



CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, First Floor, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE OF VOTE REGARDING CHANGES TO HACKNEY RULES & REGULATIONS

On August 21, 2019, the Board of License Commissioners (the "Board") discussed an application called Waave which would allow Cambridge licensed hackney vehicles to be booked online. The application has many features including providing up-front ride price total and automatic payment through the application.¹ During that meeting, the Board voted it would allow the use of e-hail applications so long as it was allowed per state and municipal laws. The Board sought a legal opinion from the City Solicitor on the matter.

On October 23, 2019, the Board discussed the legal opinion received from the City Solicitor, which stated in part, that so long as the Board changed its Hackney Rules and Regulations ("Rules & Regulations") to allow the use of the e-hail applications, the e-hail applications could be used. Hence, the Board voted:

- (1) To change all the necessary portions of its Rules & Regulations to ensure that any Board approved e-hail application and soft meter can be used by licensed hackney vehicles and drivers;
 - (a) E-hail application shall mean any mobile application that: can only be used by licensed hackney vehicles and excludes TNC services such as Uber and Lyft; hails a Cambridge license hackney vehicle; provides up-front trip pricing upon the e-hail request; allows the Cambridge licensed hackney driver to accept the request for the e-hail and the predicted up-front price; allows automatic payment through the mobile application; and prohibits the use of the taximeter when in use, except when it is only used to hail the vehicle and not to provide a trip price prediction.
 - (b) A soft meter is an electronic device which calculates distance rates with GPS or on-board diagnostics.
- (2) The approval of the e-hail application is valid when it is licensed by the Board as a dispatch service and the approval of the soft meter is valid when identified by the Board as a valid meter or taximeter;
 - (a) The dispatch service license application is to be considered by the Board on a case-by-case basis during the administrative portion of its meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Chair.

¹ Hereinafter, e-hail application shall mean any mobile application that: can only be used by licensed hackney vehicles; hails a Cambridge licensed hackney vehicle; provides up-front pricing upon the e-hail request; allows the Cambridge licensed hackney driver to accept the request for the e-hail and the predicted up-front price; does not include TNC applications such as Uber and Lyft; and allows automatic payment through the mobile application.

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- (b) As of October 23, 2019, any individual or company that provides an e-hail application may submit an application to request to be licensed as a dispatch service.
- (c) The approval of the soft meter of each e-hail application is done simultaneously with the dispatch license application.
- (3) That the Board would issue a notice to all hackney licensees identifying any application and/or soft meter approved within three business days of its approval; and
- (4) To avoid any delays in the adoption and implementation of the necessary changes in the Rules & Regulations, the Board designated the Chair, or the Chair's designee, as the person to make the necessary changes and reprint the Rules and Regulations with the changes consistent with the votes and without the need for further approval in an upcoming meeting.

Board Voted: October 23, 2019

Vote Posted/Distributed: October 24, 2019

For the Board,



Nicole Murati Ferrer
Chairperson