



# ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

## Transportation Section Policy

Subject: **Taxicab Meter Rates**

Policy No.  
**VFH - 016**

Effective Date:  
**Upon Approval**

### 1. AUTHORITY

1.1. Chapter 46, Houston Code of Ordinances (“Ordinance”)

### 2. PURPOSE

2.2. The purpose of the policy is to implement the codified meter rate changes while maintaining the policy intent of Sec. 46-31 Rates Prescribed of the Ordinance.

### 3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.3. Sec. 46-31 states that lower rates than the posted meter rates can be charged if a trip is dispatched via a mobile dispatch service, but it fails to address whether a taxi driver can charge less otherwise. The result has been confusion in the industry, with some drivers offering discounts and others afraid to offer discounts less they be cited. Thus, the City believes it is necessary to clarify the legislative intent of the provision when enacted by City Council. The intent was that customers not be gouged by being charged rates higher than the published meter rates. The intent was also to give visitors to Houston certainty around the rates that would be charged, so that convention planners and vacationers would be able to budget with confidence. The meter rate acts as a **maximum** that can be charged to customers, and drivers will not be penalized for charging less than the posted meter rates.

### 4. PROCEDURES

4.1. The policy will be effective from the date of signature and expire upon the date of any replacing or overriding Ordinance provision and/or new Director’s Rule and Regulation.

4.2. Sec. 46-31 of the Ordinance sets the taxi meter rates. As of February 1, 2019, those rates are list down below.

Approved:

Date Approved:

February 5, 2019

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<b>City of Houston Taxi Pricing Effective February 1, 2019</b>
<b>Daytime Mileage Rate</b>
\$2.91 first 1/11 mile (Drop Rate)
\$2.31/additional mile
(\$0.21/additional 1/11 miles)
<b>Nighttime Mileage Rate</b>
\$3.91 first 1/11 mile (Drop Rate)
\$2.31 / additional mile
(\$0.21/additional 1/11 miles)
<b>Waiting Time</b>
\$24.00

City of Houston Zone Rates - Effective February 1, 2019							
IAH Zone Rates — Daytime Trip		IAH Zone Rates — Nighttime Trip		HOU Zone Rates — Daytime Trip		HOU Zone Rates — Nighttime Trip	
Zone	Current	Zone	Current	Zone	Current	Zone	Current
1	\$47.68	1	\$48.68	1	\$33.90	1	\$34.90
2	\$55.64	2	\$56.64	2	\$27.56	2	\$28.56
3	\$63.54	3	\$64.54	3	\$40.77	3	\$41.77
4	\$68.85	4	\$69.85	4	\$57.72	4	\$58.72
5	\$77.32	5	\$78.32	5	\$65.16	5	\$66.16
6	\$85.80	6	\$86.80	6	\$74.15	6	\$75.15
7	\$92.72	7	\$93.72	7	\$85.28	7	\$86.28
8	\$110.71	8	\$111.71	8	\$75.19	8	\$76.19
9	\$36.04	9	\$37.04	9	\$39.73	9	\$40.73
10	\$43.42	10	\$44.42	10	\$91.10	10	\$92.10
				11	\$84.24	11	\$85.24

- 4.3. As of the counter signature date of this Director’s Rule, the legislative intent of the Ordinance shall be followed so as the above referenced taxicab meter rates are seen as a maximum amount. Thereby allowing taxi drivers to charge lower rates, if warranted.
- 4.4. This Director’s Rule has no impact on the provision in Sec. 46-31 (f) as it pertains to trips dispatched through a mobile dispatch service.
- 4.5. This Director’s Rule has no impact on Sec. 46-31(a)(3) through Sec. 46-31(a)(9) and Sec. 46-31(e).