

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Albert A. Ortiz, Chief of Police

**THROUGH:** Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

**COPIES:** Christopher J. Brady; Assistant City Manager; File

**SUBJECT:** Taxicab rate increase

**DATE:** June 24, 2004

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This ordinance authorizes the amendment of Section 33-981 of the San Antonio City Code by increasing the daytime Drop Charge, Mileage Charge and Wait Time/Traffic Delay categories of taxicab rates.

Staff recommends approval.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In March of 2004 the San Antonio Police Department was asked to consider a study on the feasibility and impact of taxicab rate increases. The goal was to provide a reasonable and fair rate adjustment; give consideration to increases in the cost of living and dramatic rise in fuel prices; minimize the impact on dependant customers; maintain competitive rates within the industry; and maintain optimal service accountability. Due to cost and availability issues with outside entities, the study was conducted internally by City staff with the assistance of the taxicab industry.

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) discussed the rate increase on January 26<sup>th</sup>, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, and March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2004 at which time it made a proposal of rate adjustments.

A presentation was made at the Stakeholders meeting on June 8 2004 where both the TAB and Staff rate adjustments were presented. The Stakeholders endorsed the proposal made by Staff.

Three public hearings were held on April 8th, and 12<sup>th</sup> and June 16th, 2004.

The following methods were utilized in conducting the cost analysis to determine recommendations:

- Taxicab Operating Expenses obtained from the Consumer Price Index and the Producer Price Index published by the U.S. Department of labor.
- This approach is consistent with the analysis conducted in June 2000 and May of 2003, when the Council considered the previous taxicab rate increases.
- The Inflation Calculator from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- The Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for the transportation category.
- Comparison to both Texas and national cities.

Based on the analysis conducted and input received from the Transportation Advisory Board a presentation was made to the Quality of Life Committee (QOL) on June 17, 2004. The following graph depicts the status of taxicab rates and the recommendations made by staff.

Description	Date of last change	Current Rate	TAB Proposed Rate	Staff Proposed Rate
Drop Charge	1991	\$ 1.60	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.15
Mileage Charge	2000	\$ 1.50	\$ 1.95	\$ 1.60
Wait time	2003	\$ 15.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 15.00

At the conclusion of the meeting the QOL Committee made the following rate change recommendations:

- Increase the daytime Drop Charge from \$1.60 to \$1.70. (6.25% increase)
- Increase the Mileage Charge from \$1.50 to \$1.80. (20% increase)
- Increase the Wait Time/Traffic Delay Charge from \$15.00/hr. to \$18.00/hr. (20% increase)

In proposing the new rates the QOL Committee considered the impact on special populations, such as tourists and senior citizens, who primarily use taxicabs for short trips. In order to minimize the impact on these populations the QOL reduced the proposed Drop Charge from \$2.60 to \$1.70. Additionally, the impact of current fuel costs was considered by the QOL in arriving at the recommended rates. Consequently, they decided a fuel surcharge would not be considered at this time.

Other Texas and national cities rates were compared to San Antonio and are attached.

### **POLICY ANALYSIS**

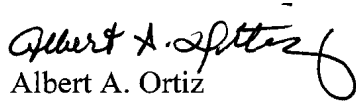
This action facilitates City Council's continuing policy of conducting comprehensive reviews and oversight of city operations. The proposed rate increases have been presented to the Management Team and the Quality of Life Committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

No City revenues or expenditures will be generated by this increase.

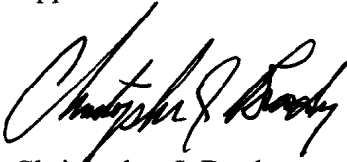
**SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS**

The City of San Antonio Discretionary Contracts Disclosure form is not required.



Albert A. Ortiz  
Chief of Police

Approved:



Christopher J. Brady  
Assistant City Manager

Approved:



Terry M. Brechtel  
City Manager

Attachment

## Taxicab Rates Comparison

City	Drop Charge	Mileage Charge	Wait time
Arlington	\$2.00	\$1.60	\$24.00
Austin	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$22.50
Dallas	\$2.00	\$1.60	\$18.00
El Paso	\$1.43	\$1.75	\$21.00
Houston	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$18.00
Laredo	\$3.50	\$1.40	\$21.00
San Antonio	\$1.60	\$1.50	\$15.00
(9pm-5am)	\$2.60	\$2.50	\$15.00
San Francisco	\$2.85	\$2.75	\$27.00
San Jose	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$24.60
San Diego	\$2.10	\$2.20	\$18.00
Miami	\$1.70	\$2.00	\$21.00
New Orleans	\$2.50	\$1.60	\$24.00
Orlando	\$2.00	\$1.75	\$22.50
Philadelphia	\$1.80	\$1.80	\$12.00
New York	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$18.00