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Commission Member

Elizabeth Y. Lint
Executive Director

CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, First Floor, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



City of Cambridge

Notice of Public Information Forums For-Hire Vehicle Regulations

Summary and Scope

The License Commission is in the process of revising the for-hire vehicle regulations, currently applicable to livery and limousine licensees in the City of Cambridge. In order to effectively protect consumers in the changing landscape of the for-hire transportation environment, the License Commission seeks to modernize and adapt its current regulations to reflect and address the realities of the industry, especially considering the innovation that has occurred as a result of the use of new technology being utilized in arranging for transportation services. In addition, the License Commission intends to evaluate the extent to which such rules and regulations should apply to for-hire transportation Smartphone applications that are not currently subject to regulation.

The purpose of these informational forums is to elicit comment on the appropriate scope and application of regulations surrounding issues related to public safety and consumer protection. Specifically, but without intending to limit suggestions for improvements to current regulations, the License Commission is interested in comments on specific areas of interest, as described below.¹ Please note that these forums will be held in addition to public hearings required by the formal rule making process.

Areas of Interest

The License Commission invites comments from the public, the industry and additional stakeholders concerning the following issues and questions:

- How should the License Commission define “prearrangement” for a for-hire transportation vehicle? The goal of such shall be to distinguish between the services of the for-hire and taxicab industries.
- Should a separate category of registration be created for Smartphone applications contracting with for-hire vehicles licensed by the City of Cambridge? If so, what registration requirements should be required and what regulatory standards should a company be held to?
- In most cases, Smartphone applications may be used as a medium to contract business from a Cambridge passenger; however, the for-hire vehicle used to fulfill the service request may not be licensed by the City of Cambridge. How can the License Commission create a regulatory framework where a Smartphone application provider can be held accountable for the safety of the passenger?

¹ The License Commission asks that all comments be limited to for-hire transportation vehicles, which include livery/black car vehicles and limousines.

- What additional consumer protections should be built into for-hire vehicle regulations, including but not limited to, issues related to the following: price disclosure and price calculation; issuance of a receipt or record of the trip; and the establishment of any minimum fare, if necessary.

Public Information Forum Locations and Procedure for Submission of Comments

The License Commission will hold the following informational forums:

Cambridge License Commission
Basement Conference Room
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
Monday, August 19, 2013
11:00 a.m.

Cambridge City Hall
Ackerman Room
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
Monday, August 26, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Throughout this information gathering process, written comments may be submitted to the Cambridge License Commission, Attention: Corey R. Pilz, 831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139. Comments may also be submitted electronically to Corey R. Pilz, Consumer Information Specialist, at cpilz@cambridgema.gov. *All comments to the License Commission must be received by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 2, 2013.*

Persons with disabilities that seek reasonable accommodation, which may include the receipt of materials in an alternative format, must communicate such requests to Ellen Fitzgerald Watson, Executive Assistant, no later than 5:00 pm on Thursday, August 15th. Requests for accommodation will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Although entities of the City of Cambridge will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the requests of applicants with disabilities, the City of Cambridge reserves the right to reject unreasonable requests.

For additional information or to address any questions about this process, please contact Corey R. Pilz, at 617.349.6154.

City of Cambridge License Commission

For-Hire Vehicle Regulations

Scope: Such regulations shall be limited to livery/black car and limousine vehicles.

1. Minimum charge of \$40.00 for all fares/passengers.
2. Eight (8) hour advance notice on all reservations.
3. Must be a separation of staff and separate telephone lines from all radio cab services, operator separate from dispatcher.
4. Must be separate incorporation and or business name from any other business(s) or cab service(s).
5. The application must list specifically the number of vehicles, make and model and a registration for each vehicle must be submitted listing the same name or company as the application on each registration. This section shall take effect by December 1, 1998 for all current licensees, for all future applicants, immediately.
6. The names and addresses of each driver must be submitted with the application. A driving record form must be filled out on each driver and a driving record check will be conducted by our office. Fee \$10.00 per driver with the application. This section shall take effect by December 1, 1998 for all current licensees, for all future applicants, immediately.
7. Inspection of each vehicle will be conducted each April along with the cab inspections. All vehicles will be inspected for all safety items, proper registrations, permits, licenses.
8. The Limo/Livery annual license fee is amended to include the first two (2) vehicles at \$121.00 a year, each vehicle thereafter is \$50.00 per year. This fee shall take effect at renewal time, May, 1999 for all current licensees, for all future applicants, immediately.
9. The regulations are subject to amendments and changes at a future time from time to time, by this Commission, as the Commission sees the need.

Please note: These regulations were passed by a 3-0 vote by the Board of License Commissioners on August 26, 1998.