

DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY AND PROPOSED RULEMAKING

The Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, pursuant to the authority set forth in sections 8(c)(12), (13), and (19) and 20a(b) 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)(12), (13), and (19) and 50-301.20(b) (2014 Repl. & 2017 Supp.)), hereby gives notice of the adoption, on an emergency basis, of amendments to Chapter 11 (Public Vehicles For-Hire Consumer Service Fund) of Title 31 (Taxicabs and Public Vehicles For Hire) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

The emergency rulemaking amends, and the proposed rulemaking proposes to amend, Chapter 11 to establish a financial assistance program that will allow the Department of For-Hire Vehicles (“Department”) to provide assistance to owners of taxicabs in furtherance of the Department’s mandates to encourage the use of alternative-fuel vehicles and wheelchair-accessible vehicles, ensure transportation options are available in and to underserved areas and communities, establish policies that reduce traffic congestion and promote a more livable city, and promote and maintain a healthy and viable taxicab industry.

The emergency rulemaking is necessary as the Department finds there is an immediate need to preserve and promote the safety and welfare of District residents by making the foregoing changes to ensure the financial viability of existing programs that currently provide important transportation services to District residents.

The emergency rulemaking was adopted on October 2, 2018, took effect immediately, and will remain in effect for one hundred twenty (120) days after the date of its adoption, (expiring January 30, 2019), unless earlier superseded by an amendment or repeal by the Department.

The Director also hereby gives notice of the intent to take final rulemaking action to adopt these rules as final in not less than thirty (30) days after the publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*. Directions for submitting comments may be found at the end of this notice.

Chapter 11, PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE CONSUMER SERVICE FUND, of Title 31 DCMR, TAXICABS AND PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE, is amended as follows:

Section 1102, PUBLIC VEHICLE FOR HIRE CONSUMER SERVICE FUND USES, is amended as follows:

A new Subsection 1102.4 is added to read as follows:

1102.4 The Department hereby establishes a financial assistance program to provide grants and procure goods and services for the purpose of meeting the mandates of the Act, including incentivizing the purchase and use of alternative-fuel vehicles, offsetting the cost of acquiring, maintaining and operating wheelchair-accessible

vehicles, providing fare discounts for low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities, incentivizing licensed taxicabs to serve underserved areas and communities, and offsetting cost associated with meeting these and other mandates of the Act. All program contracts will be awarded in accordance with the Procurement Practices Reform Act of 2010, D.C. Code § 2-201.01 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, and all program grants will be awarded in accordance with the Grant Administration Act of 2013, D.C. Official Code § 1-328.11 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations.

Copies of this proposed 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. All persons desiring to file comments on the proposed rulemaking action should submit written comments via e-mail to dfhv@dc.gov or by mail to the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, 2235 Shannon Place, S.E., Suite 3001, Washington, DC 20020, no later than thirty (30) days after the publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*.