

Mayor Wants Free Taxis

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Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said Tuesday that taxi companies might be required to offer free rides during emergencies like terrorist attacks.

Sobyenin made the announcement after gypsy cab drivers at Domodedovo Airport demanded up to 25,000 rubles (\$830) for the 42-kilometer trip into Moscow after Monday's suicide bombing.

Sobyenin said taxi companies would be asked to sign an agreement obliging them to keep "minimum" fares or to offer free transportation during emergencies, NTV television reported.

No taxi companies were accused of inflating fares Monday, and it was unclear how Sobyenin's proposed agreement would regulate unlicensed gypsy cab drivers.

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