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Communications Office

(213) 972-8406

CITY OF LOS ANGELES REDUCES TAXI FRANCHISE FEES AND EXPANDS HAIL A TAXI PROGRAM CITYWIDE

LOS ANGELES, CA (June 16th, 2016)

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Today, the City of Los Angeles Taxi Commission approved recommendations from the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to provide a thirty-six percent franchise fee reduction to the taxi industry. In addition, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation today also took action to expand the existing Hail-A-Taxi Program citywide.

Amidst increased operating costs and a changing economy, the franchise fee reduction will help to support the taxi industry, while the Hail-A-Taxi Program will make it easier for passengers and taxi drivers to connect for a trip.

“It is a priority for my administration to provide more options for Angelenos to get around the city as quickly and conveniently as possible – and that includes making it easier to catch a cab” said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. “Our transportation systems are constantly changing through new innovations – and today’s action makes it easier for taxis to remain competitive which helps support a more thriving local economy.”

Current franchise fees are set at \$1,270 per taxi annually. The franchise fee reduction will generate a savings of approximately \$457 per taxi, per year. Los Angeles taxis provide a number of benefits including the following:

- Ten percent wheelchair accessible taxis
- Eighty percent of the taxi fleet is comprised of low-emission vehicles
- Taxis participate in LADOT's transportation assistance program, CityRide, which provides reduced costs to older adults and disabled persons
- Taxis continue to provide a steady level of service to low-income communities

"It's important for Los Angeles to allow the heavily regulated taxi industry to modernize as it competes with largely unregulated ride hailing companies," said Councilmember Paul Krekorian. "Today's decision gives the industry the ability to operate more economically, while keeping all existing passenger safety standards intact."

The Hail-A-Taxi Pilot Program was initially launched in Downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood in 2009 as a way to make it easier to hail taxis in the city. While it has always been legal to hail a taxi, the pilot focused on providing clear guidelines to taxi drivers and to the city's own traffic enforcement officers to when and where they could hail. Today's action expands those guidelines citywide.

Taxi Commission President Eric Spiegelman stated today, "We ask our taxi drivers to provide equal service to all Angelinos, including those who live in South Los Angeles and those who use a wheelchair, and our taxi drivers gladly comply. Today's fee reduction helps them continue to provide these valuable services."



Los Angeles Department of Transportation
100 S Main St. 10th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012
213.972.8470



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