>	<u>Number of Cab owned or Driven</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
MARIO B. BARRIOS	013	(617) 718-0688
Stephen Jean Baptiste	34	781 391 1215
ROBERT DOMINIC	32-86-96	617-32-1102
FELIPE SARRIA	125	617 424 7234
AMM BATH	cheker Cab 092	617 306 3181
RENÉ EDON	cheker Cab 154	617 864-4400
MAJIB BIN JILLOON	AMBASSADOR 53 AM	617-216-1959
SANJEEV KIRPAL	Ambassadors 195	617-759-0704
James L. Carbone Jr	Ambassador/yellow Cab #108	617 966-1710
Richie Laville	Ambassador Cab #148	617 518-3787
Moussini Kroul	Ambassador Cab #98	617 747-0683
Dib Labaky	# 47	(781) 769-9234
Anhaine R. Elkhoury	# 02	617 513 1788
Tom Elkhoury	# 12	617 513 1788
KHALIL AZAR	# 170	617 312 6220
Abdul FAISAL	# 038	617 448 6881
Joseph A. Amal	# 06	617 642-4585
Joseph Sanchez	# 242	617 492 1190
Joseph Sanchez	# 173	781-279-9937
Maurice Noel	# 246	617 387-8035
Mr. Wiley	# 92	617 1296-8857
Mr. P...	# 130	617-962-4536
Thomas Raymond	222	781 321-7604

January 7, 2002

Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

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2002 JAN -7 A 9:49
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Councilors;

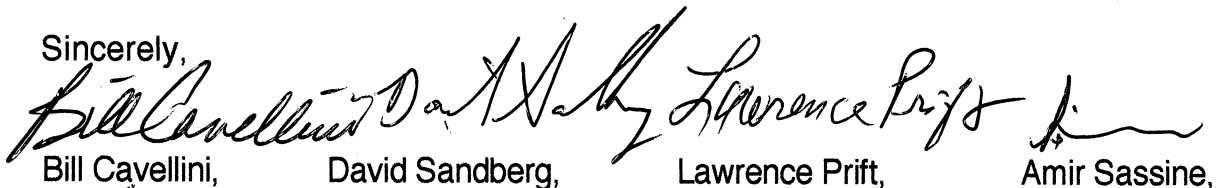
We are requesting time at the January 14th city council meeting to present our grievances concerning actions taken by the Cambridge License Commission. We are asking you to request that the City Manager instruct the License Commission to put a stop to the process of implementing the issuance of seven (7) new taxi medallions and the companion action of a March 1st, 15% meter rate increase.

Soon after the November 29th decision, many of us expressed our strong opposition to the License Commission staff. In a December 22nd letter we requested a prompt hearing to reverse the decision. Instead, we got a promise to only reconsider discussing the medallion decision on January 22nd. This date is too late to genuinely reconsider or reverse their decision because the preparations will be well underway for the changes. That's why we have come to you for help; and that is why we have collected and submitted the signatures of over 260 taxicab drivers and owners to you and the License Commission.

The License Commission actions are contrary to most of the evidence and testimony presented by the recent, city-sponsored taxi study and hearings held on October 30th and November 13th. Almost everyone who testified, including two of your colleagues, opposed the timing of these two changes. Increasing the number of taxicabs in a time of economic recession and war is never good public policy. But, doing it when no public need has been established is an outrage. Drivers incomes will take a severe hit at a time when taxi business has fallen off sharply due to decreased air travel and half-empty hotels.

Please grant us our request for a hearing and please pass a resolution that is clear and unambiguous in its direction to the City Manager, so that we can have a fair opportunity to reverse these very unwise, untimely decisions.

Sincerely,


Bill Cavellini, David Sandberg, Lawrence Prift, Amir Sassine,


Sergio Miranda
for the petitioners

encl. - Dec. 4 memo of Nov. 29th decision
- petition

cc. Richard Scali, License Commission Executive Officer
License Commissioner Benjamin Barnes

Communication #4

A communication was received from Bill Cavellini, David Sandberg, Lawrence Prift, Amir Sassine and Sergio Miranda, requesting time before the City Council on January 14th to present their grievances concerning the License Commission issuance of seven new taxi medallions and a 15% meter rate increase on March 1st.

In City Council January 14, 2002

*Referred to
Policy Order #2*



City of Cambridge

O-2.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 14, 2002

COUNCILLOR SIMMONS

WHEREAS: The Cambridge License Commission has voted on November 29, 2001 to increase the number of taxicab medallions from 255 to 262 and to raise the cost of riding in a taxicab by 15%, all to go in effect on March 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS: Over 260 taxicab drivers and owners have signed a petition opposed to the License Commission action claiming that increasing medallions in a time of economic recession and war is not good public policy and that no public need was established; and

WHEREAS: The petition was submitted to the License Commission on January 4, 2002 and to the City Council on January 8, 2002; and

WHEREAS: The License Commission staff has denied a December 22, 2001 request for an early hearing to the taxi industry representatives by scheduling a reconsideration of the decision for Tuesday, January 22, 2002; and

WHEREAS: Implementation of these decisions has already begun and preparations will be too far along to reverse by January 22nd; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record in favor of a fair and timely hearing to review, and reconsider the November 28, 2001 License Commission decision to raise taxi meter rates by 15% and increase the number of medallions by seven (7); and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to instruct the License Commission to put a stop to the process of implementing the issuance of seven new taxi medallions and the companion action of a March 1, 2002, 15% meter rate increase; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the City Council on this matter in two weeks.

CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

CM-19 Cal 2

Order #2

Instruct the License Commission to put a stop to the process of implementing the issuance of seven new taxi medallions and the 15% meter rate increase.

Councillor Simmons

In City Council January 14, 2002

Charter Right
exercised by
Councillor Rooney
In City Council
January 28, 2002

ORDER ADOPTED

as amended by
Councillors Simmons
and Decker