

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	Item ID	12774	Agenda Number	32.
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Meeting Date:	2/9/2012	Department:	Transportation
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Subject

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Section 13-2-373 (*Taxicab Clean-up Fee*) to establish a \$100 taxicab clean-up fee to be added to a trip fare if a taxicab passenger soils the interior of a taxicab with bodily fluids or solids.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	
<b>For More Information:</b>	Gordon Derr, 974-7228, Steve Grassfield, 974-1489, Gilda Powers, 974-7092
<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	Reviewed by the Urban Transportation Commission
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

Additional Backup Information

Pursuant to City Council direction to the City Manager via Resolution No. 20120126-042 approved on January 26, 2012, the City is presenting recommendations for implementation and enforcement strategies for a \$100 taxicab clean-up fee.

Taxicab drivers have requested a way to be compensated if an incident occurs that will require their vehicle be removed from service for cleaning. In summer of 2010 the Council raised the drop fee for all trips by 10 cents to compensate for potential clean up. No data has been provided on the frequency of incidents or the range of costs incurred for an incident.

The City Council commissioned Mundy Report (September 2011) reviewing taxicab services in other cities stated that on-board cameras in taxis would enable a taxi driver to capture when an individual becomes ill and throws up in the cab, and request the individual be responsible for the vehicle clean up cost.

The clean up fee implementation options considered were:

Option 1: Driver collects fee (\$100 added to the meter fare), Austin Police Department issues a ticket (misdemeanor) for refusal to pay; however the Municipal Court would receive the money, not the driver

Option 2: Driver documents incident and collects reimbursement for clean up from City of Austin Ground Transportation.

No other cities could be found that have an ordinance for clean up fees. Our research indicates one cab company in San Marcos, TX, that bills passengers for clean up fees. The passenger is informed that a bill will be sent to him/her. The driver informs the company of the incident and provides documentation of cleaning expense and time out of service. The company mails a bill to the passenger. According to Chief Williams of the San Marcos PD, the driver cannot file theft of service, if the fee is not paid.

The Transportation Department does not object to this ordinance amendment.