

November 2011



NEW YORK CITY PEDICABOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

A 501(c)6 trade association

ATTENTION: NYPD

Local Law 19: §20-260 *Rates of pedicabs*

The pedicab driver shall provide passengers with a receipt listing the amount of the charge for the use of the pedicab, the license number of the pedicab business and a telephone number of such business to which complaints by consumers shall be directed, the pedicab driver's license number and the telephone number at the department where complaints by consumers can be reported.

Two pedicabs recently charged their customers \$180 to go .6 miles from Radio City Music Hall to the Plaza. Stories like this are all too common. The worst part is that this practice is currently **LEGAL** thanks to the rate signs on most pedicabs, which read *\$1 per block, \$3 per avenue, \$5 initial charge, PER PERSON*. The worst part is that when the NYPD is called after a price dispute, some officers back up these absurd prices because the rate was posted and the service was used.

The NYCPOA is currently lobbying city hall to fix this issue either by requiring the price up front or by requiring tri-state driver's licenses to operate a pedicab.

In the meantime, the NYPD can help save tourists from being ripped off by simply making sure that driver's **provide receipts**. As required by Local Law 19, §20-260, the receipt must include the following information (in addition to the date and the cost of the ride):

1. **The driver's name** (The driver should be wearing his pedicab license around his neck)
2. The **pedicab business number** (the # located on a red sticker on the front of the bike)
3. The phrase: **Complaints? Call 311**

Our hope is that requiring a receipt will strip these rip-off artists of their anonymity, and they will accept a more reasonable rate. If the driver still wants to charge \$90 for ten minutes, customers have proof and the necessary information to file a complaint.

Officers can also check to make sure the rate is correctly calculated and if a driver is really ripping people off, the officer can *thoroughly* check the bike and driver for violations. Take as much time as you want!

Please do use your discretion. Sometimes tourists think the ride will cost \$3 and be a cheaper than a taxi. We'd need welfare at rates this low.