

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TAXICAB COMMISSION

NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING

The District of Columbia Taxicab Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority set forth in section 8(a) and (b)(1) (E) and (J) of the District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-97; D.C. Official Code §§ 50-307(a) and (b)(1)(E) and (J) (2009 Repl.); hereby gives notice of the adoption of amendments to chapter 8 (Operation of Taxicabs) of title 31 (Taxicabs and Public Vehicles for Hire) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

The amendment will authorize shared riding at Nationals Park to relieve the public safety hazard created by the mass exodus of patrons seeking taxi service after Nationals Park events.

This Emergency and Proposed rule was adopted February 8, 2012, and became effective on February 8, 2012.

The proposed rules were originally published on February 17, 2012 at 59 DCR 001402. The comment period expired on March 18, 2012. The Commission held a public hearing on June 6, 2012, to receive oral comments on the Commission's proposed amendments. The Commission received a few comments from the public. No substantive changes were made to the proposed rulemaking.

The Taxicab Commission adopted the rulemaking as final on June 13, 2012. These final rules will become effective upon publication of this notice in the *D.C. Register*.

Chapter 8, OPERATION OF TAXICABS, of title 31, TAXICABS AND PUBLIC VEHICLES FOR HIRE, of the DCMR is amended as follows:

Section 801 (Passenger Rates and Charges), is amended as follows:

Subsection 801.10 is amended to read as follows:

801.10 As provided in § 808, Shared Riding is only allowed from Union Station, Verizon Center and Nationals Park at the direction of a Starter at designated taxi stands. The fare for Shared Riding shall be calculated in accordance with § 801.7.

Section 808 (Group Riding and Shared Riding) is amended as follows:

Subsection 808.2 is amended to read as follows:

808.2 Shared riding, as defined in § 899, is only permitted at Union Station, Verizon Center, and Nationals Park at such times as are determined to be necessary to achieve adequate service by a Starter employed or authorized by Union Station,

Verizon Center, or Nationals Park. The following requirements shall apply to Shared Riding:

- (a) The Starter shall have the sole authority to determine when a taxicab shall depart after taking on passengers, except that after an initial passenger has been taken on, the starter shall not unreasonably delay the departure of the taxicab for the purpose of securing additional passengers;
- (b) The general direction of the destination of the first passenger shall determine the general direction of that particular trip. Other passengers whose destinations lie generally in that direction may be transported to the extent of the design capacity of the taxicab;
- (c) Passengers shall be discharged in the order of the arrival at their respective destinations. In the event any questions arise as to the order of arrival at any destination, the question shall be resolved in favor of the passenger who entered the taxicab first; and
- (d) Passengers have the right to refuse Shared Riding.

Subsection 808.3 is added to read as follows:

808.3 Where Shared Riding is authorized in this chapter, for Nationals Park, an operator shall not pick up a passenger except at the designated taxi stand nor discharge a passenger except at the designated discharge stand. Nationals Park shall conspicuously post the designated taxi stand and discharge stands. Violations of this subsection are subject to a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100).

Section 899, DEFINITIONS, subsection 899.1 is amended as follows:

The following terms are amended to read as follows:

Shared riding – a group of two (2) or more passengers arranged by a starter at Union Station, Verizon Center, or Nationals Park with common or different destinations.

Taxicab - a passenger vehicle for hire, as authorized in § 601, having a seating capacity for eight (8) or fewer passengers, inclusive of the driver, and operated or offered as a vehicle for passenger transportation for hire.