

ORDINANCE NO. 4434

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 9-12-132 (AMOUNT OF FARE TO BE CHARGED), of Article A.1(TAXICABS), Chapter 12 (TAXICABS AND OTHER VEHICLES FOR HIRE), Title 9, (LICENSING AND REGULATION) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 9-12-132 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 9-12-132 Amount of fare to be charged.

(a) The rates to be charged to passengers in taxicabs shall be as follows. It shall be unlawful to make any greater or lesser charge:

- (1) For the initial meter charge (referred to as the first drop), \$2.75.
- (2) For the second and for each additional passenger who is five years of age or older, \$1.25.
- (3) For each one-sixth mile or fraction thereof for one or more passengers, \$0.30.
- (4) For each one hour of waiting time for one or more passengers, \$22.50. The incremental cost of this charge shall be \$0.30 for each 48 seconds. Waiting time shall include time consumed while the taxicab is waiting and available to passengers beginning three minutes after the time of arrival at the place to which it has been called, time consumed while the taxicab is stopped or slowed for traffic to a speed of less than seven miles per hour and time consumed for delays or stopovers en route at the direction of a passenger. No time shall be allowed for a premature response to a call. There shall be no charge for mileage when time is being charged for a taxicab that is stopped or slowed for traffic to a speed of less than seven miles per hour. Waiting time shall not include time lost on account of the inefficiency of a taxicab.
- (5) For each suitcase or similar piece of travel luggage in excess of two bags

placed in the trunk, \$0.50 if handled by the driver, plus an additional \$1, if carried by the driver to the door of a single-family residence, or the main entrance of any building other than a single-family residence. There shall be no charge made for fewer than three suitcases or pieces of luggage. The maximum charge for all such items shall be \$2.00.

(6) For each trunk, footlocker, duffel bag or other bulky or heavy item, \$2, if handled by the driver, provided that there will be no charge for wheelchairs, walkers, crutches or other items used to assist persons with disabilities.

(7) For three or more grocery and/or shopping bags, \$1 if handled by the driver in the immediate vicinity of the taxicab, plus an additional \$1, if carried by the driver to the door of a single-family residence, or the main entrance of any building other than a single-family residence. There shall be no charge made for fewer than three grocery and/or shopping bags. The maximum charge for all such items shall be \$2.

(8) For each animal, \$1; provided, that there shall be no charge for guide dogs or service animals assisting persons with disabilities.

(9) For each trip originating at Ronald Regan Washington National Airport, the fee required to be paid to the airport for the privilege of picking up passengers.

(10) Taximeter fares shall be increased by \$5 during any period in which a snow emergency plan is in effect in the city, as declared by the city manager or his authorized representative. In addition, taximeter fares shall be increased by \$5 in the event that the director of transportation and environmental services determines that driving conditions in the city are, or are reasonably expected to become, unduly hazardous due to the accumulation of snow, sleet or ice on the streets. The transportation division of the department of transportation and environmental services will notify each taxicab company by telephone of the exact time any such taximeter fare increase is to go into effect and the exact time that such fare increase is terminated.

(11) Taximeter fares may be increased by a surcharge authorized by the city manager, in the event that the city manager determines that a sudden increase in the cost of gasoline requires a surcharge to maintain stability in the provision of taxicab services in the city and to prevent the gas cost increase from having a serious adverse financial impact on the drivers of taxicabs. The surcharge shall continue in effect for such period, not to exceed one year, as the city manager shall determine, but may be terminated sooner if the manager determines that the surcharge is no longer warranted. The

determination of the city manager shall be based on information provided by taxicab companies, and from such other sources as the city manager deems appropriate. The transportation division of the department of transportation and environmental services will notify each taxicab company in writing of any such surcharge. Such notice shall indicate the amount of the surcharge, and the period during which such surcharge shall be permitted. The hack inspector shall furnish to the driver of each taxicab operated under this article a copy of such notice, which shall be displayed within the vehicle in addition to the rate card required under section 9-12-134.

(b) This section shall not apply when any taxicab is operated pursuant to a contract provided for in section 9-12-133 of this chapter.

(c) Nothing contained herein shall prevent a certificate holder from establishing a coupon or reward program for its customers where a discount coupon, customer loyalty certificate or some other marketing device is accepted as part of the allowed fare set forth herein.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective at the date and at the time of its final passage.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
Mayor

Final Passage: December 17, 2005