

THE PHILADELPHIA PARKING AUTHORITY

In Re: Proposed Rulemaking Order :
Philadelphia Taxicab and :
Taxicab Safety Cameras : Docket No. 126-12
:

PROPOSED RULEMAKING ORDER

BY THE AUTHORITY:

The Authority is the sole regulator¹ of all taxicab and limousine service in Philadelphia.² The purpose of the proposed rulemaking is to revise the current taxicab safety camera regulation to assure more rapid compliance.

A. Background and discussion.

As provided in Section 1017.71, safety cameras were to begin appearing in taxicabs in Philadelphia earlier this year. The most challenging part of the implementation of the safety camera regulation has been related to the transmission of images from the taxicab to the Authority and dispatcher. The regulation provides that the images will only be transmitted upon the activation of the panic button already in the taxicab. However, the need to maintain a separate data plan, the technical capacity of vendors and the assertion of specious constitutional violations have slowed the advance of this vital program. The Authority has received repeated requests for delays and modifications of the camera system from

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

² The Authority may promulgate taxicab and limousine regulations. 53 Pa.C.S. §§ 5722 and 5742.

medallion owners, taxicab drivers and dispatchers, primarily focused on the image transmission requirement.

Therefore, the Authority seeks to amend the safety camera regulation to remove the transmission requirement. We believe it is crucial to begin this safety program by having safety cameras installed in taxicabs as soon as possible. The elimination of the image transmission requirement will remove the most significant barrier to the prompt installation of safety cameras. We will continue to review the safety camera system for advances in the future, including the potential re-introduction of a transmission requirement, through regulation.

B. The regulation.

We propose amending the below referenced section as follows:

§ 1017.74. Safety camera requirements.

The proposed regulation will amend Section 1017.74 by deleting subsection (h) to eliminate the requirement that the safety cameras transmit images to the taxicab's dispatcher and the Authority in the event the taxicab's distress button is depressed for the above referenced reasons.

Conclusion

The Authority, therefore, formally commences its rulemaking process to promulgate this regulation to become part of 52 Pa. Code Part II in a manner consistent with Annex A to this Order. The Authority seeks comments from all interested parties on this proposed body of regulations, which are found at Annex A to this Order. The Authority hereby advises that all comments submitted in response to this Order will be posted, without redaction of name, address, or other

