

THE PHILADELPHIA PARKING AUTHORITY

In Re: Philadelphia Taxicab and
Limousine Regulations
Image Retention and Use

:
: Docket No. 126-10
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FINAL RULEMAKING ORDER

BY THE AUTHORITY:

The Authority is the sole regulator of all taxicab and limousine service in Philadelphia.¹ In furtherance of those regulatory functions, the Authority issued a proposed regulation at this docket number on August 27, 2014. The initial public comment period for this rulemaking proceeding concluded on Dec 15, 2014, without receipt of comments. The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (“IRRC”) submitted its comments on January 14, 2015. The Authority has completed its review of the comments and now issues the final-form regulation.

Purpose of the Final-Form Regulation

All taxicabs in Philadelphia will be equipped with safety cameras. Those cameras will capture images related to taxicab service to deter crimes against drivers, assist in the investigation of alleged crimes and regulatory violations and bad behavior in general. In most cases, images recorded by these safety cameras will be stored locally and overwritten on a scheduled basis. The local images will be secure within a hard drive or “black box” in the taxicab. A black box is accessible only by Authority’s Taxicab and Limousine Division Enforcement Department.

While the current regulation requires certain images from a taxicab’s safety camera to be transmitted to both the Authority and the taxicab’s dispatcher to assist

¹ The act of July 16, 2004, (P.L. 758, No. 94), 53 Pa.C.S. §§5701 *et seq.*, as amended, (the “act”)

in law enforcement response times and investigations, the Authority has approved a proposed regulation (Docket No. 126-12), which will eliminate that transmission requirement. The Authority has also granted the taxicab industry a waiver from compliance with that transmission requirement, pending final approval of regulation 126-12.

The proposed regulation establishes requirements related to the limited retention of safety camera images when physically accessed by the Enforcement Department. The regulation also clarifies the scenarios in which the Authority will access a safety camera's stored images.

B. The regulation.

We propose amending the proposed regulatory language to provide guidance and limitations upon the use and retention of images captured by safety camera systems and to prohibit the inappropriate activation of the taxicab distress button, as follows:

DISCUSSION

The Authority has reviewed IRRC's comment to the proposed regulation and has modified the proposed regulation in response and otherwise, as provided below. There were no public comments.

§ 1017.78. Use of Captured images.

Section 1017.78 of the final-form regulation has been amended to delete all references to dispatchers, which constituted a significant portion of the regulation. The final-form regulation does not provide for a scenario in which the dispatcher will have access to or ever come into possession of any image recorded by a safety camera.

