

City of Houston, Texas, Ordinance No. 2014-\_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF HOUSTON ORDINANCE NO. 2014-754, RELATING TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSTON TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE; CONTAINING FINDINGS AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE FOREGOING SUBJECT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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**WHEREAS**, the City of Houston (“City”) is a home-rule municipality pursuant to Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 215.073 of the Local Government Code provides that a home-rule municipality may license, fix the charges or fares made by, or otherwise regulate any person who owns, operates, or controls any type of vehicle used on the public streets or alleys of the municipality for carrying passengers or freight for compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Administrative and Regulatory Affairs Department (“ARA”) is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the City’s regulations concerning all vehicles for hire operating within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the City that all persons providing vehicle for hire transportation services in the City do so in a manner consistent with making available and providing safe, clean, reliable, equivalent and consistent transportation services to the riding public; and

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of the City’s aspirational goal that within five years not less than five percent of the vehicles for hire operated in the City, and an appropriate percentage within the diverse vehicle for hire categories, are wheelchair accessible vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to collecting and analyzing data and other relevant information, including but not limited to, anecdotal evidence concerning the provision of vehicle for hire transportation services to persons with disabilities, in an attempt to develop regulatory controls that promote and incentivize permittees and registrants to make available wheelchair accessible vehicles to passengers with disabilities; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:**

**Section 1.** That the findings contained in the preamble of this Ordinance are determined to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Ordinance.

**Section 2.** That Section 12 of City of Houston Ordinance No. 2014-754 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"Section 12.** That the Mayor shall appoint, subject to City Council approval, no less than five and no more than 12 regular members to serve on the Task Force with a majority of its membership comprised of representatives from the Houston disability community. The Houston Commission on Disabilities may recommend individuals to the Administration to serve on the Task Force. The Task Force shall convene its first meeting no later than 60 days after all members have been appointed and approved by City Council. The City Attorney shall designate a representative from the Legal Department to render legal advice and attend Task Force meetings, but such person shall not be a member of the Task Force. The Administration shall designate the appropriate number of nonvoting ex officio representatives to render advice and assist the Task Force in conducting research. These ex officio representatives shall not be members of the Task Force. Three successive unexcused absences from the regularly scheduled meetings, after due notice served by telephone, mail, or electronic mail of the time and place of such meetings, shall automatically terminate membership on the Task Force. Absences may be excused only by a majority of the Task Force members present and voting at any scheduled meeting. The Task Force shall adopt administrative procedures applicable to its own governance as are necessary to accomplish the purposes set out in this Ordinance."

**Section 3.** That there exists a public emergency requiring that this Ordinance be passed finally on the date of its introduction as requested in writing by the Mayor; therefore, this Ordinance shall be passed finally on such date and shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor.

