



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.

- 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.

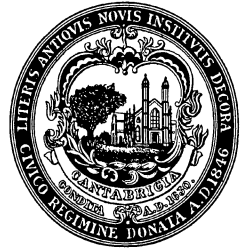
Cc: Benjamin C. Barnes, Chairman; Henry Breen, Ret. Police Captain; Gerald Reardon, Fire Chief; All Taxicab Subcommittee; Officer William Barnes; Asst. Hackney Inspector John Drewicz; Al Ewing, Taxischool Director; Robert Healy, City Manager; All City Councillors; Robyn Thierenger, Tourism Dept.; Joseph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

City of Cambridge

Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street · Cambridge, MA · 02139-1732

617/349-4692 voice · 492-0235 tty  TDD · 349-4766 fax



Bet MacArthur
Chair

January 10, 2002

Paul Schlaver
Secretary

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

Moe Armstrong
James A. Biggar
Kenneth F. Bowles
Erin Gullage
Gayle E. Johnson
June Ellen Mendelson
Drew Parkin
Robert Patterson
David Peterson
Glen Powell

To the Honorable, The City Council:

On behalf of the entire Commission for Persons with Disabilities, we wish to express our strong support for the License Commission's recent decision to add seven new medallions for accessible taxicab service (copy of decision enclosed). In the months leading up to its decision, the License Commission gathered significant evidence and testimony to support a package of policy changes. Clearly, the License Commission has established a compelling public need for additional accessible taxicabs. We are also pleased that the License Commission's decision included a number of specific initiatives geared to improve the quality of taxi services in Cambridge. Also included in the November 29, 2001 decision were some significant rate increases, which we believe were supported by the vast majority of the members of the Taxicab Advisory Committee chaired by Richard Scali.

As you know, for many years the Commission for Persons with Disabilities has been advocating for accessibility improvements in all modes of public transportation for Cambridge residents. We actively encouraged and supported the License Commission as it began issuing accessible taxi medallions in the mid-1990's. The License Commission held two lotteries, resulting in a total of seven accessible taxi medallions being issued. We have worked hard to let the disability community know about accessible taxi service, and have provided ongoing technical assistance to the seven accessible medallion owners.

While the seven existing accessible taxicabs have provided a valuable service, it has become increasingly clear in recent years that seven taxis is simply not enough. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities continues to receive numerous complaints from disabled passengers who cannot get accessible taxi service when they need it.

We were discouraged to learn that a group of Cambridge taxicab owners and operators have filed a petition asking the License Commission to reverse its November 29, 2001 decision. We support full implementation of the License Commission's decision. Conversely, we oppose any reversal, reduction or delay in the issuance of the seven new accessible taxi medallions.

Sincerely,



Bet MacArthur
Chair

cc: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
Benjamin Barnes, License Commission Chairman

PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY THROUGH AWARENESS



Consent Communication #1

A communication was received from Bet MacArthur, Chair, Commission for Persons with Disabilities, transmitting support for the License Commission's decision to add seven new medallions for accessible taxicab service.

In City Council January 28, 2002

PLACED ON FILE