

Ordinance No. 122734

Council Bill No. 116208

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taximeter rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in Seattle; increasing the flat rate from the downtown hotel district to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; adding a special rate penalty; and amending Section 6.310.530 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

CF No. _____

Date Introduced:	5.12.08		
Date 1st Referred:	To:	Finance and Budget (FAB)	
Date Re - Referred:	To:	(committee)	
Date Re - Referred:	To:	(committee)	
Date of Final Passage:	Full Council Vote:		
7-7-08	8-0		
Date Presented to Mayor:	Date Approved:		
7-8-08	7.9.08		
Date Returned to City Clerk:	Date Published:	T.O.	F.T.
7.9.08	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date Vetoed by Mayor:	Date Veto Published:		

The City of Seattle - Legislative Department

Council Bill/Ordinance sponsored by: Jean Golden
Councilmember

Committee Action:

AS AMENDED (BNS)
Do Pass 1 Y - JG, SC, NL N - 0

7-7-08 Passed 8-0 (Excused: Rasmussen)

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council. Committee: _____
(initial/date)

Law Department

ORDINANCE 122734

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taximeter rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in Seattle; increasing the flat rate from the downtown hotel district to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; adding a special rate penalty; and amending Section 6.310.530 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the current taximeter rates became effective on April 1, 2005, and since that time the Consumer Price Index has risen approximately 7% in the Seattle metropolitan area, with fuel prices increasing at an even higher rate, making it appropriate to adjust rates to reflect inflationary cost increases; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Effective (()) October 1, 2008, Subsections D and E of Section 6.310.530 of the Seattle Municipal Code are amended as follows:

6.310.530 Rates.

* * *

D. Except for special or contract rates as provided for in this chapter, or any per trip fee established by the Port of Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or tariff, or an airport flat rate defined in this section, or a temporary fuel surcharge authorized by the Director pursuant to subsection I of this section, it shall be unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by The City of Seattle to advertise, charge, demand or receive any greater or lesser rate than the following:



Meter rate:

1. Drop charge: for passengers for first 1/10 mile.... \$2.50
2. Per mile: For each 1/10 mile or fraction thereof after the first 1/10 mile.... \$ 0 .25
3. For every one (1) minute of waiting time.... \$.50* (charged at \$0.25 per 30 seconds)
4. Additional per passenger charge for more than two (2) persons, excluding children under twelve (12) years of age.... \$.50

* Waiting time rates are charged when taxicab speed is less than twelve (12) miles per hour or when a taxicab driver is asked to wait for the customer.

E. Special Rates, Contract Rates, "Downtown to Airport" Flat Rate, and Coupons.

1. Special rates as defined in this chapter shall be calculated as a fraction or percentage of the meter rate.
2. The special rates must be filed with the Director on forms furnished by the Director.
3. All special rates and/or contract rates shall be filed once a year at the time of application by the taxicab association representative, or by the owner of a for-hire vehicle which is not a taxicab.
4. Licensees may change the special rates filed no more than once a year.
5. Contract rates set during the license year shall be filed within two (2) weeks of securing such contract and before implementing the contract rate.
6. All taxicabs shall charge a flat rate of (~~(Twenty-eight Dollars (\$28))~~) Thirty-Two Dollars (\$32) from the downtown hotel district to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport except when contract rates are in effect for the trip, or when the Director has temporarily suspended the flat rate in accordance with subsection J of this section. The downtown



1 hotel district is the area defined by Broad Street to Mercer Street to I-5 on the north, Elliot
2 Bay on the west, South Dearborn Street on the south, and Boren Ave, to the I-5 Freeway
3 and then the Freeway on the east.

4 7. The use of coupons or discounts to establish a lower rate, or a rate not provided within
5 this section, is prohibited (Class A – each incident).
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Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force on October 1, 2008.

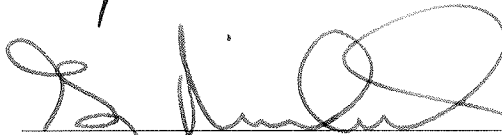
Passed by the City Council the 7th day of July, 2008, and
signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this

7th day of July, 2008.



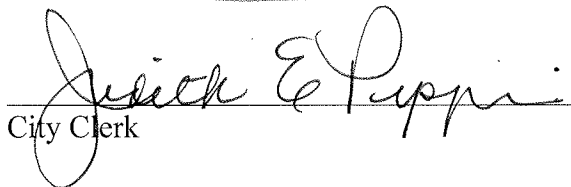
President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this 9th day of July, 2008.



Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Filed by me this 9th day of July, 2008.



City Clerk

(Seal)

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	DOF Analyst/Phone:
Executive Administration	Denise Movius/4.9259	Lawand Anderson/3.2780

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taximeter rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in Seattle; increasing the flat rate from the downtown hotel district to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; adding a special rate penalty; and amending Section 6.310.530 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

- **Summary of the Legislation:**

The proposed legislation amends SMC Section 6.310.530 to provide for increases to the current taximeter rates and to the flat fee charge for taxi service from the downtown hotel district to Seattle-Tacoma Airport, effective June 1, 2008. Additionally, the legislation amends Subsection E7 of SMC Section 6.310.530 to provide the penalty for violation of the prohibition of use of coupons to establish a lower taximeter rate.

- **Background:**

The current taximeter rates provided for in SMC Section 6.310.530 took effect April 1, 2005 (Ordinance 121737). Since that time, the cost of living in Seattle has risen by approximately 7% as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest Consumer Price Index for the Seattle metropolitan area. Gasoline prices have also consistently increased, and recently spiked to more than \$3.40 per gallon. It is necessary to increase the taximeter rates to a level that allows the taxicab industry to recover operational expenses and earn reasonable profits. Consistent with the taximeter rate increase, the flat fee charge for transportation from the downtown hotel district to Seattle-Tacoma Airport also will be increased from \$28 to \$30.

Subsection E7 of SMC Section 6.310.530 prohibits the use of coupons to establish a lower taximeter rate. When this restriction was established through Ordinance 119872 in 2000, the department failed to include with the legislation the penalty associated with violation of the provision. The proposed legislation adds the penalty provision and further provides that discounts, as well as coupons, are prohibited for establishing a lower taximeter rates.

X This legislation does not have any financial implications.



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

March 18, 2008

Honorable Richard Conlin
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Conlin:

I am transmitting the attached Council Bill that amends Section 6.310.530 of the Seattle Municipal Code to increase current taximeter rates, effective June 1, 2008.

Taximeter rates have not been increased since April 1, 2005. Since that time, the cost of living in Seattle has risen by approximately 7%. Gasoline prices have also consistently increased, and recently spiked to over \$3.40 per gallon. It is necessary to increase current taximeter rates to a level that allows the taxicab industry to recover operational expenses and earn reasonable profits. Consistent with the rate increase, the flat fee charge for transportation from the downtown hotel district to Seattle-Tacoma Airport also will be increased from \$28 to \$30. Additionally, the proposed legislation amends SMC Section 6.310.530 to provide a penalty for violation of the prohibition on the use of coupons or discounts to establish a lower taximeter rate.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Denise Movius at 684-9259.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Greg Nickels', written over a large, faint, stylized 'S' that spans across the signature area.

GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council



ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taximeter rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in Seattle; increasing the flat rate from the downtown hotel district to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; adding a special rate penalty; and amending Section 6.310.530 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the current taximeter rates became effective on April 1, 2005, and since that time the Consumer Price Index has risen approximately 7% in the Seattle metropolitan area, with fuel prices increasing at an even higher rate, making it appropriate to adjust rates to reflect inflationary cost increases; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Effective June 1, 2008, Subsections D and E of Section 6.310.530 of the Seattle Municipal Code are amended as follows:

6.310.530 Rates.

* * *

D. Except for special or contract rates as provided for in this chapter, or any per trip fee established by the Port of Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or tariff, or an airport flat rate defined in this section, or a temporary fuel surcharge authorized by the Director pursuant to subsection I of this section, it shall be unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by The City of Seattle to advertise, charge, demand or receive any greater or lesser rate than the following:



Meter rate:

1. Drop charge: for passengers for first ~~((1/10))~~ 1/9 mile.... \$2.50
2. Per mile: For each ~~((1/10))~~ 1/9 mile or fraction thereof after the first ~~((1/10))~~ 1/9 mile.... \$ ~~((-.20))~~ .25
3. For every one (1) minute of waiting time.... \$.50* (charged at \$0.25 per 30 seconds)
4. Additional per passenger charge for more than two (2) persons, excluding children under twelve (12) years of age.... \$.50

* Waiting time rates are charged when taxicab speed is less than ~~((fifteen (15)))~~ thirteen (13) miles per hour or when a taxicab driver is asked to wait for the customer.

E. Special Rates, Contract Rates, "Downtown to Airport" Flat Rate, and Coupons.

1. Special rates as defined in this chapter shall be calculated as a fraction or percentage of the meter rate.
2. The special rates must be filed with the Director on forms furnished by the Director.
3. All special rates and/or contract rates shall be filed once a year at the time of application by the taxicab association representative, or by the owner of a for-hire vehicle which is not a taxicab.
4. Licensees may change the special rates filed no more than once a year.
5. Contract rates set during the license year shall be filed within two (2) weeks of securing such contract and before implementing the contract rate.
6. All taxicabs shall charge a flat rate of ~~((Twenty-eight Dollars (\$28)))~~ Thirty Dollars (\$30) from the downtown hotel district to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport except

1 when contract rates are in effect for the trip, or when the Director has temporarily
2 suspended the flat rate in accordance with subsection J of this section. The downtown
3 hotel district is the area defined by Broad Street to Mercer Street to I-5 on the north, Elliot
4 Bay on the west, South Dearborn Street on the south, and Boren Ave, to the I-5 Freeway
5 and then the Freeway on the east.

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7 7. The use of coupons or discounts to establish a lower rate, or a rate not provided within
8 this section, is prohibited (Class A – each incident).

9 * * *

STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

226730
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No.

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

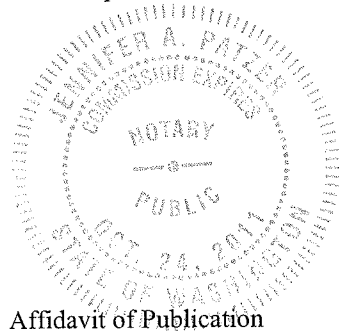
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:122734 ORDINANCE

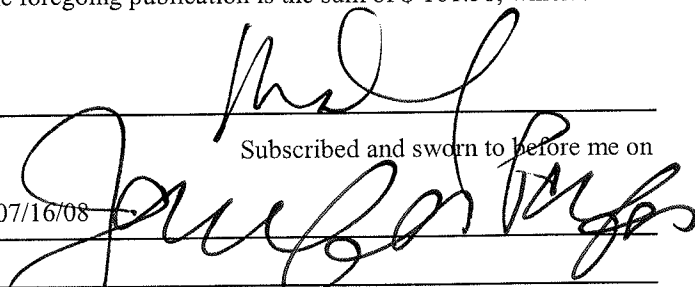
was published on

07/16/08

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ 161.58, which amount has been paid in full.



Affidavit of Publication


Subscribed and sworn to before me on
07/16/08
Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

ORDINANCE 122734

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taximeter rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in Seattle; increasing the flat rate from the downtown hotel district to the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport; adding a special rate penalty; and amending Section 6.310.530 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

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Meter rate:

1. Drop charge: for passengers for first $((1/10))$ $1/9$ mile.... \$2.50
2. Per mile: For each $((1/10))$ $1/9$ mile or fraction thereof after the first $((1/10))$ $1/9$ mile.... $((-20))$ 25
3. For every one (1) minute of waiting time.... \$.50* (~~charged at \$0.25 per 30 seconds~~)
4. Additional per passenger charge for more than two (2) persons, excluding children under twelve (12) years of age.... \$.50

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7. The use of coupons or discounts to establish a lower rate, or a rate not provided within this section, is prohibited (~~Class A~~ ~~- each incident~~).

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the 7th day of July, 2008, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 7th day of July, 2008.

Richard Conlin

President of the City Council

Approved by me this 9th day of July, 2008.

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Filed by me this 9th day of July, 2008.

(Seal) Judith Pippin

City Clerk

Publication ordered by JUDITH PIPPIN, City Clerk

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, July 16, 2008.

7/16(226730)