



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



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NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546  
Phone: (860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 0606-R-45-T

RE: PETITION OF EVEREADY TRANSPORTATION, CANAAN PARISH TAXI,  
WESTPORT STAR TAXI, NORWALK TAXI AND NORWALK YELLOW CAB TO  
INCREASE THE METERED RATES OF FARE FOR THE TOWNS OF DARIEN,  
GREENWICH, NEW CANAAN, NORWALK, STAMFORD, WESTON, WESTPORT  
AND WILTON.

**FINAL DECISION**

January 2, 2007

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL

By petition filed on June 19, 2006 with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "Department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, Eveready Taxi under Certificate Numbers 1124, 1134, 1186 and 1065, Canaan Parish Taxi under Certificate Number 197, Westport Star Taxi under Certificate Number 284, Norwalk Taxi under Certificate Number 1119 and Norwalk Yellow Cab under certificate number 899 seek authorization to increase the metered rates of fare for taxicab service pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended. Legal notice to the public was given by publication in The Hour, a newspaper having a circulation in the area of concern.

The petitioner wishes to increase the taxicab metered rates of fare for Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

#### CURRENT RATE:

##### **Norwalk, Westport, Wilton, Weston**

Meter Drop: \$2.00 first 1/8  
Travel: \$.25 each additional 1/8  
Waiting Time: \$.25 every 36 seconds

#### CURRENT RATE:

##### **Stamford, Greenwich, New Canaan, and Darien**

Meter Drop: \$2.50 first 1/10  
Travel: \$.25 each additional 1/10  
Waiting Time: \$.25 each 29 seconds

#### PROPOSED RATE:

Meter Drop: \$3.00 first 1/10  
Travel: \$.25 each additional 1/10  
Waiting Time: \$.25 each 29 seconds

### B. APPEARANCES

Vito Bochicchio appeared pro se on behalf of the petitioner, Eveready. The Applicant's address is P.O. Box 15, Darien, Connecticut 06820.

Rock Shufaj appeared pro se on behalf of Norwalk Taxi. The mailing address is 163 Connecticut Avenue, Connecticut 06854.

Gerald Clancy appeared pro se on behalf of Westport Star Taxi. The mailing address is P.O. Box 3231, Westport, Connecticut 06880.

Lloyd Mellad appeared pro se on behalf of Norwalk Yellow Cab. The mailing address is P.O. Box 936, Norwalk, Connecticut 06856.

Sheldon Lubin, Public Utilities Examiner, appeared on behalf of the Department.

## II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioners' currently provide taxicab service to the Towns of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, and Wilton.
2. The current taxicab fares in Stamford, Greenwich, New Canaan, and Darien were last increased on January 1, 2006.
3. The current taxicab fares in Norwalk, Westport, Weston, and Wilton were last increased on November 12, 2000.
4. There has been much confusion about the taxicab rates in the petitioners' service area due to the application of the fuel surcharge by some of the taxicab companies.
5. The residents of the town of Norwalk cannot sustain an increase in the taxicab metered rates of fare.
6. Gasoline has risen 100% in the past two years and insurance has increased 88% in the past 6 years. Many other costs have risen in the past few years including labor rates, vehicle repairs, and utilities.
7. The rate of inflation has risen approximately 2 to 4% annually.
8. There is no opposition expressed from the public to the rate increase.

## III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 13b-97, the Department has jurisdiction over each person, association, limited liability company, or corporation owning or operating a taxicab in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96(a), as amended. In addition, the Department is authorized to prescribe adequate service and reasonable rates and charges with respect to fares, service, operations, and equipment, as it deems necessary.

The Towns of Weston, Westport, Norwalk, and Wilton last received a rate increase in 2000. The petitioner presented several forms of evidence showing increases in expenses from 2000 to 2006. There has been a dramatic increase in the costs of vehicle maintenance, insurance, and office overhead since the last rate increase some six years ago.

The testimony presented shows that the unification of the rates in the Towns of Westport, Wilton, Weston, Stamford, Darien, New Canaan, and Greenwich would end the customer confusion as to why certain Towns in the area have different rates. There is a discrepancy in the taxicab rates due to the application of the fuel surcharge by only some of the companies while others are not charging it. Based on the evidence presented, the Towns of Weston, Wilton, Stamford, Darien, New Canaan, Greenwich, and Westport should have their taxicab rates of fare increased to the level proposed by the petitioners.

Regarding the town of Norwalk, there was strong opposition from two of the local operators to raising the meter rate of fare to the same level requested in lower Fairfield County. Rock Shufaj testified that his customers will not be able to pay this increase. However, all parties agreed that a permanent moderate increase which would incorporate the current taxicab fuel surcharge, which is already being assessed to some customers, would allow the companies to be profitable while at the same time protect the public interest in not overpaying for service. The rate requested by Mr. Shufaj is at or below what the taxicab riding public is currently paying with the implementation of the fuel surcharge, so there should be little rider impact by incorporating the fuel surcharge into this new rate.

A final note should be made of Greenwich Taxi's failure to appear at the hearing after requesting an increase in the shared ride rates. Since Greenwich Taxi did not appear to testify, their request to increase the shared ride rate was not considered.

#### IV. CONCLUSION AND ORDER

Based upon the above and pursuant to the authority granted under Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-96, as amended, the petition is hereby approved.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of metered rates of fare shall be implemented for the Towns of Westport, Wilton, Stamford and New Canaan, Darien, Greenwich and Weston subject to the conditions listed below, shall become effective on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 12:01 a.m.:

##### NEW METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

###### **Weston, Westport, Wilton, Stamford, Greenwich, New Canaan, and Darien**

METER DROP:           \$3.00 first 1/10 mile  
TRAVEL:               \$.25 each additional 1/10 mile  
WAITING TIME:       \$.25 each 29 seconds

**The fuel surcharge that may have been available in the past to these Towns has been incorporated into the rate so no fuel surcharge will be allowed after the rate increase.**

The metered rates in effect for the Towns listed above on the date of the final decision are cancelled upon implementation of the rates authorized herein.

**Public notice of the intent to implement the rates authorized herein shall be given by the petitioners through publication of a legal notice in the Hour, not less than five (5) days prior to such implementation. The petitioners operating in the above Towns shall be responsible for the expense to place the legal notice.**

The metered rates of fare approved herein shall apply to all taxicab operators servicing any of the above-included Towns.

Regarding the town of Norwalk, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of metered rates of fare shall be implemented for the town Norwalk subject to the conditions listed below, and shall become effective on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 12:01 a.m.:

##### NEW METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

###### **Norwalk**

METER DROP:           \$2.75 first 1/9 mile  
TRAVEL:               \$.25 each additional 1/9 mile  
WAITING TIME:       \$.25 each 34 seconds

**The fuel surcharge that may have been available in the past within this town has been incorporated into the rate so no fuel surcharge will be allowed after the rate increase.**

The metered rates in effect for the Towns listed above on the date of the final decision are cancelled upon implementation of the rates authorized herein.

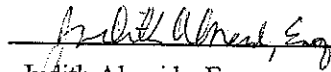
**Public notice of the intent to implement the rates authorized herein shall be given by the petitioners**

through publication of a legal notice in the Hour, not less than five (5) days prior to such implementation. The petitioners operating in the above Towns shall be responsible for the expense to place the legal notice.

The metered rates of fare approved herein shall apply to all taxicab operators servicing any of the above-included Towns.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2007.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Judith Almeida, Esq.  
Staff Attorney III  
Administrative Law Unit  
Bureau of Finance and Administration