



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 748-A

By Council Members Cabrera, R. Diaz, Yeger, Kallos and Holden

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to certain taxi and limousine commission-related hearing procedures of the office of administrative trials and hearings

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Title 19 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new chapter 10 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 10

SPECIAL HEARING PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO VIOLATIONS OF TAXI AND LIMOUSINE
COMMISSION LAWS OR REGULATIONS

§ 19-1001 Definitions. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the following meanings:

Administrative law judge. The term “administrative law judge” means a person appointed by the chief administrative law judge of the office of administrative trials and hearings pursuant to section 1049 of the charter.

Appeals unit. The term “appeals unit” means the unit authorized under section 6-19 of title 48 of the rules of the city of New York to review administrative law judge and hearing officer decisions.

Commission. The term “commission” means the New York city taxi and limousine commission.

Hearing officer. The term “hearing officer” means a person designated by the chief administrative law judge of the office of administrative trials and hearings, or such judge’s designee, to carry out the adjudicatory powers, duties and responsibilities of the tribunal.

Petitioner. The term “petitioner” means the city agency authorized to issue notices of violation

returnable to the tribunal.

Respondent. The term “respondent” means the person against whom the charges alleged in a summons have been filed.

Summons. The term “summons” means the document, including a notice of violation, that specifies the charges forming the basis of an adjudicatory proceeding before the tribunal.

Tribunal. The term “tribunal” means the office of administrative trials and hearings hearings division, which includes the administrative tribunal referenced in section 19-506.1.

§ 19-1002 Appearances at commission-related hearings. a. At a hearing before the tribunal on a violation of a law or regulation enforced by the commission, the petitioner shall appear in one of the following ways:

1. In person;

2. By sending an authorized representative who is an attorney admitted to practice law in New York state or another authorized representative as the office of administrative trials and hearings permits by rule; or

3. When the tribunal offers the opportunity to do so, by remote methods as the office of administrative trials and hearings permits by rule.

b. Such hearing shall not proceed without the appearance of the petitioner.

c. The tribunal shall dismiss such violation if a petitioner fails to appear within thirty minutes of the timely appearance by the respondent or to make a timely request to reschedule pursuant to title 48 of the rules of the city of New York. The tribunal shall carry out such dismissal in accordance with its rules of practice, pursuant to title 48 of the rules of the city of New York.

d. At a hearing before the tribunal on a violation of a law or regulation enforced by the commission, the respondent may appear by remote methods, including the use of internet video, provided that any such method provides a visual image of the respondent sufficient to permit the respondent’s identity to be verified. The office of administrative trials and hearings and the commission shall establish a process for the submission of

evidence by respondents who choose to appear by a remote method.

§ 19-1003 Administrative law judge and hearing officer discretion to reduce commission penalties. a. If an administrative law judge or hearing officer finds a violation, except for a violation under section 19-507, such administrative law judge or hearing officer may, in the interest of justice, and upon the petition of the respondent, reduce the penalty for such violation set by the commission after determining that such reduction is appropriate because one or more compelling considerations or circumstances clearly demonstrates that imposing such penalty would constitute or result in injustice. In determining whether such compelling consideration or circumstance exists, the administrative law judge or hearing officer shall, to the extent applicable, consider, individually and collectively, the following factors:

1. The seriousness and circumstances of the violation;
2. The extent of harm caused by the violation;
3. The evidence supporting or refuting the violation charged, whether admissible or inadmissible at a hearing;
4. The history, character and condition of the respondent;
5. The effect of imposing upon the respondent the penalty set by the commission;
6. The impact of a penalty reduction on the safety or welfare of the community;
7. The impact of a penalty reduction on public confidence in the commission, the office of administrative trials and hearings and the implementation of laws by the city;
8. The position of the petitioner regarding the proposed fine reduction with reference to the specific circumstances of the respondent and the violation charged; and
9. Any other relevant fact indicating whether a decision to impose the penalty set by the commission on the respondent would serve a useful purpose.

b. Upon determining that a penalty for a violation set by the commission should be reduced, the administrative law judge or hearing officer shall set forth the amount and the reasons for such reduction in the

record. Such reasons and determination shall be transmitted to the chairperson of the commission.

c. Within 20 business days of receipt of such reasons and determination, pursuant to subdivision b, the commission, or the chairperson of the commission acting pursuant to rules of the commission, may, in the commission or chairperson's discretion, remove such reduction if the commission or chairperson determines such a reduction would not be in the interests of justice, pursuant to the factors in subdivision a, or lower such reduction.

§ 19-1004 Administrative law judge and hearing officer dismissal of a duplicate notice of violation. a. An administrative law judge or hearing officer shall dismiss a notice of violation in relation to a hearing before the tribunal on a violation of a law or regulation enforced by the commission upon determining that such notice of violation is substantively identical to a violation received for the same act under commission rules or provisions of law other than commission rules, provided that such substantively identical violation has not already been dismissed by the relevant adjudicatory body.

b. In order for such administrative law judge or hearing officer to determine whether to dismiss such notice of violation, the respondent shall provide proof to such administrative law judge or hearing officer at such hearing in the form of summonses pertaining to the duplicate or substantively identical violations.

§ 19-1005 Commission-related hearing deadline. A respondent, or their representative, shall be considered to have made a timely appearance for a hearing provided they appear, whether in person or pursuant to subdivision (d) of section 19-1002, within 90 minutes of the scheduled time set forth in the summons. If a hearing does not begin within three hours of the timely appearance of both the respondent and the petitioner then the tribunal shall dismiss the notice of violation without prejudice.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 180 days after it becomes law, except that the office of administrative trials and hearings and the New York city taxi and limousine commission shall take such measures as are necessary for the implementation of this local law, including the promulgation of rules, before such date.

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