



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
One North University Drive, Suite A203, Plantation, Florida 33324
954-519-1700 • Fax 954-765-5309 • broward.org/consumer

Electronic Taximeters

On June 6, 2017, the County Commission held a Public Hearing and passed Ordinance No. 2017-20 (attached below) allowing Electronic Taximeters in Broward County. The Electronic Taximeter must meet the following requirements and be approved by the Environmental and Consumer Protection Division (ECPD). The meter must:

- Calculate the fare to be charged to the passenger, ensuring the fare does not exceed the taximeter rates in [Section 40.50.b. of Chapter 40](#) of Broward County's Administrative Code.
- Be an application on an Android or iOS device used to measure time and distance for calculating a fare.
- Comply with all related taximeter regulations in Chapter 22½.
- Pass an inspection by ECPD when installed in the vehicle, to include a field test demonstrating capabilities. Note, each instance of an installation does not need to be inspected. Once a given electronic taximeter installation has been approved, that electronic taximeter can be freely installed on any of that taxi company's permitted taxis.
- The inspection will be conducted by ECPD staff at Broward County's Government Center West, 1 N. University Drive, Plantation Florida 33324. For your convenience, we recommend you schedule this inspection by calling 954-765-1702, or emailing rapicella@broward.org.

1 ORDINANCE NO. 2017-20

2 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
3 COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA,
4 PERTAINING TO MOTOR CARRIERS; AMENDING
5 VARIOUS SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 22½ OF THE
6 BROWARD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES ("CODE");
7 PROVIDING THAT TAXICABS MAY USE A SOFTWARE
8 PROGRAM, PLATFORM, OR APPLICATION INSTALLED
9 ON AN ELECTRONIC DEVICE AS A TAXIMETER;
10 PROVIDING THAT TAXICABS MAY CHARGE A FARE
11 EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN THE FARE SET BY THE
12 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; UPDATING THE
13 DEFINITION OF DIVISION; AND PROVIDING FOR
14 SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN
15 EFFECTIVE DATE.

16 (Sponsored by Commissioners
17 Mark D. Bogen, Dale V.C. Holness,
18 Chip LaMarca, and Vice-Mayor Beam Furr)

19 WHEREAS, Chapter 22½ of the Broward County Code of Ordinances regulates
20 for-hire transportation services in Broward County; and

21 WHEREAS, the fares charged by taxicabs are regulated exclusively by Broward
22 County; and

23 WHEREAS, taxicabs are required to have a taximeter installed; and

24 WHEREAS, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners ("Board")
desires to allow taxicabs greater flexibility to charge lower rates to customers and to use
different forms of taximeters to integrate technology and facilitate a more flexible fare
structure; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the revisions to the Code as set forth herein are
necessary and in the best interest of Broward County,

1 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
2 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

3
4 Section 1. Section 22½-1 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances is
5 hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **Sec. 22½-1. Definitions.**

7 This Chapter may be referred to and cited as the "Motor Carriers Ordinance."
8 For the purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context
9 of their usage clearly indicates another meaning:

10 (a) *Applicant* means an individual, partnership, association, or corporation
11 who applies for a certificate of public convenience and necessity, a permit, a license, or
12 a chauffeur's registration pursuant to the terms of this Chapter. In the case of
13 partnerships, associations, and corporations, "applicant" shall also mean each individual
14 with a partnership interest, each associate, and the corporate officers and directors. Any
15 signature required in completing forms shall be in original ink and not photocopied.

16 (b) *Certificate* means any certificate of public convenience and necessity
17 issued pursuant to this Chapter, which authorizes the holder to engage in providing
18 passenger transportation services to the public.

19 (c) *Chauffeur* means a duly licensed driver registered with the Environmental
20 ~~Licensing and Building Permitting~~ Consumer Protection Division of Broward County to
21 operate a motor vehicle for hire.

22 . . .

23 (f) *Director* means the Director of the Environmental ~~Licensing and Building~~
24 ~~Permitting~~ Consumer Protection Division of Broward County.

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underscoring type are additions.

1 (g) *Division* means the Environmental Licensing and ~~Building Permitting~~
2 Consumer Protection Division of Broward County.

3 . . .

4 (q) *Taximeter* means any device approved by the Division which is internally
5 mounted in a taxicab and which records and indicates a charge or fare measured by
6 distance traveled, waiting time, or other traditionally compensable activities or items of
7 taxicab service. In addition to a conventional taximeter, a taximeter may be a software
8 program, platform, or application installed on an electronic device.

9 . . .

10
11 Section 2. Section 22½-9A of the Broward County Code of Ordinances is
12 hereby amended to read as follows:

13 **Sec. 22½-9A. Operations—Minimum standards of conduct.**

14 The role of certificate, license, and permit holders is essential to enhance and
15 showcase public transportation services to the residents and visitors of Broward County.
16 Intrinsic to operation of a quality public transportation service is the conduct of each
17 certificate, license, and permit holder. Therefore, all such holders are required to
18 comply with the following minimum standards:

19 . . .

20 (n) No fares or compensation for transportation services shall ~~be collected~~
21 ~~other than at~~ exceed the established taxicab meter rate or agreed upon limousine rate
22 or any other compensation established by the County, including any additional payment
23 for transporting baggage which accompanies the passenger; provided, however, that

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1 this provision shall not apply to gratuities, nor shall the words "fares" or "compensation"
2 be construed to include gratuities.

3 . . .

4
5 Section 3. Section 22½-9B of the Broward County Code of Ordinances is
6 hereby amended to read as follows:

7 **Sec. 22½-9B. Operations—Minimum vehicle standards.**

8 . . .

9 (f) In addition to the standards set forth in subsection (a), taxicabs shall meet
10 the following minimum standards:

11 (1) Owner's trade name, monogram or insignia, taxicab number, and
12 telephone number permanently affixed upon the metal portion of the
13 outside of each side in letters at least three (3) inches high, and cab
14 number painted upon the outside rear panel of the taxicab in letters at
15 least three (3) inches high.

16 (2) Two-way radio installed and operating properly with access to or affiliated
17 with a central dispatch facility, or any other electronic equipment utilized
18 for handling service requests.

19 (3) Taximeters shall be:

20 a. Installed and entirely illuminated so as to be easily seen by a
21 passenger sitting in any part of the taxicab;

22 b. Approved by Florida Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Weights
23 and Measures, or a designated facility authorized to certify meter
24 operation or, in the case of taximeter software program, platform, or

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1 application installed on an electronic device, approved by the
2 Division;

3 c. Attached to telltale lights so that telltale lights shall automatically
4 illuminate when the taximeter is in operation and extinguish when
5 the taximeter is not in operation.

6 . . .

7
8 Section 4. Section 22½-10 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances is
9 hereby amended to read as follows:

10 **Sec. 22½-10. Taximeters.**

11 . . .

12 ~~(c) The entire face of every taximeter shall at all times be visible from the~~
13 ~~taxicab's passenger compartment by reasonable efforts of passengers and taximeter~~
14 ~~shall be mounted in the taxicab, illuminated, and have one (1) or more displays of~~
15 ~~sufficient size that so passengers may ascertain the amount of view the fare registered~~
16 ~~by the taximeter from the taxicab's passenger compartment with ease.~~

17 (d) No taxicab shall be operated within Broward County unless the case of the
18 taximeter installed has been sealed, or in the case of a taximeter software program,
19 platform, or application installed on an electronic device, approved by the Division.

20 (e) The signal affixed to any taximeter shall under no circumstances indicate
21 that the taxicab is vacant when in fact such taxicab is engaged by a passenger, ~~nor~~
22 ~~shall any such signal indicate that the taxicab is employed at a fare different from that~~
23 ~~fare prescribed by this Chapter.~~

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1 (f) The amount of fare collected from any passenger shall not differ from that
2 shown by the taximeter, ~~or an~~ nor exceed the amount established by the County as a
3 legal fare, and the driver shall, upon demand, furnish the passenger with a receipt
4 stating the amount of fare collected.

5 (g) It shall be unlawful for any person to tamper with, mutilate, or break the
6 taximeter or its seal in a currently licensed motor vehicle. Taximeters may be
7 transferred from one taxicab to another; provided, however, that a taxicab with a
8 transferred taximeter shall not be used to transport passengers unless and until the
9 taximeter has been inspected, tested, and sealed by the Division.

10
11 Section 5. Section 22½-11 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances is
12 hereby amended to read as follows:

13 **Sec. 22½-11. Taxicab rate regulations.**

14 (a) The provisions of this section shall be the exclusive method ~~for the~~
15 ~~establishment of~~ to establish taxicab rates in both the unincorporated and incorporated
16 areas of Broward County. Notwithstanding the provisions regarding a municipal
17 ordinance, resolution, or agreement to the contrary, no municipality shall authorize,
18 establish, charge, alter, amend, or otherwise regulate rates charged by a motor carrier.
19 All municipal ordinances or resolutions to the contrary are superseded.

20 (b) It shall be unlawful for any ~~registered~~ taxicab chauffeur to charge,
21 demand, request, or accept any fare ~~different from the rates~~ in excess of the fares
22 established pursuant to this Chapter. ~~Said rate may be the amount shown on the~~
23 ~~taximeter or any other type of fare established by the County.~~ Rates established by this
24 Chapter shall be uniform throughout Broward County, both in the incorporated and

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1 unincorporated areas, without regard to any municipal regulatory jurisdiction. A
2 chauffeur may charge a rate less than the rate established by the Commission pursuant
3 to this Chapter.

4 (c) ~~The Commission shall control rates for all taxicabs operating in Broward~~
5 ~~County.~~ Taxicab ~~R~~ates shall be established, ~~altered, amended,~~ and revised,
6 ~~increased, or decreased~~ in accordance with the following procedure:

7 . . .

8
9 Section 6. SEVERABILITY.

10 If any portion of this Ordinance is determined by any Court to be invalid, the
11 invalid portion shall be stricken, and such striking shall not affect the validity of the
12 remainder of this Ordinance. If any Court determines that this Ordinance, or any portion
13 hereof, cannot be legally applied to any individual(s), group(s), entity(ies), property(ies),
14 or circumstance(s), such determination shall not affect the applicability hereof to any
15 other individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance.

16
17 Section 7. INCLUSION IN CODE.

18 It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of
19 this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Broward County Code; and that
20 the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered and the word
21 "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or such other appropriate word or
22 phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

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Section 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall become effective as provided by law.

ENACTED JUNE 06, 2017

FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE June 7, 2017

EFFECTIVE June 7, 2017

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:
Joni Armstrong Coffey, County Attorney

By /s/ Annika E. Ashton 06/06/17
Annika E. Ashton (date)
Assistant County Attorney

AEA/ab
06/06/17
MotorCarrier - Taximeter and Fares
#17-408.00

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