

12-A

MOTION:

**May 10, 2022
Regular Meeting
Ord. No. 22-**

SECOND:

**RE: EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 27 – TAXICABS TO PROVIDE FOR
A FUEL SURCHARGE**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the rates for the transportation of passengers by taxicab are established by Prince William County Code 27-151; and

WHEREAS, as of March 11, 2022, the standard taxicab rate was set as follows: "for the initial hiring or activation of the meter for service, and to include the first 1/10 of a mile or fraction thereof, the sum of (\$3.00). For each additional 1/10 of a mile or fraction thereof, the sum of (\$0.20) for each 32 seconds waiting time, the sum of \$0.20." and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2022, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA) at the federal Department of Energy, the average retail price of gasoline in the Central Atlantic Region had risen to \$4.328 / gallon from \$3.606 / gallon on February 7, 2022 and from \$2.927 on March 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, taxicab owners, the Taxicab Review Board, and County staff are working to develop a new rate to address the increase in fuel prices; however, the dramatic increase in those prices during the past few months is creating a dire situation that requires a rapid response; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 15.2-1427(F) of the Code of Virginia, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors (Board) may adopt emergency ordinances without prior notice, which can remain in force for sixty (60) days, during which time a duly advertised public hearing may be held to consider if the ordinance should be adopted on a permanent basis; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2022 the Board passed Resolution Number (Res No.) 22-150 on, which was an emergency ordinance that temporarily allowed a one dollar fuel surcharge for sixty (60) days until May 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, according to the Energy Information Administration, the average gas price of gasoline is still elevated compared to 2021 levels, with average price of gasoline in the Central Atlantic Region at \$4.207 / gallon as of April 25, 2022; and

WHEREAS, because of the ongoing high gasoline prices, emergency action is required at this time;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby amends 27-151 by amending and re-enacting 27-151(a)(1) which shall read as follows:

(a) The rates for the transportation of passengers in the county by taxicabs shall be as follows:

(1) Effective October 1, 2008, for the initial hiring or activation of the meter for service, and to include the first 1/10 of a mile or fraction thereof, the sum of \$3.00. For each additional 1/10 of a mile or fraction thereof, the sum of \$0.20. However, no driver may charge the rates provided for in this subsection unless the taxicab inspector has made the appropriate and timely recalibrations to the driver's taxicab meter. Furthermore, from May 14, 2022 through July 13, 2022, the driver may charge an additional \$1.00 fuel surcharge in addition to the \$3.00 meter activation cost;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby recognizes an emergency exists and this ordinance shall be effective immediately and shall be effective for sixty (60) days unless sooner amended or repealed by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors.

ATTACHMENT: Emergency Ordinance Redline

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

ATTEST: _____
Clerk to the Board

EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REDLINE

Sec. 27-151. Rates generally.

- (a) The rates for the transportation of passengers in the county by taxicabs shall be as follows:
- (1) Effective October 1, 2008, for the initial hiring or activation of the meter for service, and to include the first 1/10 of a mile or fraction thereof, the sum of \$3.00. For each additional 1/10 of a mile or fraction thereof, the sum of \$0.20. However, no driver may charge the rates provided for in this subsection unless the taxicab inspector has made the appropriate and timely recalibrations to the driver's taxicab meter. Only until such time as the taxicab inspector has made the appropriate calibration of the taxicab meter to reflect the increase in the mileage rate to \$0.20 for each additional 1/10 mile, the driver may charge an additional \$1.00 surcharge for the initial hiring or activation of the taxicab meter for service. Furthermore, from May 14, 2022 through July 13, 2022, the driver may charge an additional \$1.00 fuel surcharge in addition to the \$3.00 meter activation cost.
 - (2) For each 32 seconds waiting time, the sum of \$0.20.
- (b) For the purposes of subsection (a)(6) above, waiting time shall be deemed to include:
- (1) Time consumed while the taxicab is waiting and unavailable to other passengers for hire, beginning five minutes after the later of (i) time of arrival at the place to which it has been called, or (ii) the agreed pick-up time.
 - (2) Time consumed while the taxicab is stopped, or slowed for traffic to a speed less than 12 miles per hour. While such time is charged, there shall be no charges for mileage under subsection (a)(1)—(4) of this section.
 - (3) Time consumed for delays or stopovers enroute at the direction of the passenger or customer. Waiting time shall not include time lost on account of inefficiency of the taxicab, police traffic stop, vehicle accident involving the taxicab or any delay caused by the taxicab driver.
- (c) When a driver has taken into a taxicab a passenger for transportation and has actually begun the transportation of such passenger, no other person shall be received by the driver into such taxicab until the original passenger's destination is reached, except with the consent of such original passenger. No charge shall be made for the additional passenger, except when the additional passenger rides beyond the original passenger's destination, where the meter shall be reset to compute the additional passenger's fare to his destination. This subsection shall not apply to the exceptions listed in section 27-159.
- (d) In cases where more than one passenger enters a taxicab at the same time and bound for different destinations, the fare shall be charged as follows: Whenever a passenger gets out and pays the fare, then the meter shall be reset upon such passenger's departure; however, when such passenger does not pay the fare then the total fare shall be paid by the last passenger delivered. This subsection shall not apply to the exceptions listed in section 27-159.
- (e) Drivers may give discounted fares of 25 percent to passengers carrying a driver's license or other government-issued identification demonstrating that that they are at least 65 years old.

(Ord. No. 79-6-20, §§ 16-32, 16-40, 2-6-79; Ord. No. 81-16-19, 5-19-81; Ord. No. 82-19-37, 7-6-82; Ord. No. 86-84, 6-3-86; Ord. No. 87-103, 10-6-87; Ord. No. 90-138, 11-13-90; Ord. No. 98-33, 5-5-98; Ord. No. 01-1, 1-2-01, 1-2-01; Ord. No. 03-17, 3-4-03; Ord. No. 05-58, 9-6-05; Ord. No. 05-93, 12-20-05; Ord. No. 06-05, 1-17-06; Ord. No. 08-77, 8-5-08; Ord. No. 08-89, 9-23-08; Ord. No. 09-34, 6-2-09)



PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

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MAY 4, 2022

AGENDA DATE: MAY 10, 2022

TO: BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS

THROUGH: MICHELLE ROBL
County Attorney *MR*

FROM: EDWIN D. WARD *EDW*
Assistant County Attorney

RE: Emergency Ordinance and Authorization for Public Hearing for Regular Ordinance to increase Taxi Fares

Board directive 22-17 directed staff to place an emergency ordinance on the Board's May 10th agenda which would provide for a \$1.00 fuel surcharge on taxicab rates. In addition, staff was directed to present a resolution for the Board to consider authorizing a public hearing to consider non-emergency amendments to the County's taxicab rates. In response to that directive, staff has prepared the attached emergency ordinance and the attached resolution to authorize a public hearing for ordinance amendments for the Board's consideration. The attached proposed emergency ordinance would permit taxicabs to continue to charge a \$1.00 fuel surcharge from May 14, 2022, through July 13, 2022 unless the Board takes additional action before July 13, 2022. The attached proposed resolution would authorize staff to advertise a public hearing for the Board to consider extending that \$1.00 surcharge on a long term basis and also to consider increasing the waiting fee for each 32 seconds from \$0.20 to \$0.25 and the incremental fee for each 1/10 of a mile from \$0.20 to \$0.25.

Attachments:

- Proposed Emergency Resolution
- Proposed Resolution Authorizing Public Hearing