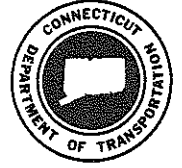


STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

Phone: (860) 594-2875

DOCKET NO. 1105-R-42-T

RE: PETITION OF STAMFORD YELLOW CAB, INC. D.B.A. EVEREADY  
STAMFORD AND EVEREADY CAB CO. OF DARIEN, INC. D.B.A.  
EVEREADY DARIEN TO INCREASE ITS TAXICAB METER RATES IN  
STAMFORD AND DARIEN.

Final Decision

August 5, 2011

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PETITIONER'S PROPOSAL

By petition filed on May 11, 2011, with the Department of Transportation (hereinafter "department"), pursuant to Section 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Stamford Yellow Cab, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready Stamford (hereinafter "Stamford") and Eveready Cab Co. of Darien, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready Darien (hereinafter "Darien"), seeks authorization to increase the taxicab meter rates in Stamford and Darien.

CURRENT METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

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

PROPOSED METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP:                   \$ 3.25 first 1/10 mile  
TRAVEL:                         .30 each additional 1/10 mile  
WAITING TIME:                 .30 every 29 seconds

B. HEARING HELD

Pursuant to Sections 13b-96 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and Sections 4-177 through 4-182 of the Connecticut General Statutes, inclusive, this petition was assigned for a public hearing which was held at the administrative offices of the Department in Newington, Connecticut on June 30, 2011.

Notice of the petition and of the hearing to be held thereon was given to the petitioner, and to such other parties as deemed necessary by the department as required by Connecticut General Statutes Section 13b-97, as amended. Legal notice to the public was given by publication on the department's website.

C. APPEARANCES

Mr. Vito Bochicchio appeared on behalf of Stamford Yellow Cab, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready Stamford and Eveready Cab Co. of Darien, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready Darien. The mailing address for these companies is P.O Box 15, Darien, Connecticut 06820.

Sheldon Lubin, department staff, appeared on behalf of the Regulatory and Compliance Unit.

#### D. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

Administrative notice was taken of the testimony in two prior rate hearings, Docket Number 1105-R-51-T and 1104-R-34-T.

#### II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The petitioner seeks to increase the meter rate for taxicab fares in the towns of Stamford and Darien.
2. The last metered rate increase in this area was four years ago in 2007.
3. Since the last rate increase in 2007, there has been an increase in taxi related costs, insurance costs, vehicle parts, replacement vehicles, gasoline and car maintenance.
4. The petitioner produced numerous invoices showing the increased costs they have absorbed since the last rate increase. One example of higher costs is the charge to seal a meter, in 2008 it was \$270 but in 2011 it was \$540. Another example is tires which in 2007 cost \$70 each and now in 2011 cost \$97.
5. Since late 2010 gasoline has risen 40% to 45% from \$2.80 to \$4.00.
6. The cost to paint a car in 2007 was \$350 but in 2011 the cost is now \$450.
7. Fairfield County is the most expensive county in Connecticut to operate a business.

#### III. DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS

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-93 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 petitioner has put forth a lot of evidence concerning the types of costs that have increased since the last rate hearing in 2007. The evidence presented showed that there have been substantial increases in many areas that have affected the taxicab industry. Prices of insurance, gas, replacement cars, parts, taxes and other expenses have all increased to the point that it would be reasonable to allow a meter rate increase. Fairfield County is widely acknowledged to be the most expensive county in the State. It is not reasonable to expect taxicab operators to absorb all of these additional costs themselves.

As far as the fuel surcharge rate goes, the cost of gas is being considered as an element in the increased meter rate so there will be no additional fuel surcharge allowed.

Based on the evidence presented, the petitioners have shown that the proposed meter rate is justified.

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 filed by Stamford Yellow Cab Co. d.b.a. Eveready Stamford and Eveready Cab Co. of Darien, Inc. d.b.a. Eveready Darien is hereby granted.

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the following schedule of metered rates of fare shall be implemented for the towns of Stamford and Greenwich subject to the conditions below, and shall become effective on Sunday, August 21, 2011 at 12:01 a.m.

NEW METERED TAXICAB RATES OF FARE:

METER DROP:	\$ 3.25 first 1/10 mile
TRAVEL:	.30 each additional 1/10 mile
WAITING TIME:	.30 every 29 seconds

The request for a fuel surcharge has been incorporated into the new metered rate so no fuel surcharge will be allowed.


The metered rates in effect for the towns listed above on the date of the final decision are cancelled upon implementation of the new 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 Stamford Advocate and Greenwich Times, 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 and shared ride rates of fare approved herein shall apply to all taxicab operators servicing any of the above-included towns.

Dated at Newington, Connecticut on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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