

Before the Philadelphia Parking Authority

Taxicab and Limousine Division

CLERK

MAR 08 2021

Re: Petition for Change in Rates Pursuant To 53 Pa. C.S. § 5703	Docket No. P-21-03-01	PHILADELPHIA PARKING AUTHORITY TAXI AND LIMO DEPT
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PETITION FOR RATE CHANGE

I Petitioner, Ronald Blount as a certified PPA-TLD taxicab driver and as president of the Taxi Workers Alliance of Pennsylvania, and under the authority granted in 52 Pa. Code § 1005.21, hereby request a Change in Rates pursuant to 53 Pa. C.S. § 5703 and avers as follows:

1. Petitioner is a certified PPA-TLD taxicab driver under license number H-102361.
2. Petitioner request that the Authority re-establish the current tariff to include up-front pricing or to allow approved PPA smartphone app-based providers and Philadelphia medallion taxicabs to calculate their own fare outside of the taximeter but must provide passengers with a binding up-front fare quote to offer taxi passengers the same price certainty as Transportation Network Companies (TNC). The implementation of up-front pricing will offer guaranteed up-front fares to passenger prior to booking a trip. This level of price certainty is attractive to passengers and allows them to comparison shop, a competitive advantage that Philadelphia medallion taxicabs can't leverage under current PPA requirements. Philadelphia medallion taxicabs drivers will receive a fare offer on the driver information monitor installed in every taxicab. The fare offer must include, at a minimum, the pickup location and the flat net dollar amount the driver will earn. Unlike street-hails, which calculate a running fare total during the trip, these fares are determined prior to the driver accepting the trip. Up-front trips are not mandatory, and drivers may refuse to accept the fare offer, however drivers will have the ability to better compete with TNC's in a post-COVID-19 market on an experimental basis.
3. § 1003.11. Petitions for issuance of emergency orders.

- a. To the extent practicable, a petition for emergency order must be in the form of a petition as set forth in § 1005.21 (relating to petitions generally) and shall be served on the persons directly affected by the application.
 - b. A petition for emergency order must be supported by a verified statement of facts which establishes the existence of an emergency, including facts to support the following:
 - i. The petitioner's right to relief is clear.
 - ii. The need for relief is immediate.
 - iii. The injury would be irreparable if relief is not granted.
 - iv. The relief requested is not injurious to the public interest.
4. § 1030.2. Taxicab rates and tariffs. (a) Medallion taxicabs. All medallion taxicabs shall offer a guaranteed up-front pricing to passengers prior to booking a trip through an approved PPA app as determined and approved by the Authority upon investigation as provided in section 5703 or 5720 of the act, or both (relating to rates; wages).

(2) Flexible Rates and Surcharges. A certificate holder or certified driver may petition the Authority to reopen a rate investigation under section 5703 or 5720 of the act, or both (relating to rates; wages) to allow for flexible rates or surcharges, including fuel or peak-hour surcharges. (i) Any request for a flexible pricing model shall include a proposed framework for consumer protections that involve upfront disclosure of the fare in a way that is not contingent upon consumer request and such flexible pricing model will be computed to not violate the Price Gouging Act, 73 P.S. §§ 232.1, et seq. (3) Any approved flexible pricing model or surcharge shall be reviewed annually by the Authority. (b) Dispatchers. (1) Upon advanced written notice to the Authority, a dispatcher certificate holder may offer below-tariff pricing such as coupons, loyalty programs and corporate client discounts. (2) Upon approval by the Authority from a written request by a dispatcher certificate holder, a dispatcher may establish procedures for assessing fees to passengers for any of the following: (i) Cancellation of prearranged taxicab service within a certain time period of when the requested service was scheduled to begin;

(ii) Nonappearance of a passenger after requesting prearranged taxicab service; or (iii) Cleaning of a taxicab as a direct result of an act by a passenger.

5. Pursuant to 53 Pa. C.S. § 5703, Petitioner further request that the Authority implement interim emergency relief as Petitioner has outlined in the "Petition For Interim Emergency Relief" Form.
6. On November 4, 2016, the Governor signed Act 164, since then, taxicab drivers and owners have lost 70% of their income.
7. The Authority is aware of the declining number of taxicab medallions in voluntary suspension, Petitioner estimates that over 1000 taxi medallions are incapacitated.
8. The number of active certified taxicab drivers have decreased from 5,000 in 2014 to about 300 today.
9. Over 10,000 TNC vehicles are now actively working in Philadelphia, grabbing the lion-share of revenues.
10. Petitioner request the proposed up-front flexible fare change go into effect immediately upon the approval of the present Petition and that it applies to all taxicabs pursuant to 53 Pa. C.S. § 5720(b).
11. Pursuant to 53 Pa. C.S. § 5703, this Petition will help taxicab drivers achieve a fair return for their labor and expenses, will be non-discriminatory to any person, just and reasonable, and conforms with the Authority's statutes and regulations.
12. Granting the present Petition will alleviate the harm incurred by taxi drivers by permitting them to recover some of the lost revenues.

Petitioner request that the Authority grant this Petition to help stabilize the declining income of taxicab drivers and to ensure that taxicab medallion owners can receive the leasing fees for their medallions. Petitioner states that the above request will not harm the public and will be able to prove if deem necessary.

Respectfully submitted;

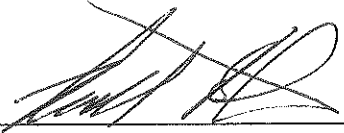


Ronald Blount

03/07/2021

VERIFICATION

I, Ronald Rhot, hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct (or are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief) and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Signature: 

Date: 03/08/2021

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ronald Klout, hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1001.52.

*List names and addresses of parties served and manner in which each was served.

Delivered: FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL HAND DELIVERY EMAIL OTHER

NAME: Erastine Kirlin

MAILING ADDRESS:

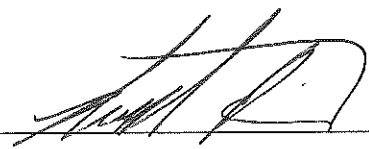
EMAIL ADDRESS:
CKirlin@PikePeak.org

Delivered: FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL HAND DELIVERY EMAIL OTHER

NAME: Dennis Welder

MAILING ADDRESS:

EMAIL ADDRESS:
DWelder@PikePeak.org

Signature: 

Dated this 03 day of 08, 202021