

Order 56-04/05

Given first reading with second reading waived.

Passed: 9/8/04 6-1 Duson opposed (Leeman, Cohen absent)

NATHAN H. SMITH (MAYOR)(3)

WILLIAM R. GORHAM (1)

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CITY OF PORTLAND

IN THE CITY COUNCIL

PETER E. O'DONNELL (A/L)

JAMES F. CLOUTIER(A/L)

JILL C. DUSON (A/L)

NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

**AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND CITY CODE
CHAPTER 30 (VEHICLES FOR HIRE), SEC. 30-20
RE: TAXICAB FARES FOR SERVICE**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND,
MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:**

*I. That Sec. 30-20 (Fares for service) of Chapter 30 of the
Portland City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:*

Sec. 30-20. Fares for service.

The maximum fares for taxicabs shall be as follows:

(a) *Peaks Island.* The maximum passenger fare for taxicab service in taxicabs operating exclusively on Peaks Island shall be one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per passenger per trip; except that the maximum passenger fare for service to that portion of Peaks Island located beyond the intersection of Seashore Avenue and Trefethren Avenue or the intersection of Whitehead and Seashore Avenue shall be two dollars (\$2.00).

(b) *Other than on islands:*

(1) *Metered zone.* The maximum fare for taxicab service solely within the metered zone, provided by taxicabs other than those operating exclusively on the islands, shall be one dollar and ninety cents (\$1.90) for the first one-tenth of a mile or a fraction thereof and twenty-five cents (\$0.25) for each one-tenth of a mile or fraction thereof, thereafter. The fare shall be computed and displayed by the taximeter. No fare charged shall be in excess of the amount displayed by taximeter. There shall be one (1) fare, divided equally, in the case of two (2) or more passengers who engage the taxicab for a trip between the same two (2) points. In all other cases, each passenger shall pay a separate fare,

subject to the provisions of section 30-37(a)(4). Such separate fare must be negotiated in advance of commencement of the trip.

(2) *Outside metered zone.* If a trip begins or ends within the city and the other point of destination is outside the metered zone, the passenger and driver shall agree upon the fare before the trip commences; otherwise the passenger shall be under no obligation to pay any fare.

(c) *Waiting time.* A charge for waiting time may be made only for time waited at the express direction of the passenger after the trip has begun and for time waited before the trip has begun, commencing five (5) minutes after the time at which the passenger has requested the taxicab to call, or five (5) minutes after the taxicab actually calls, whichever is later. The charge for such waiting time shall be thirty cents (\$0.30) per minute.

(d) *Sight-seeing.* Taxicabs may be employed for purposes of sight-seeing only according to a published route and rate.

(e) *Bags and parcels.* No charge shall be made for the transportation of the bags or parcels of a passenger.

(f) *Review of fares.* The city manager shall review at least annually the fares prescribed by this article and shall report to the city council on the advisability of changing any or all fares.

(Code 1968, § 902.8; Ord. No. 231-80, 12-22-80; Ord. No. 576-81, §§ 1, 2, 4-6-81; Ord. No. 471-84, 3-7-84; Ord. No. 332-88, 4-20-88; Ord. No. 63-89, 7-17-89; Ord. No. 303-92, 4-6-92; Ord. No. 249-97, 4-23-97)

II. Emergency Enactor

WHEREAS, the rates that taxi drivers and companies are allowed to charge in the City of Portland have not increased for seven years; and

WHEREAS, during that same time period, the costs of operating a taxi and taxi business have risen significantly, particularly in relation to the cost of insurance and gasoline; and

WHEREAS, it is the conclusion of the Council that this

rate increase should therefore be enacted as an emergency;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that this ordinance amendment is enacted as an emergency pursuant to Article II § 8 of the Portland City Charter.