

Authority: Licensing and Standards Committee Item 5.6, adopted as amended,
by City of Toronto Council on July 12, 13 and 14, 2011
Enacted by Council: July 14, 2011

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW No. 981-2011

To amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 545, Licensing, respecting methods of fare payment for taxicabs.

WHEREAS the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* grants the City of Toronto the authority to enact by-laws for the licensing, regulating and governing of businesses wholly or partly carried on in the City of Toronto; and

WHEREAS there is an increasing use of credit and debit cards by consumers paying for taxicab rides; and

WHEREAS greater use of debit and credit cards in taxicabs will mean less cash in taxicabs and a lower risk of robbery for drivers; and

WHEREAS taxicab drivers commonly incur transaction costs when their customers pay with debit or credit and elect to pass these costs on to the customer who benefits from the convenience of using the card; and

WHEREAS it is desirable in the interests of consumer protection and the reduction of disputes over fares that taxicab customers understand that such transaction costs may be passed on to them when they pay by debit or credit card; and

WHEREAS some drivers may not always be willing to use the credit card terminals, due to the fees they pay and may otherwise encourage customers to pay with cash instead of what may be their preferred option of debit or credit card;

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 545, Licensing, is amended by:

1. Adding the following subsections as § 545-150Q, R and S respectively:

- Q.** Any cab equipped with the means to accept debit or credit card payments shall not be allowed to operate without a sign affixed to each rear passenger door in a manner and in a location satisfactory to the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division to indicate clearly to any passenger upon entering or intending to enter the said vehicle the amount of any fee charged for making payment with a debit or credit card.
- R.** A driver or owner driving his or her cab, upon being asked by a passenger whether he or she accepts debit or credit cards as a form of payment for the fare shall inform the passenger of any additional fees that would be incurred as a result of paying with either type of card.

- S. If the means to accept debit or credit card payments is not available for any reason, the sign referred to in subsection § 545-150Q shall be removed from display forthwith until such means is once more available.
2. Amending Municipal Code Chapter 545, Appendix C, Tariff A to add the words "An additional fee may be charged for the use of a debit or credit card."
3. This by-law shall come into effect upon its enactment.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 14th day of July, A.D. 2011.

FRANCES NUNZIATA,
Speaker

ULLI S. WATKISS,
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)