**DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

The Acting Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles ("Department"), pursuant to the authority set forth in Sections 8(c)(1), (c)(20), 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)(20), and (d)), hereby gives notice of her intent to adopt the following proposed amendments to Chapters 6, 8, 11, and 99 of Title 31 (Taxicabs and Public Vehicles for Hire) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (“DCMR”) in not less than forty-five (45) days after the publication of this notice in the *District of Columbia Register*.

The Department is responsible for the establishment and supervision of the taxicab rate structure, including the responsibility to balance equitably the interest of owners and operators of taxicabs, taxicab companies and associations, and dispatch services in procuring a maximum rate of return on investment and labor against the public interest in maintaining a taxicab system affordable to a broad cross section of the public, and set taxicab fares which assure reasonable and adequate compensation and promote broad and nondiscriminatory public access to taxicab transportation.

This proposed rulemaking will amend Chapters 6, 8, 11, and 99 by: (1) increasing the minimum fare or flag drop rate from $3.25 to $4.00; (2) increasing the general distance rate from $2.16 per mile to $2.56 per mile; and (3) increasing the taxicab passenger surcharge from $0.25 to $0.50 per trip. Additionally, the proposed rulemaking would correct an internal reference for taxicab trips booked and paid with digital dispatch, which currently cites to a non-existent subsection of Title 31.

Taxicab fares have not been increased by the Department in the past ten (10) years. During this time, the taxicab industry has generally refrained from seeking fare increases, largely due to competition from private vehicle-for-hire services. However, due to recent increases in the Consumer Price Index, the cost of living, the cost of gasoline, and for-hire transportation costs in the region, the taxicab industry has requested a review of taxicab fares. To address the industry's concerns and mitigate the impact of rising costs on drivers, the Department has examined for-hire fares in the area and proposes a fare increase. This increase aims to maintain competitiveness with taxicab fares in neighboring jurisdictions as well as private for-hire vehicles. Even with the proposed increase, according to the Department’s analysis, taxicab trips may still be less expensive than comparable private for-hire trips. Additionally, the Department is proposing to increase the passenger surcharge to support programs that provide transportation services to underserved areas and promote the availability and operation of wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

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

**Chapter 6, TAXICAB PARTS AND EQUIPMENT, is amended as follows:**

**Section 602, TAXIMETERS AND DIGITAL TAXICAB SOLUTIONS, is amended as follows:**

**Subsection 602.9(f) is amended by striking the phrase “**twenty-five cents ($0.25)**” and inserting the phrase “**fifty cents ($0.50)**” in its place.**

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

**Section 801, PASSENGER RATES AND CHARGES, is amended as follows:**

**Subsection 801.7 is amended as follows:**

**Sub-subparagraph (c)(1)(A) is amended by striking the phrase “**three dollars and twenty-five cents ($3.25)**” and inserting the phrase “**four dollars ($4.00)**” in its place.**

**Sub-sub-subparagraph (c)(1)(B)(i) is amended by striking the period phrase “**two dollars and sixteen cents ($2.16) per mile (or twenty-seven cents ($0.27) per one-eighth (1/8) of a mile)**” and inserting the phrase “**two dollars and fifty-six cents ($2.56) per mile (or thirty-two cents ($0.32) per one-eighth (1/8) of a mile)**” in its place.**

**Sub-subparagraph (c)(2)(B) is amended by striking the phrase “**twenty-five cents ($0.25)**” and inserting the phrase “**fifty cents ($0.50)**” in its place.**

**Subparagraph (d)(3) is amended by striking the phrase “**requirements of § 1402.11**” and inserting the phrase “**requirements of § 1402.6**” in its place.**

**Chapter 11, PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE CONSUMER SERVICE FUND, is amended as follows:**

**Section 1103, PASSENGER SURCHARGE, is amended as follows:**

**Subsection 1103.1 is amended by striking the phrase “**twenty-five cent ($0.25)**” and inserting “**fifty cent ($0.50)**” in its place.**

**Chapter 99, DEFINITIONS, is amended as follows:**

**Section 9901, DEFINITIONS, is amended as follows:**

**Subsection 9901.1 is amended as follows:**

**The definition for “Passenger surcharge” is amended by striking the phrase “**twenty-five cents ($.25)**” and inserting the phrase “**fifty cents ($0.50)**” in its place.**

All persons desiring to comment on the subject matter of this proposed rulemaking should submit written comments by email to [taxifarecomments@dc.gov](mailto:taxifarecomments@dc.gov) or by mail to the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Suite 3001, Washington, D.C. 20020, no later than forty-five (45) days after the publication of this notice in the *District of Columbia Register*. Copies of this rulemaking can be obtained at [www.dcregs.dc.gov](http://www.dcregs.dc.gov) or by contacting the Department of For-Hire Vehicles at the address above.