DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

NOTICE OF SECOND EMERGENCY RULEMAKING

The Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, pursuant to the authority set forth in Sections 8(c)(1), (c)(6), and (d) of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code § 50-301.07(c)(1), (c)(6), and (d)), hereby gives notice of his adoption, on an emergency basis, of an amendment to Chapter 8 (Operating Rules for Public Vehicles-for-Hire) of Title 31 (Taxicabs and Public Vehicles for Hire) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations ("DCMR"). The amendment imposes a fuel surcharge of one dollar ($1.00) for each taxicab trip.

Emergency rulemakings may be issued by an agency when the rules are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, welfare, or morals, pursuant to 1 DCMR § 311.5(d). This second emergency rulemaking action imposes an emergency fuel surcharge of one dollar ($1.00) on each taxicab trip beginning on August 27, 2026, and ending on December 25, 2026. The surcharge is necessary to offset the impact of a significant rise in gasoline prices. As of August 2026, average gasoline prices in the region have increased by approximately $0.89 compared to average prices from the same period last year. Without the fuel surcharge some taxicab operators may be unable to continue providing vital transportation services to the public.

Increased fuel costs may cause operators to curtail or discontinue taxicab service in the District due to an inability to earn a fair return. Additionally, these financial pressures may impair operators' ability to meet basic health and welfare needs for themselves and their families. Any reduction in taxicab service would disproportionately affect senior citizens and persons with disabilities who rely on taxicabs for medical appointments, extended health services, physical therapy, social activities, and other supportive services.

Due to the continuing high fuel costs, the Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles has determined that it is necessary to extend the emergency rulemaking. An initial Notice of Emergency Rulemaking imposing an emergency fuel surcharge was published in the *District of Columbia Register* on May 8, 2026, at 73 DCR 007184, which expired on August 26, 2025. This second emergency rulemaking was adopted by the Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles on August 26, 2026, will take effect on August 27, 2026, at 12:00 a.m., and will remain in effect for one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of its adoption, expiring December 25, 2026, at 11:59 p.m., unless earlier superseded or terminated by a subsequent rulemaking.

Title 31, TAXICABS AND PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE, of the DCMR is amended as follows:

Chapter 8, OPERATING RULES FOR PUBLIC VEHICLES-FOR-HIRE, is amended as follows:

Section 801, PASSENGER RATES AND CHARGES, subparagraph 801.7(c)(2), is amended as follows:

Sub-subparagraph (E) is amended by striking the word "and" at the end.

Sub-subparagraph (F) is amended by striking the period and inserting the phrase "; and" in its place.

A new sub-subparagraph (G) is added to read as follows:

(G) An emergency fuel surcharge, which shall be one dollar ($1.00), shall apply to each taxicab trip beginning on August 27, 2026, at 12:00 a.m., and shall end on December 25, 2026, at 11:59 p.m., unless superseded or terminated earlier by a rule issued by the Director.

Copies of this emergency rulemaking can be obtained at www.dcregs.dc.gov or by contacting the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Suite 3001, Washington, D.C. 20020.