

ORDINANCE NO. (2024) 614

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE TAXICAB FARE AND SCHEDULE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH.

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-304(a) grants the City the authority to license and regulate all vehicles operated for hire in the City. The ordinance may require that the drivers and operators of taxicabs engaged in the business of transporting passengers for hire over the public streets shall obtain a license or permit from the City, consistent with the Constitution and laws of North Carolina and of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Raleigh City Code Section 12-2043 establishes the applicable fares and fees that an owner or driver of a taxicab may charge for the use of a taxicab within the City or within a radius of one mile beyond the corporate limits thereof in all directions; and

WHEREAS, the applicable fares and fees established in Raleigh City Code Section 12-2043 have not been adjusted since 2007:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA that:

Section 1. Section 12-2043 of the Raleigh City Code is hereby amended by deleting the language as stricken through and adding the underlined language where noted below:

“Sec. 12-2043. - FARES; SCHEDULE.

No *owner* or *driver* of any *taxicab*, subject to the provisions of this article, *shall* charge for the use of a *taxicab* within the *City* or within a radius of one mile beyond the corporate limits thereof in all directions, an amount greater than in accordance with the *following* rates:

(a) Effective from and after ~~November 7, 2006~~ May 1, 2024, *premium taxi service*:

(1) Mileage rates. ~~One dollar and ninety five cents (\$1.95)~~ Three dollars (\$3.00) for the first one-tenth mile or fraction thereof, and ~~twenty five cents (\$0.25)~~ thirty cents (\$0.30) for each additional one-tenth of a mile or fraction thereof.

(2) Waiting time. ~~Twenty five cents (\$0.25)~~ Thirty cents (\$0.30) for each one minute of waiting time or fraction thereof.

(b) Effective from and after April 15, 1995, handivan service: a surcharge of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) per one-way trip added to the premium taxi rate.

~~(c) Upon application of the taxicab rider to the taxicab driver, the following charges per trip shall apply:~~

~~(1) Foot lockers. Fifty cents (\$0.50) each.~~

~~(2) Trunks. One dollar (\$1.00) for each trunk, except where two (2) persons are required to handle, the charge shall be one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) for each trunk.~~

~~(3) Hand baggage. Ten cents (\$0.10) for each handling in excess of one handbag per person.~~

~~(4) Groceries in bags. Ten cents (\$0.10) for each bag in excess of one bag per person.~~

~~(5) Groceries in cartons, boxes or crates. Ten cents (\$0.10) for each container.~~

~~(6) Bulky items. Fifty cents (\$0.50) for each article, container of commodity (such as, but not limited to, bags, cartons, boxes or crates of groceries, coal, feed, fertilizer, rolls of roofing paper, etc.) weighing more than fifty (50) pounds.~~

(c) A cleaning fee of up to \$75.00 may be added to a taxi fare if all of the following conditions are met;

- 1) Bodily fluids such as vomit, urine, or feces left in a taxi by a passenger during a taxi trip;
- 2) The cleaning fee must be added to the fare and paid immediately at the end of a taxi trip;
- 3) The cleaning fee must be clearly identified to the passenger at the end of a taxi trip;
- 4) That the following reporting requirements and appeal process shall be followed related to the application of a cleaning fee;
 - a. Taxi drivers shall report and provide video footage to the City in each instance of a cleaning fee being charged.
 - b. Passengers may submit a formal appeal to the registered owner of the taxicab disputing the imposition of a cleaning fee. If it is determined that the fee was improperly charged the cleaning fee shall be returned to passenger immediately. If the appeal is denied no further action will be taken.

(d) Upon being issued a public certificate of conveyance [convenience] and necessity or a *driver's permit*, each *owner* and *driver shall* file with the taxi inspector a *written* schedule of the rates they charge. No rate *shall* be charged which is different than on file with the taxi inspector.”

Section 2. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of said conflict.

Section 3. If this ordinance or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the ordinance which can be given separate effect and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

Section 4. The provisions of this ordinance shall not affect any act heretofore done, any liability incurred, any right accrued or vested, or any suit or prosecution begun or cause of action accrued prior to the effective date of this ordinance.

Section 5. This ordinance shall be enforced as provided in N.C.G.S. 160A-175 or as provided in the Raleigh City Code. All criminal sanctions shall be the maximum allowed by law notwithstanding the monetary limit contained in G.S. 14-4(a) or similar limitations.

Section 6. This ordinance shall become effective on May 1, 2024.

ADOPTED: April 2, 2024

EFFECTIVE: May 1, 2024

DISTRIBUTION: Management Team

This ordinance prepared by the Raleigh City Attorney's Office