

Notice of Regulatory Fee Change**Effective Date:** May 10, 2021**Authorities:** King County Code 4A.750.100 and 6.64.026**Sponsoring Agency:** Records and Licensing Services Division**Department Director signature:****Date signed:** 4/30/2021

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Caroline Whalen

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**King County****NOTICE OF REGULATORY FEE CHANGES – KING COUNTY CODE 4A.750.100**

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the for-hire industry. Since the first quarter of 2020, fewer trips have caused nearly 500 taxicab and for-hire vehicle medallion owners to temporarily stop operating. As of March 1, 2021, many medallions are still not operating since the pandemic's impacts continue to depress consumer demand for for-hire transportation. Many drivers have also stopped operating to avoid exposure to COVID-19. The continued lack of business has resulted in many for-hire licensees (vehicle owners, drivers, companies, and associations) to determine that it is not feasible to operate under the current conditions. They have also made significant cuts in expenses, including staff, to avoid closing altogether. While not operating creates a financial hardship, restarting service after a long period of stoppage is also difficult given the upfront cost of licensing vehicles and drivers, vehicle inspections, and insurance.

In response to the pandemic's effect on the for-hire transportation industry, the County is taking action to provide immediate relief for licensees and to reduce barriers to re-starting for-hire transportation service. The County is reducing fees assessed to licensees under King County Code (KCC) 6.64.026 and KCC 4A.750.100(B).

To determine appropriate fee adjustments, RALS assessed its current workload and anticipated regulatory costs, and considered the state of the for-hire transportation industry. In proposing changes to annual for-hire licensing fees below, the director considered the factors set forth in King County Code 4A.750.100(B), including: (1) the projected costs and annual budget for regulatory and enforcement costs related to transportation network companies, taxicabs, for-hire vehicles and for-hire drivers; (2) the need for enforcement activities; and (3) the total number of trips across transportation network companies, taxicabs, and for-hire vehicles.

The new fees are as follows:

	Old Fee:	New Fee:
1. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license fees		
Taxicab license	\$200.00	<u>\$100.00</u>
For-hire vehicle license	\$200.00	<u>\$100.00</u>
Change of owner:		
July/Dec	\$200.00	<u>\$100.00</u>
Jan/June	\$100.00	<u>\$50.00</u>
2. For-hire driver fees, except transportation network company drivers		
Driver license	\$44.00	<u>\$24.00</u>
ID photo	\$1.00	<u>\$1.00</u>
3. Taxicab association license fee or for-hire vehicle company fee		
One to fifteen vehicles	\$125.00	<u>\$65.00</u>
Sixteen to twenty-five vehicles	\$250.00	<u>\$125.00</u>
Twenty-six or more vehicles	\$500.00	<u>\$250.00</u>

The proposed fee changes in KCC 4A.750.100 apply to licensing fees beginning May 10, 2021. RALS will review these fees, in accordance with the Code, as changes occur with the pandemic and the state of the for-hire transportation industry.