



# **Taxicab Permit Distribution Update and Recommended COVID-19 Relief Measures for the Vehicle-for-Hire Industry in Houston**

May 18, 2020



# PRESENTATION AGENDA

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- Taxicab Permit Distribution Update
  
- Vehicle-for-Hire COVID-19 Relief Measures
  
- Suspension of Vehicle-for-Hire Operating Provisions during a Declared Emergency



# Taxicab Permit Distribution Background

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- September 4, 2019: City Council approved the issuance of 891 taxicab permits
  - In 3 separate tranches: 12/1/19; 6/1/20; 12/1/20
  - Distribution by lottery
- When the distribution was approved, City Council requested ARA return in the Spring 2020 to provide an update to this Committee on the status of the distribution



# Results of First Permit Distribution

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- Number of Taxicab Permits Available: 350
- Number of Applications Submitted: 193
- Drawing Date: November 13, 2019
- Number of Taxicab Permits Issued: 205
- Number of Taxicab Permits Unissued: 145
- Total Number of Taxicab Permits for Next Distribution: 415
- Breakdown of 205 Taxicab Permits Issued:
  - 6 Applicants Received 2 Taxicab Permits
  - 2 Applicants Received 4 Taxicab Permits
  - 1 Applicant Received 5 Taxicab Permits
  - 3 Applicants Received 10 Taxicab Permits
  - 152 Applicants Received 1 Taxicab Permit
- Of the 193 Applicants;
  - 16 didn't attend the drawing
  - 13 never went to the Houston Permitting Center to make payment
  - 2 came to the Houston Permitting Center, received their invoice but failed to make the payment by 5pm.
- This taxicab permit distribution created 152 new small business owners**
- There are now 518 taxicab companies permitted in the City of Houston**



# Vehicle for Hire Industry under COVID-19

- Taxicab trips are down 95% between February and April.
- Taxicab trips are down 97% over the same period last year, April 2019.
- Six Companies Have Gone Out of Business:
  - 3 Limousine Companies
  - 1 Pedicab Company
  - 2 Taxicab Companies
- 83 Companies have temporarily turned in their permits:
  - 60 Taxicab Companies for 77 permits
  - 23 Limousine Companies for 24 permits

FY 20 - BOTH AIRPORTS		
MONTH	TAXI	TNC
July	26,358	183,659
August	18,118	186,301
September	31,584	189,104
October	32,250	196,313
November	26,155	221,762
December	23,386	188,502
January	25,237	188,301
February	24,074	195,070
March	12,008	188,104
April	1,023	96,498
May	0	0
June	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>220,193</b>	<b>1,833,614</b>



## Temporary Relief Approved to Date

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- Permit payment due dates extended from April – June to August 1
  
- License renewal deadlines extended to August 1
  
- Private School Vehicles allowed to suspend vehicle insurance as of April 15<sup>th</sup> since the schools are closed due to the pandemic.



# Recommendations

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- Amend Ordinance 2019-669 -- the taxicab permit distribution ordinance to allow us to:
  - Issue a taxicab permit to each of the 11 new applicants that have applied for the second distribution, eliminate the lottery system, and conduct the distribution on or before June 1, 2020.
  - Merge the remaining permits from the second tranche into the third and final tranche to be issued on or before December 1, 2020.
  
- Provide for administrative suspension or extension of certain operating requirements for vehicles-for-hire for a declared emergency event, such as:
  - Extension of permit payment due dates, vehicle inspection dates, and vehicle age limitations
  - Suspension of commercial insurance requirements
  - Temporary, voluntary suspension of vehicle operations without risk of permit revocation



Questions?