

Ordinance No.

119872

Council Bill No.

113080

AN ORDINANCE relating to for-hire vehicles, taxicabs and for-hire drivers, amending Seattle Municipal Code 6.310.110, 6.310.130, 6.310.150, 6.310.205, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.350, 6.310.370, 6.310.40, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.430, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.500, 6.310.530, 6.310.605, and 6.310.710.

The City of Seattle  
Council Bill/Ordinance

CF No.

Date Introduced:		JAN 31 2000	
Date 1st Referred:	To: (committee)	Finance, Budget & Economic Development	
JAN 31 2000			
Date Re - Referred:	To: (committee)		
Date Re - Referred:	To: (committee)		
Date of Final Passage:	Full Council Vote:		
3-6-00	9-0		
Date Presented to Mayor:	Date Approved:		
3-7-00	3/15/00		
Date Returned to City Clerk:	Date Published:	T.O.	
3/15/00	3/15/00	F.T.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date Vetted by Mayor:	Date Veto Published:		
Date Passed Over Veto:	Veto Sustained:		

2/16/00

2-2-00 Full

3-6-00 Passed

This file is complete and ready

Law Department

Law Dept. Review

# The City of Seattle - Legislative Department

Council Bill/Ordinance sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAGO

Councilmember

## Committee Action:

3/16/00 FBED Do approve 4-0 Drago

McRuer

Conlin

Licata

2-2-00 Full Council: Hold 1 week

3-6-00 Passed As Amended 9-0

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council. Committee: \_\_\_\_\_

(Initial/Date)

*Law Department*

Law Dept. Review

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ORDINANCE

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AN ORDINANCE relating to for-hire vehicles, taxicabs and for-hire drivers, amending Seattle Municipal Code 6.310.110, 6.310.130, 6.310.150, 6.310.205, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.350, 6.310.370, 6.310.400, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.430, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.500, 6.310.530, 6.310.605, and 6.310.710.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. SMC 6.310.110 Definitions—is amended as follows.

For the purposes of this chapter and unless the context plainly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

A. "Affected licensee" means any licensee that may incur some penalty as a result of a violation. For example, if a for-hire driver of a taxicab commits a violation, the for-hire driver, the taxicab owner, and the taxicab association with which that taxicab is associated are all affected licensees.

\*\*\*

J. "For-hire vehicle" means any motor vehicle used for the transportation of passengers for compensation, except:

1. Taxicabs as defined in this chapter;
2. School buses operating exclusively under a contract to a school district;
3. Ride-sharing vehicles under Chapter 46.74 RCW;
4. Limousine carriers licensed under Chapter 81.90 RCW;
5. Vehicles used by nonprofit transportation providers solely for elderly or handicapped persons and their attendants under Chapter 81.66 RCW;
6. Vehicles used by auto transportation companies licensed under Chapter 81.68 RCW;





7. Vehicles used to provide courtesy transportation at no charge to and from parking lots, hotels, and rental offices; and

8. Vehicles licensed under, and used to provide "charter party carrier" and "excursion service carrier" services as defined in, and required by, Chapter 81.70 RCW ((Charter party carriers and excursion service carriers licensed under chapter 81.70 RCW)).

\*\*\*

Section 2. SMC 6.310.130 Licenses required--is amended as follows.

A. It is unlawful to own, lease, drive or otherwise operate within The City of Seattle any taxicab or for-hire vehicle within the scope of this chapter, unless:

1. The for-hire driver has a valid license issued under this chapter;
2. The for-hire vehicle or taxicab has a valid license issued under this chapter;
3. If the vehicle is a taxicab, the taxicab is affiliated with a taxicab association licensed under this chapter;
4. The for-hire driver that operates a taxicab is affiliated with a taxicab association licensed under this chapter.

B. It is unlawful to operate a taxicab association within the City without a valid license issued pursuant to this chapter.

C. The regulatory licenses issued to for-hire drivers, taxicabs, and taxicab associations under this chapter shall be suspended by the Director if the for-hire driver, taxicab, or taxicab association does not maintain a required current business license issued by the City of Seattle.

Section 3. SMC 6.310.150 Fees--is amended as follows.

The following nonrefundable fees shall apply:





Taxicab Association, Taxicab, For-hire Vehicle and For-hire Driver Fees:

A.	Taxicab association annual fee	\$750.00
	Late fee for taxicab association annual fee	\$75.00
	Fingerprinting of owners and officers: Charge as determined by Director to cover costs	
B.	Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license:	
	Annual fee	\$240.00
	Late fee ( <u>license</u> renewal)	24.00
	Change of equipment	50.00
	Change of owner: September/February	240.00
	March/August (pro-rated)	120.00
	July 16th-August 31st*	
	Replace taxicab plate	10.00
	Special inspection fee (SMC Chap 7.04)**	30.00/hour (1 hour min)
	Vehicle re-inspection fee (Class A violations)	20.00
	Inspection rescheduling fee ( <u>non-City</u>	
	<u>licensed vehicles only</u> )	20.00
	Taxi meter registration fee (SMC 7.04)	5.00
	Taxicab change of association affiliation	50.00
	Suspension reinstatement fee (when no penalty is	
	assessed) or re-inspection fee (Class B violations)	50.00



Fingerprinting of owners Charge as determined by Director to cover costs.

Failure to appear for inspection  
scheduled by the Director: penalty (not a fee): See 6.310.605

\* No fee is due if change of ownership takes place during July 16-Aug 31 and is in conjunction with annual license renewal.

\*\* For retest of taxicab meter ((and)) or taxicab inspections provided to other municipalities.

C. For-hire driver:

For-hire \$55.00 \*\*\*\*

Add/change affiliation \*\*\* 20.00

Late fee 10.00

ID photo 2.00

Fingerprinting Charge as determined by Director to cover costs.

Replacement license 5.00

Training class fee As determined by Director

\*\*\* For-hire ((Taxicab)) drivers may only be affiliated with ((drive-for)) a maximum of three (3) taxicab associations at any given time. This fee is only charged when the driver is affiliated with three associations and now wants to delete one association and add another.

\*\*\*\* If a for-hire driver has a King County license, no additional fee is charged for a Seattle for-hire driver license. An endorsement will be added to the King County for-hire driver license stating that the license is valid for Seattle also. The driver must still meet all Seattle for-hire driver requirements and obtain a City of Seattle business license.

Section 4. SMC 6.310.205 Taxicab association owners, partners, and principals-  
Investigation—is amended as follows.

All taxicab association owners, partners, and principals (~~applicants for a taxicab or for hire vehicle license~~) must consent to be fingerprinted for a criminal background check.

Section 5. SMC 6.310.230 Taxicab Association-Operating Responsibilities—is amended as follows.

A. In addition to meeting the license application requirements set forth in 6.310.200, the taxicab association must:

(1) Maintain a business office that

(a) Is open and personally staffed all business days between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

(Class A):

(b) Has a business telephone number that is listed in the white and yellow pages of the telephone book and must (~~can~~) be answered during all hours that affiliated taxicabs are operating (~~of operation~~) (Class A);

(c) Has a mailing address where the taxicab association representative will accept mail (Class A); (~~and~~)

(d) Stores all records that this chapter requires the taxicab association to maintain including, but not limited to—copies of taxicab licenses and for-hire drivers licenses, lists of all affiliated taxicabs and affiliated drivers, taxicab vehicle repair and service records, consumer comment cards, new driver training records, vehicle insurance policies, vehicle registrations, vehicle for-hire certificate, trip sheets, passenger complaint log, taxicab sign out log or equivalent, and radio dispatch records (Class A);

(e) Provides secure storage for all items left in the taxicab by patrons and turned in by drivers of affiliated taxicabs (Class A); and

(f) Provides radio dispatch during all hours that affiliated taxicabs are operating, and every request for service must be satisfied as long as there are any operating taxicabs not in use (Class B-both).

(2) Ensure that each affiliated taxicab is insured as required in SMC 6.310.300 (D)(5-6) and .320(D) (Class B);





1 (3) Ensure that each affiliated taxicab maintains the taxicab association's color  
2 scheme and identification; ~~((provided, that taxicab associations comprised exclusively of~~  
3 ~~independent taxicabs need not meet this requirement until January 1, 1999. For purposes of this~~  
4 ~~subsection, an "independent taxicab" means a taxicab that, prior to October 1, 1996, shared a~~  
5 ~~central dispatch service with 9 or fewer other taxicabs. A taxicab permanently loses its status as~~  
6 ~~an "independent taxicab" if it affiliates with a taxicab association that is not comprised~~  
7 ~~exclusively of independent taxicabs))~~ (Class B)

8 (4) Maintain on file at the taxicab association's place of business proof of insurance  
9 required by SMC 6.310.300(C)(5-6) and .320(D) (Class A);

10 (5) Accept on behalf of any owner or driver of an affiliated taxicab all  
11 correspondence from the Director to that owner or driver (Class A);

12 (6) Deliver to the owner and for-hire driver of an affiliated taxicab any  
13 correspondence from the Director to that owner or driver as soon as reasonably possible after the  
14 taxicab association receives such correspondence (Class A);

15 (7) Collect and store for at least two (2) years trip sheet records for all affiliated  
16 taxicabs, ~~((including)), daily taxicab sign out logs, and association dispatch records as prescribed~~  
17 ~~by the Director ((of taxicabs in service, together with the driver's name, taxicab number and~~  
18 ~~summary of trip sheet totals))~~ (Class A);

19 (8) Collect and provide the following service information to the Director ~~((annually))~~  
20 quarterly, at a time set by regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter:

- 21 (a) Number of service requests (trips),  
22 (b) Average number of taxicabs operating during the ~~((year))~~ quarter,  
23 (c) Average number of operating hours per week per taxicab,  
24 (d) Total paid trip miles for the past ~~((year))~~ quarter per taxicab, and;  
25 (e) Number of complaints received from passengers and from consumer  
26 complaint hotline regarding:

27 (i) driver conduct sorted by driving behavior, communication,  
28 personal dress or hygiene;



- (ii) vehicle condition sorted by appearance, mechanical and/or safety;
- (iii) service response; and
- (iv) lack of driver knowledge of route or requested destination;

(f) A monthly summary of vehicle accident reports (all subsections Class B)

(9) Maintain a log of, and forward to the Director upon request, each oral or written customer complaint that the taxicab association receives about the taxicab association or about an owner, lessee or driver of an affiliated taxicab. Where applicable, the taxicab association should include a notice of the action taken by the taxicab association to resolve the complaint and the disposition (Class A);

(10) Notify the Director within two (2) working days of the taxicab association having knowledge of the following:

(a) A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the driver or the owner of an affiliated taxicab for any criminal offense that occurs during or arises out of the driver's operation of the taxicab (Class B),

(b) A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the driver or the owner of an affiliated taxicab for any other criminal offense directly bearing on the driver's fitness to operate a taxicab or the owner's fitness to own a taxicab, including but not limited to theft, fraud, robbery, burglary, assault, sex crimes, alcohol, drugs, or prostitution (Class B),

(c) A vehicle accident required to be reported to the State of Washington involving any affiliated taxicab (Class B),

(d) Any restriction, suspension or revocation of a State of Washington driver's license issued to a driver of an affiliated taxicab (Class B), and/or

(e) Any matter listed in SMC 6.310.210(B)(4) or 6.310.210 (C) (Class B);

(11) Notify the Director within five (5) working days of any change in the affiliation status of any taxicab, including any new taxicab joining the association, any taxicab leaving the association, and any suspension, termination, non-renewal or revocation of a taxicab by the taxicab association or by any jurisdiction other than the City of Seattle (Class A);

(12) Continue to affiliate with at least fifteen (15) taxicabs licensed under this chapter. If the number of taxicabs falls below fifteen (15), the taxicab association must increase the



number to fifteen (15) within six (6) months from the date the number falls below fifteen (15), or combine with an already existing association, or lose its license under this chapter (Revocation or non-renewal);

(13) Comply with all regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter (See applicable rules for penalties or actions);

(14) Permit the Director to carry out inspections without notice of all taxicab records required to be kept under this chapter, and all affiliated taxicabs (Class B); and

(15) Pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not contested or are upheld after review.

B. Taxicab associations must meet the requirements of 6.310.200(C).

C. Failure to meet the requirements of this section (SMC 2.310.230) is a violation of this chapter.

Section 6. SMC 6.310.300 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle license application.

A. A taxicab association representative is responsible for filing with the City a taxicab license application, on forms approved by the Director, for each taxicab that is, or is proposed to be, affiliated with the association. The taxicab owner must sign and swear to the application, which shall include the information specified in subsection C of this section.

B. A for-hire vehicle owner must file with the City a for-hire vehicle license application on forms provided by the Director.

C. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle license application shall include the following information:

(1) Ownership type:

(a) If the owner is an individual, the owner's full name, home address, home and business telephone number and date of birth (which shall be at least eighteen years prior to the date of application), or

(b) If the owner is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, the names, home addresses, telephone numbers and date of birth (which must be at least eighteen years before the date of application) for the corporation's or entity's officers, directors, general and





managing partners, registered agents, and each person vested with authority to manage or direct the affairs of the legal entity or to bind the legal entity in dealings with third parties; the corporation's partnership's or entity's true legal name, state of incorporation or partnership registration (if any), business address and telephone and facsimile numbers and State of Washington business license number, and any other information that the Director may reasonably require.

(2) Vehicle information, including the name of the taxicab association with which a taxicab is or will be affiliated, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle number assigned by any regulatory agency, and any other vehicle information required by rule or regulation promulgated under this chapter;

(3) Information as requested by the Department pertaining to any driver's, for-hire vehicle or taxicab license suspension, denial, non-renewable or revocation, imposed in connection with a taxicab or for-hire vehicle owned or leased by the owner within the last three (3) years;

(4) Criminal history, as requested by the Department, of the owner, or if the owner is a business entity, of the persons specified in subsection (C)(1)(b) above;

(5) Insurance policy declarations or insurance binder ~~((Certificate of insurance))~~ proving compliance with chapter 46.72 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, for each taxicab or for-hire vehicle for which a license is sought. The insurance policy declarations or insurance binder ~~((certificate))~~ shall:

(a) Be issued by an admitted carrier ~~((company authorized to carry on an insurance business))~~ in the State of Washington,

(b) Name the City of Seattle as an additional insured ~~((certificate holder))~~, ~~((and))~~

(c) Provide that the insurer will notify the Director, in writing, of any cancellation at least forty-five (45) ~~((thirty (30)))~~ days before that cancellation takes effect, and

(d) Not include self-insured retention, nonstandard deductibles, aggregate limits, territorial restrictions, named driver requirements, or any other provisions that limit insurance coverage;



(6) Certificate of underinsured motorist coverage indicating a minimum coverage of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per person, and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per accident, ~~((or a certificate of self insurance issued pursuant to RCW 46.29.630));~~

(7) State of Washington For-Hire Certificate;

(8) State of Washington Vehicle registration;

(9) Certificate of safety as required in SMC 6.310.320(E);

(10) Certificate of taxicab association membership (if application is for a taxicab license); and

(11) Any other documents required by regulations promulgated under this chapter.

(12) The above application and information must also be completed and supplied during any annual license renewal.

Section 7. SMC 6.310.320 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle-Vehicle operating requirements—is amended as follows.

No taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensed by the City may lawfully operate within The City of Seattle unless the following minimum vehicle requirements are met:

A. All applicable licenses specified in Section 6.310.130 are in force for the taxicab or for-hire vehicle (Misdemeanor or ((and)) Class C);

B. For taxicabs only, and subject to Section 6.310.230 (a)(3), the vehicle complies with the approved color scheme of the taxicab owner's taxicab association (suspension and Class B);

C. Vehicle age requirements:

1. Prior to August 31, 2002. The vehicle's model year shall be no more than eight (8) years prior to the date of application. For example, vehicles licensed on August 31st of 1999 must be 1991 models or newer. ~~((All vehicles purchased and licensed after October 1, 1996 must meet this eight (8) year age limit. The following transition periods will apply to vehicles purchased and licensed on or before that date:~~

~~a. Owners of single taxicabs or for hire vehicles:~~

1 Renewal date: \_\_\_\_\_ Oldest permitted model year at renewal date  
2 August 31, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ ten (10) years prior to application date  
3 August 31, 1998 \_\_\_\_\_ nine (9) years prior to application date  
4 August 31, 1999 \_\_\_\_\_ eight (8) years prior to application date.

5 ~~b. Owners of more than one taxicab or for hire vehicle:~~

6 Renewal date: \_\_\_\_\_ Percent of fleet that must meet eight (8) year or newer  
7 requirement:

8 August 31, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ At least thirty three percent (33%)

9 August 31, 1998 \_\_\_\_\_ At least sixty six percent (66%)

10 August 31, 1999 \_\_\_\_\_ one hundred percent (100%)

11 Replacement of vehicles under this subsection C1b shall be on an oldest vehicle first basis unless  
12 permission is granted by the Director.)

13 2. As of August 31, 2002, the vehicle model year can be no more than seven (7) years prior to  
14 the date of application (denial of license);

15 D. The vehicle has insurance as required by SMC Section 6.310.300 C5 and  
16 C6, provided, that if an insurance policy is canceled, or a vehicle is deleted from the policy, proof  
17 of a new policy including the vehicle must be filed with the Director before the vehicle is  
18 canceled or deleted from the previous policy (Summary suspension ((and Class C)));

19 E. An approved mechanic has issued a valid certificate of safety for the vehicle within the  
20 last license year. ((Attached to this certificate of safety must be a certification stating that the  
21 taxicab or for hire vehicle has passed an emissions tests conducted by an Authorized Emission  
22 Specialist who has been certified by the Washington Department of Ecology.)) The safety  
23 certificate (and emission certification) remains valid, if the vehicle is sold, until the next renewal  
24 date (denial ((suspension and Class B)));

25 F. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle has passed a City inspection at least once in the past  
26 license year, or more often if required by the Director because of previous violations (Suspension  
27 and Class B);  
28



1 G. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the vehicle and safety standards set forth in  
2 regulations promulgated by the Director (Class A for vehicle standards, summary suspension and  
3 Class B for safety standards);

4 H. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle displays a taxicab or for-hire vehicle license ((~~plate~~)) with  
5 a current year decal issued by the Director (Suspension and Class B);

6 I. All rates, including discounts or special rates, and all taxicab numbers and letters are  
7 displayed in the manner prescribed by rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to this chapter  
8 (Class A);

9 J. The vehicle contains the following current documentation: the state for-hire certificate,  
10 the county and/or city taxicab or for-hire vehicle license, the vehicle registration, and the proof of  
11 insurance card ((~~a map of Seattle and the region published within the past two (2) years, which~~  
12 ~~will be displayed to any passenger upon request~~)) (Class A);

13 K. The taxicab is equipped with a properly sealed, working and accurate taximeter as  
14 prescribed by the Director (Suspension and Class B);

15 L. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle is equipped with a consumer information board, the size,  
16 material, and placement of which is prescribed by the Director by rule. Such board shall include,  
17 at a minimum, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle name and number, ((~~the driver's license number,~~))  
18 the taxi hotline number and consumer survey and complaint cards (Class A);

19 M. The taxicab contains no scanner or other type of receiver that is capable of monitoring  
20 another Taxicab Association's assigned frequency, except as otherwise permitted by the Director  
21 (Suspension and Class B);

22 N. After December 31, 2001, the taxicab is equipped and operated so that it can be  
23 contacted by continuous two-way radio communications ((~~in response to a telephone or other~~  
24 ~~request for service by a prospective passenger~~)) using a central dispatch radio base station  
25 and a non-cell frequency assigned and licensed by the FCC to an association or contracted  
26 dispatch service. Until December 31, ((~~1999~~)) 2001, this requirement can be met by use of a  
27 mobile radio telephone service. ((~~After December 31, 1999, the requirement can only be met by~~  
28 ~~two-way radio communication.~~)) Taxicab drivers using mobile radio telephone

1 service must respond to Director inquiries within a time period to be specified by rule (Summary  
2 suspension and Class B); (~~and~~)

3 O. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the minimum size requirements as prescribed by  
4 Director's rule (Denial of license), and

5 P. The for-hire vehicle must have any color scheme or vehicle number approved with the  
6 Director (Summary suspension and Class B fine amount);

7 Q. Any other requirements set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter (safety  
8 regulations-Class B; non-safety regulations-Class A).

9 Section 8. SMC 6.310.330 is amended as follows. Taxicab owner and for-hire vehicle  
10 owner requirements (~~responsibilities~~).

11  
12 A. The owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle must ensure the taxicab or for-hire vehicle is  
13 being operated only by a driver who holds a valid for-hire driver license (Suspension (5 days)  
14 and Class B)

15 B. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must maintain a business address and a mailing  
16 address where the owner can accept mail, and a business telephone in working order that can be  
17 answered at least 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and during all hours of operation.  
18 The taxicab association office or dispatch center may suffice for this requirement (Class A);

19 C. The taxicab owner shall comply with all requirements for taxicabs under the taxicab  
20 association requirements listed in 6.310.200 - .330 (same Class violation as applied to  
21 association for same violation, except that penalty for owner will be monetary penalty only);

22 D. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must notify the Director within three (3) working  
23 days of learning of the following occurrences:

24 (1) Any conviction, bail forfeiture or other final adverse finding received by the  
25 taxicab driver or for-hire vehicle driver, for any criminal offense that occurs during, or arises out  
26 of, the driver's operation of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle (Class B);  
27  
28

(2) Any conviction, bail forfeiture or other final adverse finding received by the taxicab or for-hire vehicle driver for any criminal offense involving theft, robbery, burglary, assault, sex crimes, drugs, prostitution, or any related offense (Class B);

(3) Any vehicle accident required to be reported to the State of Washington involving any taxicab operated by the taxicab driver or for-hire vehicle operated by the for-hire driver (Class B); or,

(4) Any restriction, suspension or revocation of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle driver's motor vehicle driver's license (Class B);

E. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must maintain daily trip sheet records and complaint logs, as prescribed by the Director by rule for all licensed vehicles. A taxicab owner must insure that all original daily trip sheets are given to the taxicab association representative at least weekly. The for-hire vehicle owner must keep daily trip sheets and complaint logs for a minimum of two (2) years. The for-hire vehicle owner must provide to the Director, through their association representative, ((annually)) quarterly the following information compiled from the daily trip sheets:

- (1) Number of service requests (trips) during the last ((year)) quarter;
- (2) Average operating hours per week per vehicle for the last ((year)) quarter;
- (3) Number of complaints received regarding:
  - (a) driver conduct categorized by driving behavior, communication, personal dress or hygiene;
  - (b) vehicle condition categorized by appearance, mechanical and/or safety;
  - (c) service response; and
  - (d) lack of driver knowledge including incorrect route or no knowledge of destination requested.

(4) All complaints received regarding either the for-hire driver or the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, where such complaint involves an alleged violation of this chapter, including a note of the action taken to resolve the complaint and the disposition, if known (all violations within subsection E are Class A);

1 F. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle's owner and driver shall permit((s)) the Department to  
2 inspect the vehicle without notice, upon request (Suspension and Class B);

3 G. The owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle must ensure that the for-hire driver complies  
4 with operating and conduct standards per SMC 6.310.450-475 (Same class of violation as for the  
5 for-hire driver);

6 H. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner shall comply with any applicable regulations  
7 promulgated under this chapter (Class B for safety requirements, otherwise Class A).

8 I. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner shall insure that all inspection times scheduled by  
9 the Director are kept. (Suspension, \$50 monetary penalty and 2 penalty points)

10 J. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner shall comply with any written notice of violation  
11 issued by the Director, including notices suspending or revoking a vehicle license, and notices  
12 requiring repair (Suspension and Class B).

13 Section 9. SMC 6.310.350 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle-License expiration and  
14 renewal—is amended as follows.

15  
16 A. All taxicab and for-hire licenses shall expire on August 31st of the year following  
17 issuance of the license.

18 B. Each taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must renew the for-hire vehicle or taxicab license  
19 every year. No taxicab or for-hire vehicle ((or taxicab)) license may be renewed unless all  
20 outstanding penalties assessed against the owner or the for-hire driver of the taxicab or for-hire  
21 vehicle are paid in full to the Director.

22 C. The Director shall deny any renewal application if grounds exist for the Director to deny a  
23 license pursuant to Section 6.310.310. If no such grounds exist, the Director shall examine all  
24 Department records on the for-hire vehicle or taxicab and may deny the renewal if grounds exist  
25 that would justify denial under Section 6.310.310.



1 Section 10. SMC 6.310.370 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle-Owner surrender of vehicle  
2 license—is amended as follows.

3 It is unlawful to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle whose license has been suspended or  
4 revoked. The taxicab association, taxicab owner and taxicab driver are jointly and severally  
5 responsible for immediately surrendering the vehicle license plate or decal and taxicab vehicle  
6 license to the Director. The for-hire vehicle owner and for-hire vehicle driver(s) are jointly and  
7 severally responsible for immediately surrendering the vehicle license plate or decal and for-hire  
8 vehicle license to the Director (Class C ~~((and))~~ or misdemeanor ~~((if violation was knowingly~~  
9 ~~permitted)))~~)).

10  
11 Section 11. SMC 6.310.400 For-hire driver license application--is amended as follows.

12  
13 A. A for-hire driver must complete, sign, swear to and file with the Director a for-hire  
14 driver's license application on forms provided by the Director to include the following  
15 information:

16 1. Name, aliases, residence and business address, residence and business telephone  
17 numbers;

18 2. Place and date of birth (which shall be at least twenty one (21) years prior to the date  
19 of application, height, weight, color of hair and eyes;

20 3. ~~((Social security number and))~~ Washington State driver's license number. Providing  
21 the social security number is optional. The applicant must present his/her Washington State  
22 driver's license at time of application ~~((renewal))~~;

23 4. Proof ~~((that the applicant is a United States citizen or has documentation, as required~~  
24 ~~by the United States Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service,))~~ that the  
25 applicant is authorized to work in the United States;

26 5. The applicant's criminal history for the last five (5) years;

27 6. Information indicating whether or not the applicant has ever had a for-hire or driver's  
28 license suspended, revoked, or denied and for what cause;

1 7. A signed statement authorizing the Director to obtain a current copy of the applicant's  
2 driving record from the Washington State Department of Licensing; and

3 8. Such other information as may be reasonably required by regulation promulgated  
4 under this chapter.

5 9. The above application and information must also be completed on all annual renewals.

6 B. The following additional information must be filed prior to sitting for the written ((and  
7 oral)) examination:

8 1. If the applicant will drive a taxicab, a certification signed under penalty of perjury by a  
9 taxi association representative certifying that the applicant has successfully completed a one (1)  
10 week association training program in which the applicant has:

11 a. Ridden with a trainer designated by the association in a taxicab for at least  
12 three (3) eight (8) hour days, and

13 b. Received instruction in the region's geography, important structures and sites  
14 of interest.

15 2. Proof of successful completion of a certified training program per Section  
16 6.310.415 approved by the Director.

17 C. A physician's certification signed not more than three (3) months prior to the date of  
18 initial application that complies with Section 6.310.410 and certifies the applicant's fitness as a  
19 for-hire driver must be filed prior to issuance of the for-hire driver's license.

20 D. All applications for for-hire driver's licenses become void if the applicant, for any reason  
21 other than delay caused by the City, fails or neglects to complete the application process or obtain  
22 a license within sixty (60) days of submitting an application.

23 Section 12. SMC 6.310.415 For-hire driver training program--is amended as follows.

24 A. All initial for-hire driver applicants must have successfully completed, prior to taking the  
25 written (and oral) examination, no earlier than six (6) months before submitting the application, a  
26 training program approved by the Director that provides information about the history and  
27 geography of the Seattle and Puget Sound area, incentives for defensive driving and personal  
28

safety, enhancement of driver/passenger relations, and appearance and communication skills.

The oral examination may be taken prior to the training class to expedite the licensing process.

B. Currently licensed for-hire drivers must meet the requirements of subsection A of this section if:

1. ~~((They fail a one (1) time test given to all currently licensed for hire drivers administered by the Director. This one (1) time test will be given during 1997 at the time the for-hire driver renews his/her for hire driver's license;~~

2.)) A taxicab association with which the for-hire driver is affiliated requests that the for-hire driver receive a refresher course; or

((3))2. The Director has reasonable grounds, based on documented complaints and/or violations, to believe that a refresher course is necessary.

Section 13. SMC 6.310.420 For-hire driver written and oral examination--is amended as follows.

A. The Director shall prescribe the content of the examination, which must test the applicant's:

1. Knowledge of taxicab, for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver requirements contained in applicable codes and regulations;

2. Ability to speak and understand oral and written English sufficient for fulfilling the minimum acceptable standards for a taxicab, for-hire vehicle and/or for-hire driver;

3. Knowledge of vehicle safety requirements;

4. Knowledge of the geography of Seattle, King County and surrounding areas, and knowledge of local public and tourist destinations and attractions.

B. After submitting an application for an initial for-hire license, the applicant must pass a written and oral examination administered by The City of Seattle and/or jointly with King County.

C. An applicant who fails the written and/or oral examination is entitled to one (1) free opportunity to retake the examination. A second failure will result in a sixty (60) day wait for





another opportunity to take the examination, and another license application fee. All later examination tries will require the sixty (60) day wait, and repayment of the license application fee.

D. The written and oral examination is not required for the renewal of a for-hire driver's license unless the applicant's license has remained expired for more than one (1) year. If the license has remained expired for more than one (1) year, and the applicant can provide documentation that he/she had previously passed the oral examination, only the written examination will be required.

Section 14. SMC 6.310.430 For-hire driver-Standards for license denial—is amended as follows.

A. The Director shall deny any for-hire driver's license application if the Director determines that the applicant:

1. Has made any material misstatement or omission in the application for a license;
2. Fails to meet any of the qualifications of a for-hire driver contained in SMC Section 6.310.400;
3. Has had a bail forfeiture, conviction, or other final adverse finding for crimes pertaining to hit-and-run, or for crimes pertaining to driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances while operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, within three (3) years of the date of application;
4. Is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130.

B. The Director may deny any for-hire driver's license application if the Director determines that the applicant:

1. Has had a bail forfeiture, conviction or other final adverse finding involving crimes pertaining to prostitution, gambling, physical violence, or other crimes directly related to the applicant's honesty and integrity, including but not limited to hit-and-run, fraud, larceny, burglary, extortion and/or directly related to the driver's ability to operate a taxicab, including

without limitation driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, provided that such bail forfeiture or conviction was within five (5) years of the date of application; or

2. Has been found, either through a criminal conviction, bail forfeiture or other final adverse finding (including in a civil suit or administrative proceeding), to have exhibited past conduct in driving or operating a ~~((taxicab or for hire))~~ vehicle that causes the Director reasonably to conclude that the applicant will not comply with the provisions of the chapter related to driver/operator conduct and the safe operation of the vehicle.

Section 15. SMC 6.310.450 For-hire driver operating standards--is amended as follows.

A. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle without first obtaining and maintaining a valid for-hire drivers' license (misdemeanor or ~~((and))~~ Class C).

B. No for-hire driver whose license has been revoked by the Director shall apply for a new license for one (1) year from the effective date of such revocation (denial of license).

C. A for-hire driver, before starting each shift, shall check the lights, brakes, tires, steering, seat belts, taximeter seal, and other vehicle equipment listed on the vehicle safety checklist as prescribed by rule to see that they are working properly (Class B).

D. A for-hire driver, before starting each shift, shall ensure that the state for-hire certificate, the county and/or City taxicab or for-hire vehicle license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance card are in the vehicle (Class A).

E. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle unless the interior and the exterior of the taxicab or the for-hire vehicle is clean and in good repair (Class A).

F. A for-hire driver shall not transport more passengers than the number of seat belts available nor more luggage than the taxicab capacity will safely and legally allow ~~(((suspension and))~~ Class B).

G. A for-hire driver shall allow the Director to inspect the taxicab or for-hire vehicle without notice at any reasonable time or place (Class B).

1 H. A for-hire driver shall pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not  
2 contested or are ultimately upheld (revocation or non-renewal).

3 Section 16. SMC 6.310.455 For-hire driver conduct standards--is amended as follows.  
4

5 A. A for-hire driver shall not drink any alcoholic beverage while on duty or less than eight  
6 hours prior to going on duty, and shall not possess an open or unsealed container of any alcoholic  
7 beverage while in the for-hire vehicle or taxicab (suspension and Class B).

8 B. A for-hire driver shall, at the end of each trip, check the vehicle for any article that is left  
9 behind by passenger(s). Such articles found in taxicabs are to be reported as found property (~~on~~  
10 ~~the Taxi Hotline, as well as~~) to the taxicab association, and such property is to be returned to the  
11 taxicab association representative at the end of the shift or sooner if possible (Class A).

12 C. A for-hire driver shall have in the driver's possession a valid for-hire driver's license and  
13 valid Washington State driver's license at any time the for-hire driver is operating the taxicab or  
14 for-hire vehicle; such for-hire license shall be displayed as prescribed by the Director (suspension  
15 and Class B).

16 D. A for-hire driver shall comply with any written notice of violation issued by the Director  
17 (~~((including notices suspending or revoking a vehicle license, and notices requiring repair))~~)  
(suspension and Class B).

18 E. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle when such taxicab or for-  
19 hire vehicle license has been suspended or revoked by the Director or by order of the King  
20 County official responsible for implementing taxicabs or for-hire vehicle regulations or  
21 ordinances (revocation and Class B).

22 F. A for-hire driver shall immediately surrender the vehicle license plate and year decal to  
23 the Director upon written notice that the vehicle license has been suspended, not renewed or  
24 revoked (revocation and Class B).

25 G. A for-hire driver shall not be in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for more than  
26 twelve (12) hours spread over a total of fifteen (15) hours in any twenty-four (24) hour period.  
27  
28

1 Thereafter, such for-hire driver shall not drive any taxicab until ten (10) consecutive hours have  
2 elapsed (suspension and Class B).

3 H. A for-hire driver operating under a temporary for-hire license shall not drive, operate, or  
4 be in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle other than that designated on the temporary for-hire  
5 license (Class A).

6 I. A for-hire driver shall not drive, be in control of or operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
7 where the required customer information board is not displayed or does not contain all required  
8 information (Class A).

9 J. A for-hire driver shall operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle with due regard for the  
10 safety, comfort and convenience of passengers (Class B for safety violations; Class A for non-  
11 safety violations).

12 K. A for-hire driver shall not solicit for prostitution nor allow the vehicle to be used for such  
13 unlawful purpose (revocation and Class C).

14 L. A for-hire driver shall not knowingly permit the taxicab or for-hire vehicle to be used for  
15 the illegal solicitation, transportation, or sale, or any other activity related to illegal drugs  
16 (revocation and Class C).

17 M. A for-hire driver shall deposit all refuse appropriately and shall under no circumstances  
18 litter (Class A).

19 N. A for-hire driver shall not use offensive language, expressions, or gestures to any person  
20 while driving, operating, picking up customers, or in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
21 (Class B).

22 O. A for-hire driver shall, upon request by the Director (~~(-a passenger,)~~) or a police officer,  
23 provide the City-issued for-hire license and/or Washington State driver's license for inspection  
24 (suspension and Class B (~~(-Class A if request was by passenger))~~),

25 P. A for-hire driver shall have in their possession a map of Seattle and the region published  
26 within the past two (2) years, which will be displayed to any passenger upon request (Class A),  
27 and  
28

1 Q. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab unless the radio, required in SMC 6.310.320  
2 (N), is on and operating, and drivers must notify the taxicab association dispatch that they are  
3 available after completing each trip (Class B--both).

4 Section 17. SMC 6.310.465 For-hire driver-passenger relations standards--is amended as  
5 follows.

6  
7 A. A taxicab driver shall wear the uniform adopted by the association and approved by the  
8 Director (Class A).

9 B. A for-hire driver's clothes shall be neat and clean at all times that the driver is on the  
10 driver's shift. The term "neat and clean" as it relates to clothes shall mean that all clothing is  
11 clean, free from soil, grease and dirt and without un-repaired rips or tears. Drivers shall not wear  
12 as an outer garment any of the following: undershirt or underwear,  
13 tank tops, body shirts (see-through mesh), swimwear, jogging or warm-up suits or sweatshirts or  
14 similar attire, shorts or trunks (jogging or bathing), sandals, or any similar clothing. Summer  
15 uniforms can include Bermuda shorts (hemmed slack material) that extend down to within two  
16 (2) inches of the top of the knee cap (Class A).

17 C. A for-hire driver shall be clean and well groomed at all times while on duty. "Clean"  
18 means that state of personal hygiene, body and hair cleanliness and absence of offensive body  
19 odor normally associated with frequent clothes laundering and bathing or showering. "Well  
20 groomed" means beards and mustaches are groomed and neatly trimmed, and scalp and facial  
21 hair is neatly trimmed, and combed or brushed (Class A).

22 D. A for-hire driver shall provide customers with professional and courteous service at all  
23 times (Class A).

24 E. A for-hire driver shall not refuse a request for service because of the driver's position in  
25 line at a taxicab zone; a passenger may select any taxicab in line (Class B).

26 F. A for-hire driver shall at all times assist a passenger by placing luggage or packages  
27 (under fifty (50) pounds) in and out of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle (Class A).  
28

1 G. A for-hire driver shall not refuse to transport in the taxicab or for-hire vehicle any  
2 passenger's wheelchair which can be folded and placed in either the passenger, driver, or trunk  
3 compartment of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle; an assist dog or guide dog to assist the disabled or  
handicapped; groceries, packages or luggage. (Class B)

4 H. A for-hire driver shall provide each passenger a receipt upon payment of the fare. The  
5 receipt shall accurately show the date and time, place of pickup and delivery, the amount of the  
6 fare, the taxicab name, number and association, and the printed name and for-hire driver's license  
7 number of the for-hire driver (Class A).

8 I. A for-hire driver shall use the most direct available route on all trips unless the passenger  
9 specifically requests to change the route (Class B).

10 J. A for-hire driver shall not permit any person or pet to ride in the taxicab or for-hire  
11 vehicle unless that person or pet accompanies, or is in the vehicle at the request of, a fare-paying  
12 individual. This requirement shall not apply to uniformed driver trainees (Class A).

13 K. A for-hire driver shall not refuse to transport any person except when:

- 14 1. The for-hire driver has already been dispatched on another call;  
15 2. The passenger is acting in a disorderly or threatening manner, or otherwise causes the  
16 for-hire driver to reasonably believe that the for-hire driver's health or safety, or that of others,  
17 may be endangered;  
18 3. The passenger cannot, upon request, show ability to pay the fare (Class B).

19 L. A for-hire driver shall not smoke while the taxicab or for-hire vehicle is occupied without  
20 the consent of all passengers. If the taxicab is designated as a "non-smoking" taxicab, no-  
21 smoking signs must be posted both within, and outside, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, so as to be  
22 highly visible to the passenger. The director shall promulgate rules concerning the placement of  
the no-smoking signs. (Class A).

23 M. A for-hire driver shall be able to provide a reasonable amount of change, and if correct  
24 change is not available, no additional charge will be made to the passenger in attempting to  
25 secure the change (Class A).

1 N. A for-hire driver shall not make any discriminatory charges to any person, or make any  
2 rebate or in any manner reduce the charge to any person unless such is in conformity with the  
3 discounts or surcharges contained in the filed rates (Class B).

4 Section 18. SMC 6.310.470 For-hire driver soliciting and cruising standards--is amended  
5 as follows.

6  
7 A. Taxicabs.

8 1. A for-hire driver may solicit passengers only from the driver's seat or standing  
9 immediately adjacent to the taxicab (~~((or for hire vehicle))~~)(within 12 feet), and only when the  
10 vehicle is safely and legally parked. (Class A)

11 2. A for-hire driver shall not use any other person to solicit passengers. (Class A)

12 ~~(C)~~3. A for-hire driver shall not hold out the (~~((for hire vehicle or))~~) taxicab for designated  
13 destinations. (Class A)

14 B. For-hire Vehicles.

15 1. A for-hire driver in a for-hire vehicle is prohibited from soliciting passengers, from  
16 cruising for passengers, or from picking up passengers in a taxi zone. (Class B)

17 2. A for-hire driver shall not use any other person to solicit passengers. (Class A)

18 3. All trips must be pre-arranged as defined by the Director by rule.

19  
20 Section 19. SMC 6.310.500 Taxicabs-maximum number--is amended as follows.

21 A. The total number of taxicab licenses in effect at any one time shall not exceed the number  
22 in effect as of December 31, 1990.

23 B. The number of for-hire vehicle licenses in effect at any one time shall not exceed 200.  
24 Except that if the state legislature authorizes cities to regulate executive sedans and executive  
25 vans, as defined in RCW 46.04.274, then executive sedans and executive vans licensed by the  
26



1 Department of Licensing (DOL) on the authorization date, which meet City vehicle standards  
2 would also be allowed to obtain for-hire vehicle licenses.

3 C. The Director may, at the Director's discretion, issue taxicab licenses to special service  
4 vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons defined in KCC 6.64.010 or to  
5 handicapped persons as defined in SMC Section 6.310.110.

6  
7 Section 20. SMC 6.310.530 Rates--is amended as follows.

8  
9 A. The rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in Seattle shall be established by the Seattle City  
10 Council.

11 B. In reviewing rates the Council may take into account, among other things, and with the  
12 objective of prescribing a just and reasonable rate, the following factors:

13 1. The information in a report prepared by the Director pursuant to SMC Section  
14 6.310.520;

15 2. The public's need for adequate taxi service at the lowest level of charges consistent  
16 with the provision, maintenance and continuation of such service;

17 3. The rates of other licensees operating in similar areas;

18 4. The effect of such rates upon transportation of passengers by other modes of  
19 transportation;

20 5. The owners' need for revenue of a level that, under honest, efficient and economical  
21 management, is sufficient to cover the cost (including all operating expenses, depreciation  
22 accruals, rents, license fees and taxes of every kind) of providing adequate taxi service, plus an  
23 amount equal to such percentage of the cost as is reasonably necessary for the replacement of  
24 deteriorated taxicabs and a reasonable profit to the owner;

25 6. Consistency of rates with those charged by King County.

26 C. No taxicab shall have more than one rate on its meter.

27 D. Except for special or contract rates as provided for in this chapter, or any per trip fee  
28 established by the Port of Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or tariff, or an airport

flat rate defined in this section, it shall be unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by The City of Seattle to advertise, charge, demand or receive any greater or lesser rate than the following:

Meter rate:

1. Drop charge: for passengers for first 1/9 mile \$1.80
2. Per mile: For each 1/9 mile or fraction thereof after the first 1/9 mile \$ .20
3. For every one (1) minute of waiting time \$ .50\*
4. Extra charge for passengers over two (2) excluding children under twelve (12) \$ .50

\*Waiting time rates are charged ~~((s are initiated))~~ when taxicab speed ~~((ometer))~~ is less than seventeen (17) miles per hour or when taxicab is asked to wait for the customer.

E. Special Rates, ~~((and C))~~ contract ~~((R))~~ rates, "downtown to airport" flat rate, and coupons.

1. Special rates as defined in this chapter shall be calculated as a percentage of the meter rate.

2. The special rates must be filed with the Director on forms furnished by the Director.

3. All special rates and/or contract rates shall be filed once a year at the time of application by the taxicab association representative, or by the owner of a for-hire vehicle which is not a taxicab.

4. Licensees may change the special rates filed no more than once a year.

5. Contract rates set during the license year shall be filed within two (2) weeks of securing such contract and before implementing the contract rate.

6. All taxicabs shall charge a flat rate of \$25.00 from the downtown hotel district to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport except when contract rates are in effect for the trip. The downtown hotel district is the area defined by Broad Street to Mercer Street to I-5 on the north.

Elliot Bay on the west, South Dearborn Street on the south, and Boren Ave to the I-5 Freeway  
and then the Freeway on the east.

7. The use of coupons to establish a lower rate, or a rate not provided within this section,  
is prohibited.

F. For-hire vehicle rates.

1. Every for-hire vehicle licensee shall file all rates and charges with the director. All rates and charges, including any adopted senior citizen discount rate shall be conspicuously displayed in the interior of the for-hire vehicle so as to be readily discernible to the passenger. The Director will prescribe the manner of such posting.

2. For-hire vehicles must charge for service based on a written contract, flat charge per trip, by zone, or by an hourly rate with minimum increments of one-half (1/2) hour.

G. The rates specified in this section shall not apply to transportation of persons provided pursuant to a written contract which establishes a fare at a different rate for specified transportation and has been previously filed with the Director; provided, that no contract may include any provision the effect of which is to directly or indirectly require exclusive use of the transportation services of the contracting taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

H. It is unlawful under the Americans with Disabilities Act to charge a special service vehicle rate which is different from the taxicab rates adopted in subsection D of this section, except in those instances where the transportation of disabled persons is pursuant to a written contract as specified in subsection G of this section (Class B).

Section 21. SMC 6.310.605 Monetary penalties and penalty points—is amended as follows.

A. For-hire Driver or Taxicab/For-hire Vehicle Violations.

Violation	Penalties Against For-hire Driver, or Owner of Taxicab or For-hire Vehicle	Penalty Points Attributed to Taxicab Association
-----------	--	--

For Each Violation

For Each Violation

1. Violations Found During a Calendar Year Away from City's Inspection Facility.

First Class A in one year

((September 1st-August 31st))

\$ 30.00

2

Second Class A in one year

60.00

3

Third or more Class A

violation in one year

100.00

4

First Class B violation in

one year

60.00

4

Second Class B violation

in one year

150.00

7

Third or more Class B

violation in one year

250.00

10

All Class C violations

1000.00

20

2. Violations Found During Inspections at City's Inspection Facility.

Failure to appear for inspection

scheduled by the Director

\$ 50

2 penalty points

(See Section 6.310.330 (I) and paragraph below.)

Class A violation found  
during inspection  
at City's inspection facility

Vehicle re-inspection fee.  
See fee schedule in  
Section 6.310.150

2 each violation



Class B violation found during inspection at City's inspection facility	Vehicle re-inspection fee. See fee schedule in Section 6.310.150	4 each violation
---	---	------------------

"Failure to appear for inspection scheduled by the Director" includes a late arrival for the inspection. If notification that the vehicle can not appear is made prior to the close of business on the business day before the scheduled inspection, and the taxicab plates are delivered to the inspection facility prior to the original inspection time, then no penalty will be due.

3. Penalties and penalty points are attributed to the taxicab association with which the taxicab and/or for-hire driver is affiliated at the time the violation occurs.

B. Taxicab Association Violations During a Calendar Year.

Violation	Penalty Points Against Taxicab Association
First Class A violation in one year ((September 1st-August 31 <sup>st</sup> ))	5
Second Class A violation in one year	6
Third or more Class A violation in one year	7
First Class B violation in one year	10
Second Class B violation in one year	12
Third or more Class B violation in one year	15

As soon as an association accumulates more than five (5) penalty points per affiliated taxicab, on average, it must pay a penalty to the Director of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per affiliated taxicab. As soon as an association accumulates more than seven (7) penalty points per affiliated



1 taxicab, on average, it must pay an additional penalty to the Director of One Hundred Fifty  
2 (\$150.00) per affiliated taxicab. As soon as an association accumulates more than ten (10) points  
3 per affiliated taxicab, on average, it must pay an additional penalty to the Director of Two  
4 Hundred Fifty (\$250.00) per affiliated taxicab. For purposes of this subsection, average number  
5 of penalty points per affiliated taxicab means total association penalty points divided by number  
6 of taxicabs within the association. (The Director will compute the number of taxicabs within the  
7 association by averaging the number of taxicabs in the association (rounded up) at the beginning  
8 of the year and the number of cabs at the end of each completed quarter, i.e. March 31, June 30,  
9 etc.) If an association has exceeded the average amount of penalty points as outlined above, the  
10 penalty will be due as of the end of the current quarter. The association may ask for a hearing  
11 with the Director concerning the assessment of such penalty. At such hearing the Association  
12 will present any evidence to refute or mitigate the performance of the Association. After  
13 the hearing, the Director may impose the penalty, reduce the penalty, or with just cause  
14 waive the penalty and put the Association on probation with specific performance  
15 guidelines. If the Association does not meet the guidelines imposed, the Director will  
16 impose the penalty. In any case, the Director's decision is final.

17 Upon renewal of the taxicab association license, the association will start the new year with zero  
18 (0) penalty points.

19 C. Taxicab or For-hire Vehicle Owner's Responsibility for Penalties Incurred by For-hire  
20 Drivers. A taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner is jointly and severally liable for each monetary  
21 penalty assessed against any for-hire driver who commits a violation while operating a taxicab or  
22 for-hire vehicle belonging to that owner. The City is not required to pursue collection of the  
23 penalty from the driver as a prerequisite to pursuing collection of the penalty from the owner.

24 D. Taxicab Association's Responsibility for Penalties Incurred By For-hire Drivers and  
25 Taxicab Owners. In addition to incurring penalty points, the taxicab association is jointly and  
26 severally liable for each monetary penalty assessed against any for-hire driver or taxicab  
27 affiliated with the taxicab association. The City is not required to pursue collection of the penalty  
28

from the for-hire driver or the taxicab owner as a prerequisite to pursuing collection of the penalty from the taxicab association.

Section 22. SMC 6.310.710 Passenger complaint process—is amended as follows.

A. Upon receiving a ~~((written))~~ complaint involving the conduct of the for-hire driver, the route of transportation, the rate charged for the transportation, passenger injury or property damage not arising from a vehicle accident, or other incident, the Director shall:

1. Issue a notice of complaint to the applicable taxicab association representative or for-hire vehicle licensee ~~((for hire driver and vehicle owner, and company, if applicable,))~~ advising such person of the allegation(s) made in the complaint;

2. Require the for-hire ~~((driver,))~~ vehicle ~~((owner,))~~ licensee ~~((and))~~ or the taxicab association ~~((if applicable,))~~ to respond, in writing, to the allegation(s) in the notice of complaint within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice of complaint;

3. Require the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle licensee to i(f)investigate the allegation(s) in the notice of ~~((written))~~ complaint and the response submitted by the for-hire driver or ~~((;))~~ vehicle owner ~~((, and taxicab association, if applicable));~~ and

4. Require the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle licensee to m((M))ake a finding as to the validity of the allegation(s) in the ~~((written))~~ complaint. If it is found to be a valid complaint the director may ~~((shall))~~ issue a notice of violation pursuant to SMC Section 6.310.635.

B. Failure to respond in writing within ten (10) days to a Notice of Complaint shall constitute a waiver of the for-hire driver's, vehicle owner's, and association's, if applicable, right to contest the allegation(s) in the written complaint and shall be conclusive evidence that the allegation(s) are valid.

Section 24. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.



1 Passed by the City Council the 6 day of March, 2000, and signed by me in  
2 open session in authentication of its passage this 6 day of March, 2000.

3 Margaret Peyer  
4 President of the City Council

5  
6 Approved by me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2000.

7 Paul Schup  
8 Mayor

9  
10 Filed by me this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2000.

11 Judith E. Pappas  
12 City Clerk

13  
14 (Seal)





# City of Seattle

Paul Schell, Mayor

## Executive Services Department

Dwight D. Dively, Director

### MEMORANDUM

Date: January 26, 2000

To: Honorable Margaret Pageler, President  
Seattle City Council

From: Dwight D. Dively, Director  
Executive Services Department

Subject: AN ORDINANCE relating to the regulation of taxicabs, and amending various sections within Seattle Municipal Code 6.310.

In January of 1997, we revised the taxicab code, significantly changing how the City of Seattle regulates the taxicab industry. This 1997 code revision was in response to numerous complaints from businesses, tourists, citizens and representatives from the hospitality industry. The code took a fragmented taxicab industry and created associations, to which all taxicab owners and taxicab for-hire drivers must belong. The code built lines of responsibilities between the associations, taxicab owners, and the taxicab drivers. The code required that vehicles could be no more than eight years old, and put a system of fines and penalty points into place to provide enforcement incentives.

The 1997 taxicab code has resulted in a taxicab industry that is much improved. Complaints have been dramatically reduced, and many individuals from business and hospitality groups have expressed their satisfaction with changes that have been made. Since the implementation of the new code, however, additional issues or problems have been brought to our attention. The attached ordinance reflects desired changes of the taxicab industry, their customers, and the City. The revisions have been thoroughly discussed at industry representative meetings and with the Taxicab Advisory Group, which is comprised of representatives from private businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, the hospitality industry, citizens and user groups, the taxicab industry, the City, the County, and the Port of Seattle.

The attached ordinance amends SMC 6.310 concerning such major issues as implementing a flat rate of \$25 from the downtown area to SeaTac Airport; adding vehicle size requirements for taxicabs; clarifying insurance document requirements; limiting the number of "for-hire" (non-taxicab types) vehicles operating within the City of Seattle; and requiring cabs to be equipped with two-way communications for dispatch in order to increase customer response times and improve overall efficiencies. The ordinance also makes minor changes such as changing the information required on the enlarged driver's



for-hire license, modifying some of the fee and fine requirements, and reassigning appropriate responsibilities to vehicle owners or for-hire drivers. It also clarifies definitions and insures that individuals with regulatory licenses maintain business licenses. The ordinance requires more frequent reporting of statistics to insure the accuracy of the statistics. And the ordinance provides additional flexibility to applicants concerning training and testing procedures.

We continue to work with the taxicab industry and its customers on a variety of other issues including the number of taxicabs that are needed within the City; how to issue more licenses if the need arises; a reevaluation of the uniform requirement; and the provision of accessible taxicabs for disabled citizens. The City is also working with the taxicab and hospitality industries to bring the regulation of town cars before the state legislature. As you may recall, the City currently has no authority to regulate the town-car industry. Finally, Mayor Schell is interested in possibly expanding the role of taxicabs to alleviate traffic congestion problems. We hope to present many of these issues for the Council's consideration and action in subsequent legislation later this year.

The attached summary provides a synopsis of the proposed changes being brought before you now. If you have any questions, or would like an individual briefing on this matter, please contact Mel McDonald, Director of Revenue and Consumer Affairs at 233-0071.

cc: Honorable Jan Drago  
Mel McDonald



## **Proposed Revision of Taxi and For-Hire Vehicle Code (SMC 6.310)**

**Some ordinance sections not included in this summary since corrections or changes are very minor.**

### **Section 1. 6.310.110J (8)**

Rewords exception to definition of "for-hire vehicle" to close a loophole used by cabulance operators to avoid obtaining for-hire vehicle licenses. Cabulance operators are avoiding the "for-hire vehicle" requirements by obtaining a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier license issued by RCW 81.70 even though they are not operating as either a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier. This amendment would require them to operate as a charter party carrier or excursion service carrier, or obtain a "for-hire vehicle" license. Cabulances offer a very similar service to taxicabs and would directly compete with handicapped equipped taxicabs. (King County and Seattle are presently researching the implementation of a requirement for handicapped equipped taxicabs.)

### **Section 2. 6.310.130**

Adds new subsection that makes it unlawful to operate a taxicab unless the for-hire driver is affiliated with a licensed taxicab association. This section also ties the regulatory licenses in this chapter to maintaining a business license. This is an added incentive to comply with business license requirements.

### **Section 3. 6.310.150**

(B) Adds the provisions for a penalty for failure to appear for a schedule inspection. The previous fines for this "failure to appear" escalated with other infractions and this amendment maintains the \$50 penalty at a constant amount. (See section 20 also). It also deletes the inspection rescheduling fee (\$20) for Seattle taxicabs. County cabs and taxicabs from other cities that Seattle contracts to inspect will still pay \$20 rescheduling fee.

(C) Deletes Seattle for-hire driver license fee if the driver already holds a King County for-hire driver license. This has been policy for a couple of years.

### **Section 4. 6.310.205**

Requires that taxicab association principals be fingerprinted for criminal background checks. This is the same requirement that taxicab owners and drivers must meet.

### **Section 5. 6.310.230**

This section adds some clarifications, and changes the time frame for reporting statistical information from annual to quarterly. The annual statistics the City receives from the industry are almost fictional since much of the data is missing by the time the annual reports are required to be generated. The end of the year is usually much too late to try and go back and find or reconstruct needed information. Quarterly reporting will remind the associations that statistical data is important, and must be summarized in a timely fashion. By using a quarterly reporting approach, missing data is much easier to find or



reconstruct. Statistics and information are also affected by the switching of taxicabs between associations, and more timely summarization of applicable data will allow for more accurate information. Statistical data is used to determine the optimum number of cabs that need to operate within the City, and to ascertain service levels to industry patrons.

**Section 6.** Changes the insurance documentation requirements and legal responsibilities associated with proof that taxicabs are insured. It also changes the number of days for notice that insurance is being cancelled from 30 days to 45 days. The new document requirements, suggested by the City's Risk Manager, present a more accurate picture of the insurance in effect, and represent a more correct legal requirement. This change also deletes the ability for self insurance of uninsured motorist coverage. No associations or fleets are self insured and we do not believe that associations or fleets could meet self insurance requirements to adequately protect injured individuals.

**Section 7. 6.310.320**

(D) Deletes Class C violation for failure to have proof of valid insurance filed with Director. Remains a summary suspension item. [Note: there is a suspension reinstatement fee of \$50 provided at SMC 6.310.150B].

(E) Deletes requirement for emission tests—this is a state requirement for licensing.

(J) Adds documentation requirements to the for-hire vehicle requirements lists. This requirement was moved from the for-hire driver requirements list to the owner requirement list. The map requirement was moved to for-hire driver requirements list. (See section 16-P)

(L) Deletes requirement to display for-hire driver's license number on consumer information board.

(N) Clarifies the requirement that all taxicabs must have the capability to be centrally dispatched. This makes all taxicabs as efficient as possible.

(O) Adds minimum vehicle size requirement for taxicabs and for-hire vehicles. [Note: this item previously existed in Rule only].

(P) Makes color system and numbering of for-hire vehicles subject to Director approval to insure that taxicabs and for-hire vehicles are not colored or numbered the same.

**Section 8. 6.310.330**

Changes wording in title sentence from responsibilities to requirements.

(E) Changes statistics reporting requirements from annual to quarterly for more accurate reporting. This corresponds to taxicab association reporting requirements.

(I) Adds owner requirement to make sure that taxicabs and for-hire vehicles report for scheduled inspections on time. Non-compliance results in a flat fee of \$50, 2 penalty points, and suspension.

(J) Adds requirement that vehicle owner comply with any written notice.



**Section 10. 6.310.370**

Makes operating under a suspended or revoked license a Class C violation or misdemeanor. Removes the requirement that violation be knowingly permitted.

**Section 11. 6.310.400**

Deletes requirement for social security number on for-hire driver application.

**Section 12. 6.310.415 and Section 13. 6.310.420**

Provides for additional flexibility in scheduling training and testing of for-hire drivers.

**Section 14. 6.310.430**

Broadens the Director's ability to deny a license to a for-hire driver applicant for past driving record in any vehicle, not just in a taxicab or for-hire vehicle. The City has historically checked driving extract for all traffic violations, whether received in taxicab or private vehicle. This also brings us into agreement with King County requirements.

**Section 15. 6.310.450**

Makes violation a Class C or misdemeanor.

Amendment also clarifies the required equipment checklist and adjusts some penalties.

**Section 16. 6.310.455**

(B) Deletes requirement to report items left in a taxicab by patron on Taxi Hotline. These should be reported directly to association.

(O) Deletes requirement that driver show for-hire driver license or Washington driver's license to passengers on request. [Note: SMC 6.310.455C already requires that an enlargement of the for-hire driver license be displayed on dashboard]

(P) Adds responsibility to possess a map of region (this used to be vehicle requirement).

(Q) Since radio is a safety item, it must be operational and on.

**Section 17. 6.310.465L**

If taxicab is designated as a non-smoking taxicab or for-hire vehicle, signs must be posted for passenger information.

**Section 18. 6.310.470**

For-hire drivers operating for-hire vehicles are prohibited from soliciting passengers, cruising for passengers, or picking up passengers in taxi zone. Taxicab zones are strictly for taxicabs. [Note: this provision was in the "old" for-hire vehicle code SMC 6.211.060C]

**Section 19. 6.310.500B**

Limits number of for-hire vehicle licenses to 200 plus any existing town cars if the State allows City to regulate them. A taxicab is not defined as a for-hire vehicle. See definition of a for-hire vehicle in section 1 of the amendment. [Note: there is a taxicab



industry initiative supported by the City that requests the State to revise the RCW Limousine Code to remove town cars from the definition of "limousine", thereby requiring them to again be licensed and regulated by the City. This would level the regulatory playing field for taxicabs and town cars, and allow the City and County to regulate both. Those town cars or executive sedans and vans previously licensed by the State would not count against the 200 for-hire vehicle cap.]

**Section 20. 6.310.530**

(E) Requires a \$25 "downtown to airport" flat rate be charged by taxicabs. Downtown area is defined. The amendment also specifically prohibits the use of discount rate coupons.

(F) Adds new subsection describing how for-hire vehicles must charge for services.

[Note: this provision was in the "old" for-hire vehicle code SMC 6.211.090]

**Section 21. 6.310.605**

(A) Adds new fixed penalty for failure to appear for scheduled inspection: \$50 and 2 penalty points. Allows for no penalty if taxicab plate(s) are surrendered prior to scheduled inspection time. This penalty will be used instead of SMC 6.310.330F (Class B and suspension).

(B) Specifies how accumulated penalty points are computed for purpose of assessing monetary penalties against taxicab associations. Number of taxicabs for purpose of the calculation will be the number of taxicabs averaged over the year on a quarterly basis. Provides for a hearing to the Director if association penalty is imposed.

**Section 22. 6.310.710**

Clarifies procedures for investigation of consumer complaints by taxicab association representatives or for-hire vehicle licensees.

H: DraftRevSMC6310-Summary (1/11/00)





ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE relating to for-hire vehicles, taxicabs and for-hire drivers, amending Seattle Municipal Code 6.310.110, 6.310.130, 6.310.150, 6.310.205, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.350, 6.310.370, 6.310.400, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.430, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.500, 6.310.530, 6.310.605, and 6.310.710.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. SMC 6.310.110 Definitions—is amended as follows.

For the purposes of this chapter and unless the context plainly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

A. "Affected licensee" means any licensee that may incur some penalty as a result of a violation. For example, if a for-hire driver of a taxicab commits a violation, the for-hire driver, the taxicab owner, and the taxicab association with which that taxicab is associated are all affected licensees.

\*\*\*

J. "For-hire vehicle" means any motor vehicle used for the transportation of passengers for compensation, except:

1. Taxicabs as defined in this chapter;
2. School buses operating exclusively under a contract to a school district;
3. Ride-sharing vehicles under Chapter 46.74 RCW;
4. Limousine carriers licensed under Chapter 81.90 RCW;
5. Vehicles used by nonprofit transportation providers solely for elderly or handicapped

persons and their attendants under Chapter 81.66 RCW;



6. Vehicles used by auto transportation companies licensed under Chapter 81.68 RCW;

7. Vehicles used to provide courtesy transportation at no charge to and from parking lots, hotels, and rental offices; and

8. Vehicles licensed under, and used to provide "charter party carrier" and "excursion service carrier" services as defined in, and required by, Chapter 81.70 RCW ((Charter party carriers and excursion service carriers licensed under chapter 81.70 RCW)).

\*\*\*

Section 2. SMC 6.310.130 Licenses required--is amended as follows.

A. It is unlawful to own, lease, drive or otherwise operate within The City of Seattle any taxicab or for-hire vehicle within the scope of this chapter, unless:

1. The for-hire driver has a valid license issued under this chapter;
2. The for-hire vehicle or taxicab has a valid license issued under this chapter;
3. If the vehicle is a taxicab, the taxicab is affiliated with a taxicab association licensed under this chapter;
4. The for-hire driver that operates a taxicab is affiliated with a taxicab association licensed under this chapter.

B. It is unlawful to operate a taxicab association within the City without a valid license issued pursuant to this chapter.

C. The regulatory licenses issued to for-hire drivers, taxicabs, and taxicab associations under this chapter shall be suspended by the Director if the for-hire driver, taxicab, or taxicab association does not maintain a required current business license issued by the City of Seattle.

Section 3. SMC 6.310.150 Fees--is amended as follows.



The following nonrefundable fees shall apply:

Taxicab Association, Taxicab, For-hire Vehicle and For-hire Driver Fees:

A.	Taxicab association annual fee	\$750.00
	Late fee for taxicab association annual fee	\$75.00
	Fingerprinting of owners and officers: Charge as determined by Director to cover costs	
B.	Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license:	
	Annual fee	\$240.00
	Late fee ( <u>license renewal</u> )	24.00
	Change of equipment	50.00
	Change of owner: September/February	240.00
	March/August (pro-rated)	120.00
	July 16th-August 31st*	
	Replace taxicab plate	10.00
	Special inspection fee (SMC Chap 7.04)**	30.00/hour (1 hour min)
	Vehicle re-inspection fee (Class A violations)	20.00
	Inspection rescheduling fee ( <u>non-City</u>	
	<u>licensed vehicles only</u> )	20.00
	Taxi meter registration fee (SMC 7.04)	5.00



Taxicab change of association affiliation 50.00

Suspension reinstatement fee (when no penalty is

assessed) or re-inspection fee (Class B violations) 50.00

Fingerprinting of owners Charge as determined by Director to cover costs.

Failure to appear for inspection  
scheduled by the Director:

penalty (not a fee) See 6.310.605

\* No fee is due if change of ownership takes place during July 16-Aug 31 and is in conjunction with annual license renewal.

\*\* For retest of taxicab meter ((and)) or taxicab inspections provided to other municipalities.

C. For-hire driver:

For-hire \$55.00 \*\*\*\*

Add/change affiliation \*\*\* 20.00

Late fee 10.00

ID photo 2.00

Fingerprinting Charge as determined by Director to cover costs.

Replacement license 5.00

Training class fee As determined by Director

\*\*\* For-hire ((Taxicab)) drivers may only be affiliated with ((drive for)) a maximum of three (3) taxicab associations at any given time. This fee is only charged when the driver is affiliated with three associations and now wants to delete one association and add another.

\*\*\*\* If a for-hire driver has a King County license, no additional fee is charged for a Seattle for-hire driver license. An endorsement will be added to the King County for-hire driver license



1 stating that the license is valid for Seattle also. The driver must still meet all Seattle for-hire  
2 driver requirements and obtain a City of Seattle business license.

3  
4 Section 4. SMC 6.310.205 Taxicab association owners, partners, and principals-  
5 Investigation—is amended as follows.

6 All taxicab association owners, partners, and principals ~~((applicants for a taxicab or for hire~~  
7 ~~vehicle license))~~ must consent to be fingerprinted for a criminal background check.

8  
9 Section 5. SMC 6.310.230 Taxicab Association-Operating Responsibilities—is  
10 amended as follows.

11 A. In addition to meeting the license application requirements set forth in 6.310.200, the taxicab  
12 association must:

13 (1) Maintain a business office that

14 (a) Is open and personally staffed all business days between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

15 (Class A):

16 (b) Has a business telephone number that is listed in the white and yellow  
17 pages of the telephone book and must ~~((can))~~ be answered during all hours that affiliated taxicabs  
18 are operating ~~((of operation))~~ (Class A);

19 (c) Has a mailing address where the taxicab association representative will  
20 accept mail (Class A); ~~((and))~~

21 (d) Stores all records that this chapter requires the taxicab association to  
22 maintain including, but not limited to—copies of taxicab licenses and for-hire drivers licenses,  
23 lists of all affiliated taxicabs and affiliated drivers, taxicab vehicle repair and service records,  
24 consumer comment cards, new driver training records, vehicle insurance policies, vehicle  
25 registrations, vehicle for-hire certificate, trip sheets, passenger complaint log, taxicab sign out log  
26 or equivalent, and radio dispatch records (Class A);



1           (e) Provides secure storage for all items left in the taxicab by patrons and  
2 turned in by drivers of affiliated taxicabs (Class A); and

3           (f) Provides radio dispatch during all hours that affiliated taxicabs are  
4 operating, and every request for service must be satisfied as long as there are any operating  
5 taxicabs not in use (Class B-both).

6           (2) Ensure that each affiliated taxicab is insured as required in SMC 6.310.300 (D)(5-  
7 6) and .320(D) (Class B);

8           (3) Ensure that each affiliated taxicab maintains the taxicab association's color  
9 scheme and identification; ~~((provided, that taxicab associations comprised exclusively of~~  
10 ~~independent taxicabs need not meet this requirement until January 1, 1999. For purposes of this~~  
11 ~~subsection, an "independent taxicab" means a taxicab that, prior to October 1, 1996, shared a~~  
12 ~~central dispatch service with 9 or fewer other taxicabs. A taxicab permanently loses its status as~~  
13 ~~an "independent taxicab" if it affiliates with a taxicab association that is not comprised~~  
14 ~~exclusively of independent taxicabs)) (Class B)~~

15           (4) Maintain on file at the taxicab association's place of business proof of insurance  
16 required by SMC 6.310.300(C)(5-6) and .320(D) (Class A);

17           (5) Accept on behalf of any owner or driver of an affiliated taxicab all  
18 correspondence from the Director to that owner or driver (Class A);

19           (6) Deliver to the owner and for-hire driver of an affiliated taxicab any  
20 correspondence from the Director to that owner or driver as soon as reasonably possible after the  
21 taxicab association receives such correspondence (Class A);

22           (7) Collect and store for at least two (2) years trip sheet records for all affiliated  
23 taxicabs, ~~((including)), daily taxicab sign out logs, and association dispatch records as prescribed~~  
24 ~~by the Director ((of taxicabs in service, together with the driver's name, taxicab number and~~  
25 ~~summary of trip sheet totals)) (Class A);~~

26           (8) Collect and provide the following service information to the Director ~~((annually))~~  
27 quarterly, at a time set by regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter:

28           (a) Number of service requests (trips),

          (b) Average number of taxicabs operating during the ~~((year))~~ quarter.



- (c) Average number of operating hours per week per taxicab,
- (d) Total paid trip miles for the past ((year)) quarter per taxicab, and;
- (e) Number of complaints received from passengers and from consumer

complaint hotline regarding:

- (i) driver conduct sorted by driving behavior, communication, personal dress or hygiene;
- (ii) vehicle condition sorted by appearance, mechanical and/or safety;
- (iii) service response; and
- (iv) lack of driver knowledge of route or requested destination;

(f) A monthly summary of vehicle accident reports (all subsections Class B)

(9) Maintain a log of, and forward to the Director upon request, each oral or written customer complaint that the taxicab association receives about the taxicab association or about an owner, lessee or driver of an affiliated taxicab. Where applicable, the taxicab association should include a notice of the action taken by the taxicab association to resolve the complaint and the disposition (Class A);

(10) Notify the Director within two (2) working days of the taxicab association having knowledge of the following:

(a) A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the driver or the owner of an affiliated taxicab for any criminal offense that occurs during or arises out of the driver's operation of the taxicab (Class B),

(b) A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the driver or the owner of an affiliated taxicab for any other criminal offense directly bearing on the driver's fitness to operate a taxicab or the owner's fitness to own a taxicab, including but not limited to theft, fraud, robbery, burglary, assault, sex crimes, alcohol, drugs, or prostitution (Class B),

(c) A vehicle accident required to be reported to the State of Washington involving any affiliated taxicab (Class B),



1 (d) Any restriction, suspension or revocation of a State of Washington driver's  
2 license issued to a driver of an affiliated taxicab (Class B), and/or

3 (e) Any matter listed in SMC 6.310.210(B)(4) or 6.310.210 (C) (Class B);

4 (11) Notify the Director within five (5) working days of any change in the affiliation  
5 status of any taxicab, including any new taxicab joining the association, any taxicab leaving the  
6 association, and any suspension, termination, non-renewal or revocation of a taxicab by the  
7 taxicab association or by any jurisdiction other than the City of Seattle (Class A);

8 (12) Continue to affiliate with at least fifteen (15) taxicabs licensed under this chapter.  
9 If the number of taxicabs falls below fifteen (15), the taxicab association must increase the  
10 number to fifteen (15) within six (6) months from the date the number falls below fifteen (15), or  
11 combine with an already existing association, or lose its license under this chapter (Revocation or  
12 non-renewal);

13 (13) Comply with all regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter (See applicable  
14 rules for penalties or actions);

15 (14) Permit the Director to carry out inspections without notice of all taxicab records  
16 required to be kept under this chapter, and all affiliated taxicabs (Class B); and

17 (15) Pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not contested or are  
18 upheld after review.

19 B. Taxicab associations must meet the requirements of 6.310.200(C).

20 C. Failure to meet the requirements of this section (SMC 2.310.230) is a violation of this  
21 chapter.

22 Section 6. SMC 6.310.300 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle license application.

23 A. A taxicab association representative is responsible for filing with the City a taxicab  
24 license application, on forms approved by the Director, for each taxicab that is, or is proposed to  
25 be, affiliated with the association. The taxicab owner must sign and swear to the application,  
26 which shall include the information specified in subsection C of this section.  
27  
28





1 B. A for-hire vehicle owner must file with the City a for-hire vehicle license application on  
2 forms provided by the Director.

3 C. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle license application shall include the following  
4 information:

5 (1) Ownership type:

6 (a) If the owner is an individual, the owner's full name, home address, home  
7 and business telephone number and date of birth (which shall be at least eighteen years prior to  
8 the date of application), or

9 (b) If the owner is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, the names,  
10 home addresses, telephone numbers and date of birth (which must be at least eighteen years  
11 before the date of application) for the corporation's or entity's officers, directors, general and  
12 managing partners, registered agents, and each person vested with authority to manage or direct  
13 the affairs of the legal entity or to bind the legal entity in dealings with third parties; the  
14 corporation's partnership's or entity's true legal name, state of incorporation or partnership  
15 registration (if any), business address and telephone and facsimile numbers and State of  
16 Washington business license number, and any other information that the Director may  
17 reasonably require.

18 (2) Vehicle information, including the name of the taxicab association with which a  
19 taxicab is or will be affiliated, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle number assigned by any regulatory  
20 agency, and any other vehicle information required by rule or regulation promulgated under this  
21 chapter;

22 (3) Information as requested by the Department pertaining to any driver's, for-hire  
23 vehicle or taxicab license suspension, denial, non-renewable or revocation, imposed in  
24 connection with a taxicab or for-hire vehicle owned or leased by the owner within the last three  
25 (3) years;

26 (4) Criminal history, as requested by the Department, of the owner, or if the owner is  
27 a business entity, of the persons specified in subsection (C)(1)(b) above;

28 (5) Insurance policy declarations or insurance binder ((~~Certificate of insurance~~))  
proving compliance with chapter 46.72 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, for each taxicab or



for-hire vehicle for which a license is sought. The insurance policy declarations or insurance binder ((certificate)) shall:

(a) Be issued by an admitted carrier ~~((company authorized to carry on an insurance business))~~ in the State of Washington,

(b) Name the City of Seattle as an additional insured ~~((certificate holder))~~,  
~~((and))~~

(c) Provide that the insurer will notify the Director, in writing, of any cancellation at least forty-five (45) ~~((thirty (30)))~~ days before that cancellation takes effect, and

(d) Not include self-insured retention, nonstandard deductibles, aggregate limits, territorial restrictions, named driver requirements, or any other provisions that limit insurance coverage;

(6) Certificate of underinsured motorist coverage indicating a minimum coverage of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per person, and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per accident, ~~((or a certificate of self insurance issued pursuant to RCW 46.29.630))~~;

(7) State of Washington For-Hire Certificate;

(8) State of Washington Vehicle registration;

(9) Certificate of safety as required in SMC 6.310.320(E);

(10) Certificate of taxicab association membership (if application is for a taxicab license); and

(11) Any other documents required by regulations promulgated under this chapter.

(12) The above application and information must also be completed and supplied during any annual license renewal.

Section 7. SMC 6.310.320 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle-Vehicle operating requirements—is amended as follows.

No taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensed by the City may lawfully operate within The City of Seattle unless the following minimum vehicle requirements are met:



1 A. All applicable licenses specified in Section 6.310.130 are in force for the taxicab or for-  
2 hire vehicle (Misdemeanor or ((and)) Class C);

3 B. For taxicabs only, and subject to Section 6.310.230 (a)(3), the vehicle complies with the  
4 approved color scheme of the taxicab owner's taxicab association (suspension and Class B);

5 C. Vehicle age requirements:

6 1. Prior to August 31, 2002. The vehicle's model year shall be no more than eight (8) years prior  
7 to the date of application. For example, vehicles licensed on August 31st of 1999 must be 1991  
8 models or newer. ((All vehicles purchased and licensed after October 1, 1996 must meet this  
9 eight (8) year age limit. The following transition periods will apply to vehicles purchased and  
10 licensed on or before that date:

11 ~~a. Owners of single taxicabs or for hire vehicles:~~

12 Renewal date: \_\_\_\_\_ Oldest permitted model year at renewal date  
13 August 31, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ ten (10) years prior to application date  
14 August 31, 1998 \_\_\_\_\_ nine (9) years prior to application date  
15 August 31, 1999 \_\_\_\_\_ eight (8) years prior to application date.

16 ~~b. Owners of more than one taxicab or for hire vehicle:~~

17 Renewal date: \_\_\_\_\_ Percent of fleet that must meet eight (8) year or newer  
18 requirement:  
19 August 31, 1997 \_\_\_\_\_ At least thirty three percent (33%)  
20 August 31, 1998 \_\_\_\_\_ At least sixty six percent (66%)  
21 August 31, 1999 \_\_\_\_\_ one hundred percent (100%)

22 Replacement of vehicles under this subsection C1b shall be on an oldest vehicle first basis unless  
23 permission is granted by the Director.))

24 2. As of August 31, 2002, the vehicle model year can be no more than seven (7) years prior to  
25 the date of application (denial of license);

26 D. The vehicle has insurance as required by SMC Section 6.310.300 C5 and  
27 C6, provided, that if an insurance policy is canceled, or a vehicle is deleted from the policy,  
28 proof of a new policy including the vehicle must be filed with the Director before the vehicle is  
canceled or deleted from the previous policy (Summary suspension ((and Class C)));



1 E. An approved mechanic has issued a valid certificate of safety for the vehicle within the  
2 last license year. ~~((Attached to this certificate of safety must be a certification stating that the~~  
3 ~~taxicab or for hire vehicle has passed an emissions tests conducted by an Authorized Emission~~  
4 ~~Specialist who has been certified by the Washington Department of Ecology.))~~ The safety  
5 certificate ~~(and emission certification)~~ remains valid, if the vehicle is sold, until the next renewal  
6 date ~~(denial ((suspension and Class B)))~~;

7 F. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle has passed a City inspection at least once in the past  
8 license year, or more often if required by the Director because of previous violations (Suspension  
9 and Class B);

10 G. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the vehicle and safety standards set forth in  
11 regulations promulgated by the Director (Class A for vehicle standards, summary suspension and  
12 Class B for safety standards);

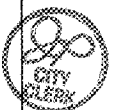
13 H. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle displays a taxicab or for-hire vehicle license ~~((plate))~~ with  
14 a current year decal issued by the Director (Suspension and Class B);

15 I. All rates, including discounts or special rates, and all taxicab numbers and letters are  
16 displayed in the manner prescribed by rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to this chapter  
17 (Class A);

18 J. The vehicle contains the following current documentation: the state for-hire certificate,  
19 the county and/or city taxicab or for-hire vehicle license, the vehicle registration, and the proof of  
20 insurance card ~~((a map of Seattle and the region published within the past two (2) years, which~~  
21 ~~will be displayed to any passenger upon request))~~ (Class A);

22 K. The taxicab is equipped with a properly sealed, working and accurate taximeter as  
23 prescribed by the Director (Suspension and Class B);

24 L. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle is equipped with a consumer information board, the size,  
25 material, and placement of which is prescribed by the Director by rule. Such board shall include,  
26 at a minimum, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle name and number, ~~((the driver's license number,))~~  
27 the taxi hotline number and consumer survey and complaint cards (Class A);  
28



1 M. The taxicab contains no scanner or other type of receiver that is capable of monitoring  
2 another Taxicab Association's assigned frequency, except as otherwise permitted by the Director  
(Suspension and Class B);

3 N. After December 31, 1999, the taxicab is equipped and operated so that it can be contacted  
4 by continuous two-way radio communications ((in response to a telephone or other)) using a  
5 central dispatch radio base station and a non-cell frequency assigned and licensed by the FCC to  
6 an association or contracted dispatch service. ((Until December 31, 1999, this requirement can  
7 be met by use of a mobile radio telephone service. After December 31, 1999, the requirement can  
8 only be met by two-way radio communication. Taxicab drivers using mobile radio telephone  
9 service must respond to Director inquiries within a time period to be specified by rule))  
10 (Summary suspension and Class B); ((and))

11 O. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the minimum size requirements as prescribed by  
12 Director's rule (Denial of license), and

13 P. The for-hire vehicle must have any color scheme or vehicle number approved with the  
14 Director (Summary suspension and Class B fine amount);

15 Q. Any other requirements set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter (safety  
16 regulations-Class B; non-safety regulations-Class A).

17 Section 8. SMC 6.310.330 is amended as follows. Taxicab owner and for-hire vehicle  
18 owner requirements ((responsibilities)).

19  
20 A. The owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle must ensure the taxicab or for-hire vehicle is  
21 being operated only by a driver who holds a valid for-hire driver license (Suspension (5 days)  
22 and Class B)

23 B. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must maintain a business address and a mailing  
24 address where the owner can accept mail, and a business telephone in working order that can be  
25 answered at least 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and during all hours of operation.  
26 The taxicab association office or dispatch center may suffice for this requirement (Class A);  
27  
28



1 C. The taxicab owner shall comply with all requirements for taxicabs under the taxicab  
2 association requirements listed in 6.310.200 - .330 (same Class violation as applied to  
3 association for same violation, except that penalty for owner will be monetary penalty only);

4 D. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must notify the Director within three (3) working  
5 days of learning of the following occurrences:

6 (1) Any conviction, bail forfeiture or other final adverse finding received by the  
7 taxicab driver or for-hire vehicle driver, for any criminal offense that occurs during, or arises out  
8 of, the driver's operation of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle (Class B);

9 (2) Any conviction, bail forfeiture or other final adverse finding received by the  
10 taxicab or for-hire vehicle driver for any criminal offense involving theft, robbery, burglary,  
11 assault, sex crimes, drugs, prostitution, or any related offense (Class B);

12 (3) Any vehicle accident required to be reported to the State of Washington involving  
13 any taxicab operated by the taxicab driver or for-hire vehicle operated by the for-hire driver  
14 (Class B); or,

15 (4) Any restriction, suspension or revocation of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle driver's  
16 motor vehicle driver's license (Class B);

17 E. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must maintain daily trip sheet records and  
18 complaint logs, as prescribed by the Director by rule for all licensed vehicles. A taxicab owner  
19 must insure that all original daily trip sheets are given to the taxicab association representative at  
20 least weekly. The for-hire vehicle owner must keep daily trip sheets and complaint logs for a  
21 minimum of two (2) years. The for-hire vehicle owner must provide to the Director, through  
22 their association representative, ((annually)) quarterly the following information compiled from  
23 the daily trip sheets:

24 (1) Number of service requests (trips) during the last ((year)) quarter;

25 (2) Average operating hours per week per vehicle for the last ((year)) quarter;

26 (3) Number of complaints received regarding:

27 (a) driver conduct categorized by driving behavior, communication, personal  
28 dress or hygiene;

(b) vehicle condition categorized by appearance, mechanical and/or safety;



(c) service response; and

(d) lack of driver knowledge including incorrect route or no knowledge of destination requested.

(4) All complaints received regarding either the for-hire driver or the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, where such complaint involves an alleged violation of this chapter, including a note of the action taken to resolve the complaint and the disposition, if known (all violations within subsection E are Class A);

F. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle's owner and driver shall permit((s)) the Department to inspect the vehicle without notice, upon request (Suspension and Class B);

G. The owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle must ensure that the for-hire driver complies with operating and conduct standards per SMC 6.310.450-475 (Same class of violation as for the for-hire driver);

H. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner shall comply with any applicable regulations promulgated under this chapter (Class B for safety requirements, otherwise Class A).

I. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner shall insure that all inspection times scheduled by the Director are kept. (Suspension, \$50 monetary penalty and 2 penalty points)

J. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner shall comply with any written notice of violation issued by the Director, including notices suspending or revoking a vehicle license, and notices requiring repair (Suspension and Class B).

Section 9. SMC 6.310.350 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle-License expiration and renewal—is amended as follows.

A. All taxicab and for-hire licenses shall expire on August 31st of the year following issuance of the license.

B. Each taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must renew the for-hire vehicle or taxicab license every year. No taxicab or for-hire vehicle ((or taxicab)) license may be renewed unless all



1 outstanding penalties assessed against the owner or the for-hire driver of the taxicab or for-hire  
2 vehicle are paid in full to the Director.

3 C. The Director shall deny any renewal application if grounds exist for the Director to deny  
4 a license pursuant to Section 6.310.310. If no such grounds exist, the Director shall examine all  
5 Department records on the for-hire vehicle or taxicab and may deny the renewal if grounds exist  
6 that would justify denial under Section 6.310.310.

7 Section 10. SMC 6.310.370 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle-Owner surrender of vehicle  
8 license—is amended as follows.

9  
10 It is unlawful to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle whose license has been suspended or  
11 revoked. The taxicab association, taxicab owner and taxicab driver are jointly and severally  
12 responsible for immediately surrendering the vehicle license plate or decal and taxicab vehicle  
13 license to the Director. The for-hire vehicle owner and for-hire vehicle driver(s) are jointly and  
14 severally responsible for immediately surrendering the vehicle license plate or decal and for-hire  
15 vehicle license to the Director (Class C ~~((and))~~ or misdemeanor ~~((if violation was knowingly~~  
16 ~~permitted)))~~)).

17  
18 Section 11. SMC 6.310.400 For-hire driver license application--is amended as follows.

19  
20 A. A for-hire driver must complete, sign, swear to and file with the Director a for-hire  
21 driver's license application on forms provided by the Director to include the following  
22 information:

23 1. Name, aliases, residence and business address, residence and business telephone  
24 numbers;

25 2. Place and date of birth (which shall be at least twenty one (21) years prior to the date  
26 of application, height, weight, color of hair and eyes;  
27  
28





3. ~~((Social security number and))~~ Washington State driver's license number. Providing the social security number is optional. The applicant must present his/her Washington State driver's license at time of application ~~((renewal))~~;

4. Proof ~~((that the applicant is a United States citizen or has documentation, as required by the United States Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service,))~~ that the applicant is authorized to work in the United States;

5. The applicant's criminal history for the last five (5) years;

6. Information indicating whether or not the applicant has ever had a for-hire or driver's license suspended, revoked, or denied and for what cause;

7. A signed statement authorizing the Director to obtain a current copy of the applicant's driving record from the Washington State Department of Licensing; and

8. Such other information as may be reasonably required by regulation promulgated under this chapter.

9. The above application and information must also be completed on all annual renewals.

B. The following additional information must be filed prior to sitting for the written ~~((and oral))~~ examination:

1. If the applicant will drive a taxicab, a certification signed under penalty of perjury by a taxi association representative certifying that the applicant has successfully completed a one (1) week association training program in which the applicant has:

a. Ridden with a trainer designated by the association in a taxicab for at least three (3) ~~eight~~ (8) hour days, and

b. Received instruction in the region's geography, important structures and sites of interest.

2. Proof of successful completion of a certified training program per Section 6.310.415 approved by the Director.

C. A physician's certification signed not more than three (3) months prior to the date of initial application that complies with Section 6.310.410 and certifies the applicant's fitness as a for-hire driver must be filed prior to issuance of the for-hire driver's license.



1 D. All applications for for-hire driver's licenses become void if the applicant, for any reason  
2 other than delay caused by the City, fails or neglects to complete the application process or  
3 obtain a license within sixty (60) days of submitting an application.

4  
5 Section 12. SMC 6.310.415 For-hire driver training program--is amended as follows.

6 A. All initial for-hire driver applicants must have successfully completed, prior to taking the  
7 written (~~and oral~~) examination, no earlier than six (6) months before submitting the application, a  
8 training program approved by the Director that provides information about the history and  
9 geography of the Seattle and Puget Sound area, incentives for defensive driving and personal  
10 safety, enhancement of driver/passenger relations, and appearance and communication skills.  
11 The oral examination may be taken prior to the training class to expedite the licensing process.

12 B. Currently licensed for-hire drivers must meet the requirements of subsection A of this  
13 section if:

14 1. ~~((They fail a one (1) time test given to all currently licensed for hire drivers~~  
15 ~~administered by the Director. This one (1) time test will be given during 1997 at the time the for-~~  
16 ~~hire driver renews his/her for hire driver's license;~~

17 2.)) A taxicab association with which the for-hire driver is affiliated requests that the for-hire  
18 driver receive a refresher course; or

19 ((3))2. The Director has reasonable grounds, based on documented complaints  
20 and/or violations, to believe that a refresher course is necessary.

21 Section 13. SMC 6.310.420 For-hire driver written and oral examination--is amended as  
22 follows.

23  
24 A. The Director shall prescribe the content of the examination, which must test the  
25 applicant's:

26 1. Knowledge of taxicab, for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver requirements contained in  
27 applicable codes and regulations;  
28



2. Ability to speak and understand oral and written English sufficient for fulfilling the minimum acceptable standards for a taxicab, for-hire vehicle and/or for-hire driver;

3. Knowledge of vehicle safety requirements;

4. Knowledge of the geography of Seattle, King County and surrounding areas, and knowledge of local public and tourist destinations and attractions.

B. After submitting an application for an initial for-hire license, the applicant must pass a written and oral examination administered by The City of Seattle and/or jointly with King County.

C. An applicant who fails the written and/or oral examination is entitled to one (1) free opportunity to retake the examination. A second failure will result in a sixty (60) day wait for another opportunity to take the examination, and another license application fee. All later examination tries will require the sixty (60) day wait, and repayment of the license application fee.

D. The written and oral examination is not required for the renewal of a for-hire driver's license unless the applicant's license has remained expired for more than one (1) year. If the license has remained expired for more than one (1) year, and the applicant can provide documentation that he/she had previously passed the oral examination, only the written examination will be required.

Section 14. SMC 6.310.430 For-hire driver-Standards for license denial—is amended as follows.

A. The Director shall deny any for-hire driver's license application if the Director determines that the applicant:

1. Has made any material misstatement or omission in the application for a license;  
2. Fails to meet any of the qualifications of a for-hire driver contained in SMC Section 6.310.400;

3. Has had a bail forfeiture, conviction, or other final adverse finding for crimes pertaining to hit-and-run, or for crimes pertaining to driving under the influence of alcohol or



controlled substances while operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, within three (3) years of the date of application;

4. Is required to register as a sex offender pursuant to RCW 9A.44.130.

B. The Director may deny any for-hire driver's license application if the Director determines that the applicant:

1. Has had a bail forfeiture, conviction or other final adverse finding involving crimes pertaining to prostitution, gambling, physical violence, or other crimes directly related to the applicant's honesty and integrity, including but not limited to hit-and-run, fraud, larceny, burglary, extortion and/or directly related to the driver's ability to operate a taxicab, including without limitation driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, provided that such bail forfeiture or conviction was within five (5) years of the date of application; or

2. Has been found, either through a criminal conviction, bail forfeiture or other final adverse finding (including in a civil suit or administrative proceeding), to have exhibited past conduct in driving or operating a ~~((taxicab or for-hire))~~ vehicle that causes the Director reasonably to conclude that the applicant will not comply with the provisions of the chapter related to driver/operator conduct and the safe operation of the vehicle.

Section 15. SMC 6.310.450 For-hire driver operating standards--is amended as follows.

A. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle without first obtaining and maintaining a valid for-hire drivers' license (misdemeanor or ~~((and))~~ Class C).

B. No for-hire driver whose license has been revoked by the Director shall apply for a new license for one (1) year from the effective date of such revocation (denial of license).

C. A for-hire driver, before starting each shift, shall check the lights, brakes, tires, steering, seat belts, taximeter seal, and other vehicle equipment listed on the vehicle safety checklist as prescribed by rule to see that they are working properly (Class B).



1 D. A for-hire driver, before starting each shift, shall ensure that the state for-hire certificate,  
2 the county and/or City taxicab or for-hire vehicle license, vehicle registration and proof of  
3 insurance card are in the vehicle (Class A).

4 E. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle unless the interior and the  
5 exterior of the taxicab or the for-hire vehicle is clean and in good repair (Class A).

6 F. A for-hire driver shall not transport more passengers than the number of seat belts  
7 available nor more luggage than the taxicab capacity will safely and legally allow (((suspension  
and)) Class B).

8 G. A for-hire driver shall allow the Director to inspect the taxicab or for-hire vehicle without  
9 notice at any reasonable time or place (Class B).

10 H. A for-hire driver shall pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not  
11 contested or are ultimately upheld (revocation or non-renewal).

12  
13 Section 16. SMC 6.310.455 For-hire driver conduct standards--is amended as follows.

14  
15 A. A for-hire driver shall not drink any alcoholic beverage while on duty or less than eight  
16 hours prior to going on duty, and shall not possess an open or unsealed container of any alcoholic  
17 beverage while in the for-hire vehicle or taxicab (suspension and Class B).

18 B. A for-hire driver shall, at the end of each trip, check the vehicle for any article that is left  
19 behind by passenger(s). Such articles found in taxicabs are to be reported as found property ((~~on~~  
20 ~~the Taxi Hotline, as well as~~)) to the taxicab association, and such property is to be returned to the  
21 taxicab association representative at the end of the shift or sooner if possible (Class A).

22 C. A for-hire driver shall have in the driver's possession a valid for-hire driver's license and  
23 valid Washington State driver's license at any time the for-hire driver is operating the taxicab or  
24 for-hire vehicle; such for-hire license shall be displayed as prescribed by the Director (suspension  
25 and Class B).



1 D. A for-hire driver shall comply with any written notice of violation issued by the Director  
2 (~~(including notices suspending or revoking a vehicle license, and notices requiring repair)~~)

(suspension and Class B).

3 E. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle when such taxicab or for-  
4 hire vehicle license has been suspended or revoked by the Director or by order of the King  
5 County official responsible for implementing taxicabs or for-hire vehicle regulations or  
6 ordinances (revocation and Class B).

7 F. A for-hire driver shall immediately surrender the vehicle license plate and year decal to  
8 the Director upon written notice that the vehicle license has been suspended, not renewed or  
9 revoked (revocation and Class B).

10 G. A for-hire driver shall not be in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for more than  
11 twelve (12) hours spread over a total of fifteen (15) hours in any twenty-four (24) hour period.  
12 Thereafter, such for-hire driver shall not drive any taxicab until ten (10) consecutive hours have  
13 elapsed (suspension and Class B).

14 H. A for-hire driver operating under a temporary for-hire license shall not drive, operate, or  
15 be in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle other than that designated on the temporary for-hire  
16 license (Class A).

17 I. A for-hire driver shall not drive, be in control of or operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
18 where the required customer information board is not displayed or does not contain all required  
19 information (Class A).

20 J. A for-hire driver shall operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle with due regard for the  
21 safety, comfort and convenience of passengers (Class B for safety violations; Class A for non-  
22 safety violations).

23 K. A for-hire driver shall not solicit for prostitution nor allow the vehicle to be used for such  
24 unlawful purpose (revocation and Class C).

25 L. A for-hire driver shall not knowingly permit the taxicab or for-hire vehicle to be used for  
26 the illegal solicitation, transportation, or sale, or any other activity related to illegal drugs  
27 (revocation and Class C).  
28



1 M. A for-hire driver shall deposit all refuse appropriately and shall under no circumstances  
2 litter (Class A).

3 N. A for-hire driver shall not use offensive language, expressions, or gestures to any person  
4 while driving, operating, picking up customers, or in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
(Class B).

5 O. A for-hire driver shall, upon request by the Director (~~(, a passenger,)~~) or a police officer,  
6 provide the City-issued for-hire license and/or Washington State driver's license for inspection  
7 (suspension and Class B (~~(, Class A if request was by passenger)~~)),

8 P. A for-hire driver shall have in their possession a map of Seattle and the region published  
9 within the past two (2) years, which will be displayed to any passenger upon request (Class A),  
10 and

11 Q. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab unless the radio, required in SMC 6.310.320  
12 (N), is on and operating, and drivers must notify the taxicab association dispatch that they are  
13 available after completing each trip (Class B--both).

14  
15 Section 17. SMC 6.310.465 For-hire driver-passenger relations standards--is amended as  
16 follows.

17 A. A taxicab driver shall wear the uniform adopted by the association and approved by the  
18 Director (Class A).

19 B. A for-hire driver's clothes shall be neat and clean at all times that the driver is on the  
20 driver's shift. The term "neat and clean" as it relates to clothes shall mean that all clothing is  
21 clean, free from soil, grease and dirt and without un-repaired rips or tears. Drivers shall not wear  
22 as an outer garment any of the following: undershirt or underwear,  
23 tank tops, body shirts (see-through mesh), swimwear, jogging or warm-up suits or sweatshirts or  
24 similar attire, shorts or trunks (jogging or bathing), sandals, or any similar clothing. Summer  
25 uniforms can include Bermuda shorts (hemmed slack material) that extend down to within two  
26 (2) inches of the top of the knee cap (Class A).



1 C. A for-hire driver shall be clean and well groomed at all times while on duty. "Clean"  
2 means that state of personal hygiene, body and hair cleanliness and absence of offensive body  
3 odor normally associated with frequent clothes laundering and bathing or showering. "Well  
4 groomed" means beards and mustaches are groomed and neatly trimmed, and scalp and facial  
hair is neatly trimmed, and combed or brushed (Class A).

5 D. A for-hire driver shall provide customers with professional and courteous service at all  
6 times (Class A).

7 E. A for-hire driver shall not refuse a request for service because of the driver's position in  
8 line at a taxicab zone; a passenger may select any taxicab in line (Class B).

9 F. A for-hire driver shall at all times assist a passenger by placing luggage or packages  
10 (under fifty (50) pounds) in and out of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle (Class A).

11 G. A for-hire driver shall not refuse to transport in the taxicab or for-hire vehicle any  
12 passenger's wheelchair which can be folded and placed in either the passenger, driver, or trunk  
13 compartment of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle; an assist dog or guide dog to assist the disabled or  
14 handicapped; groceries, packages or luggage. (Class B)

15 H. A for-hire driver shall provide each passenger a receipt upon payment of the fare. The  
16 receipt shall accurately show the date and time, place of pickup and delivery, the amount of the  
17 fare, the taxicab name, number and association, and the printed name and for-hire driver's license  
number of the for-hire driver (Class A).

18 I. A for-hire driver shall use the most direct available route on all trips unless the passenger  
19 specifically requests to change the route (Class B).

20 J. A for-hire driver shall not permit any person or pet to ride in the taxicab or for-hire  
21 vehicle unless that person or pet accompanies, or is in the vehicle at the request of, a fare-paying  
22 individual. This requirement shall not apply to uniformed driver trainees (Class A).

23 K. A for-hire driver shall not refuse to transport any person except when:

- 24 1. The for-hire driver has already been dispatched on another call;
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28





2. The passenger is acting in a disorderly or threatening manner, or otherwise causes the for-hire driver to reasonably believe that the for-hire driver's health or safety, or that of others, may be endangered;

3. The passenger cannot, upon request, show ability to pay the fare (Class B).

L. A for-hire driver shall not smoke while the taxicab or for-hire vehicle is occupied without the consent of all passengers. If the taxicab is designated as a "non-smoking" taxicab, no-smoking signs must be posted both within, and outside, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, so as to be highly visible to the passenger. The director shall promulgate rules concerning the placement of the no-smoking signs. (Class A).

M. A for-hire driver shall be able to provide a reasonable amount of change, and if correct change is not available, no additional charge will be made to the passenger in attempting to secure the change (Class A).

N. A for-hire driver shall not make any discriminatory charges to any person, or make any rebate or in any manner reduce the charge to any person unless such is in conformity with the discounts or surcharges contained in the filed rates (Class B).

Section 18. SMC 6.310.470 For-hire driver soliciting and cruising standards--is amended as follows.

A. Taxicabs.

1. A for-hire driver may solicit passengers only from the driver's seat or standing immediately adjacent to the taxicab (~~((or for hire vehicle))~~)(within 12 feet), and only when the vehicle is safely and legally parked. (Class A)

2. A for-hire driver shall not use any other person to solicit passengers. (Class A)

~~(C)~~3. A for-hire driver shall not hold out the (~~((for hire vehicle or))~~) taxicab for designated destinations. (Class A)

B. For-hire Vehicles.



1 1. A for-hire driver in a for-hire vehicle is prohibited from soliciting passengers, from  
2 cruising for passengers, or from picking up passengers in a taxi zone. (Class B)

3 2. A for-hire driver shall not use any other person to solicit passengers. (Class A)

4 3. All trips must be pre-arranged as defined by the Director by rule.

5 Section 19. SMC 6.310.500 Taxicabs-maximum number--is amended as follows.

6  
7 A. The total number of taxicab licenses in effect at any one time shall not exceed the number  
8 in effect as of December 31, 1990.

9 B. The number of for-hire vehicle licenses in effect at any one time shall not exceed 200.

10 Except that if the state legislature authorizes cities to regulate executive sedans and executive  
11 vans, as defined in RCW 46.04.274, then executive sedans and executive vans licensed by the  
12 Department of Licensing (DOL) on the authorization date, which meet City vehicle standards  
13 would also be allowed to obtain for-hire vehicle licenses.

14  
15 C. The Director may, at the Director's discretion, issue taxicab licenses to special service  
16 vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons defined in KCC 6.64.010 or to  
17 handicapped persons as defined in SMC Section 6.310.110.

18  
19 Section 20. SMC 6.310.530 Rates--is amended as follows.

20  
21 A. The rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in Seattle shall be established by the Seattle  
22 City Council.

23 B. In reviewing rates the Council may take into account, among other things, and with the  
24 objective of prescribing a just and reasonable rate, the following factors:

25 1. The information in a report prepared by the Director pursuant to SMC Section  
26 6.310.520;



2. The public's need for adequate taxi service at the lowest level of charges consistent with the provision, maintenance and continuation of such service;

3. The rates of other licensees operating in similar areas;

4. The effect of such rates upon transportation of passengers by other modes of transportation;

5. The owners' need for revenue of a level that, under honest, efficient and economical management, is sufficient to cover the cost (including all operating expenses, depreciation accruals, rents, license fees and taxes of every kind) of providing adequate taxi service, plus an amount equal to such percentage of the cost as is reasonably necessary for the replacement of deteriorated taxicabs and a reasonable profit to the owner;

6. Consistency of rates with those charged by King County.

C. No taxicab shall have more than one rate on its meter.

D. Except for special or contract rates as provided for in this chapter, or any per trip fee established by the Port of Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or tariff, or an airport flat rate defined in this section, it shall be unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by The City of Seattle to advertise, charge, demand or receive any greater or lesser rate than the following:

Meter rate:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Drop charge: for passengers for first 1/9 mile                                | \$1.80  |
| 2. Per mile: For each 1/9 mile or fraction thereof after the first 1/9 mile      | \$ .20  |
| 3. For every one (1) minute of waiting time                                      | \$ .50* |
| 4. Extra charge for passengers over two (2) excluding children under twelve (12) | \$ .50  |

\*Waiting time rates are charged (~~((s are initiated))~~) when taxicab speed (~~((ometer))~~) is less than seventeen (17) miles per hour or when taxicab is asked to wait for the customer.



E. Special Rates, ~~((and C))~~ contract ~~((R))~~ rates, "downtown to airport" flat rate, and coupons.

1. Special rates as defined in this chapter shall be calculated as a percentage of the meter rate.

2. The special rates must be filed with the Director on forms furnished by the Director.

3. All special rates and/or contract rates shall be filed once a year at the time of application by the taxicab association representative, or by the owner of a for-hire vehicle which is not a taxicab.

4. Licensees may change the special rates filed no more than once a year.

5. Contract rates set during the license year shall be filed within two (2) weeks of securing such contract and before implementing the contract rate.

6. All taxicabs shall charge a flat rate of \$25.00 from the downtown hotel district to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport except when contract rates are in effect for the trip. The downtown hotel district is the area defined by Broad Street to Mercer Street to I-5 on the north, Elliot Bay on the west, South Dearborn Street on the south, and Boren Ave to the I-5 Freeway and then the Freeway on the east.

7. The use of coupons to establish a lower rate, or a rate not provided within this section, is prohibited.

F. For-hire vehicle rates.

1. Every for-hire vehicle licensee shall file all rates and charges with the director. All rates and charges, including any adopted senior citizen discount rate shall be conspicuously displayed in the interior of the for-hire vehicle so as to be readily discernible to the passenger. The Director will prescribe the manner of such posting.

2. For-hire vehicles must charge for service based on a written contract, flat charge per trip, by zone, or by an hourly rate with minimum increments of one-half (1/2) hour.



G. The rates specified in this section shall not apply to transportation of persons provided pursuant to a written contract which establishes a fare at a different rate for specified transportation and has been previously filed with the Director; provided, that no contract may include any provision the effect of which is to directly or indirectly require exclusive use of the transportation services of the contracting taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

H. It is unlawful under the Americans with Disabilities Act to charge a special service vehicle rate which is different from the taxicab rates adopted in subsection D of this section, except in those instances where the transportation of disabled persons is pursuant to a written contract as specified in subsection G of this section (Class B).

Section 21. SMC 6.310.605 Monetary penalties and penalty points—is amended as follows.

A. For-hire Driver or Taxicab/For-hire Vehicle Violations.

Violation	Penalties Against For-hire Driver, or Owner of Taxicab or For-hire Vehicle <u>For Each Violation</u>	Penalty Points Attributed to Taxicab Association <u>For Each Violation</u>
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1. Violations Found During a Calendar Year Away from City's Inspection Facility.

First Class A in one year ((September 1st August 31st))	\$ 30.00	2
Second Class A in one year	60.00	3
Third or more Class A violation in one year	100.00	4
First Class B violation in one year	60.00	4



1	Second Class B violation		
2	in one year	150.00	7
3	Third or more Class B		
4	violation in one year	250.00	10
5	All Class C violations	1000.00	20

2. Violations Found During Inspections at City's Inspection Facility.

Failure to appear for inspection

scheduled by the Director.                      \$ 50                      2 penalty points  
(See Section 6.310.330 (I) and paragraph below.)

Class A violation found during inspection at City's inspection facility	Vehicle re-inspection fee. See fee schedule in Section 6.310.150	2 each violation
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Class B violation found during inspection at City's inspection facility	Vehicle re-inspection fee. See fee schedule in Section 6.310.150	4 each violation
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"Failure to appear for inspection scheduled by the Director" includes a late arrival for the inspection. If notification that the vehicle can not appear is made prior to the close of business on the business day before the scheduled inspection, and the taxicab plates are delivered to the inspection facility prior to the original inspection time, then no penalty will be due.

3. Penalties and penalty points are attributed to the taxicab association with which the taxicab and/or for-hire driver is affiliated at the time the violation occurs.



B. Taxicab Association Violations During a Calendar Year.

Violation	Penalty Points Against Taxicab Association
First Class A violation in one year ((September 1st - August 31 <sup>st</sup> ))	5
Second Class A violation in one year	6
Third or more Class A violation in one year	7
First Class B violation in one year	10
Second Class B violation in one year	12
Third or more Class B violation in one year	15

As soon as an association accumulates more than five (5) penalty points per affiliated taxicab, on average, it must pay a penalty to the Director of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per affiliated taxicab. As soon as an association accumulates more than seven (7) penalty points per affiliated taxicab, on average, it must pay an additional penalty to the Director of One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) per affiliated taxicab. As soon as an association accumulates more than ten (10) points per affiliated taxicab, on average, it must pay an additional penalty to the Director of Two Hundred Fifty (\$250.00) per affiliated taxicab. For purposes of this subsection, average number of penalty points per affiliated taxicab means total association penalty points divided by number of taxicabs within the association. (The Director will compute the number of taxicabs within the association by averaging the number of taxicabs in the association (rounded up) at the beginning of the year and the number of cabs at the end of each completed quarter, i.e. March 31, June 30, etc.) If an association has exceeded the average amount of penalty points as outlined above, the



penalty will be due as of the end of the current quarter. The association may ask for a hearing with the Director concerning the assessment of such penalty.

Upon renewal of the taxicab association license, the association will start the new year with zero (0) penalty points.

C. Taxicab or For-hire Vehicle Owner's Responsibility for Penalties Incurred by For-hire Drivers. A taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner is jointly and severally liable for each monetary penalty assessed against any for-hire driver who commits a violation while operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle belonging to that owner. The City is not required to pursue collection of the penalty from the driver as a prerequisite to pursuing collection of the penalty from the owner.

D. Taxicab Association's Responsibility for Penalties Incurred By For-hire Drivers and Taxicab Owners. In addition to incurring penalty points, the taxicab association is jointly and severally liable for each monetary penalty assessed against any for-hire driver or taxicab affiliated with the taxicab association. The City is not required to pursue collection of the penalty from the for-hire driver or the taxicab owner as a prerequisite to pursuing collection of the penalty from the taxicab association.

Section 22. SMC 6.310.710 Passenger complaint process—is amended as follows.

A. Upon receiving a ((written)) complaint involving the conduct of the for-hire driver, the route of transportation, the rate charged for the transportation, passenger injury or property damage not arising from a vehicle accident, or other incident, the Director shall:

1. Issue a notice of complaint to the applicable taxicab association representative or for-hire vehicle licensee ((for-hire driver and vehicle owner, and company, if applicable,)) advising such person of the allegation(s) made in the complaint;





2. Require the for-hire ((driver,)) vehicle ((owner,)) licensee ((and)) or the taxicab association ((if applicable,)) to respond, in writing, to the allegation(s) in the notice of complaint within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice of complaint;

3. Require the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle licensee to i(f)investigate the allegation(s) in the notice of ((written)) complaint and the response submitted by the for-hire driver or ((;)) vehicle owner((, and taxicab association, if applicable)); and

4. Require the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle licensee to m((M))ake a finding as to the validity of the allegation(s) in the ((written)) complaint. If it is found to be a valid complaint the director may ((shall)) issue a notice of violation pursuant to SMC Section 6.310.635.

B. Failure to respond in writing within ten (10) days to a Notice of Complaint shall constitute a waiver of the for-hire driver's, vehicle owner's, and association's, if applicable, right to contest the allegation(s) in the written complaint and shall be conclusive evidence that the allegation(s) are valid.

Section 24. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10) days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the City Council

Approved by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor



1 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2000.

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1 G. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the vehicle and safety standards set forth in  
2 regulations promulgated by the Director (Class A for vehicle standards, summary suspension and  
3 Class B for safety standards);

4 H. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle displays a taxicab or for-hire vehicle license ((plate)) with  
5 a current year decal issued by the Director (Suspension and Class B);

6 I. All rates, including discounts or special rates, and all taxicab numbers and letters are  
7 displayed in the manner prescribed by rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to this chapter  
8 (Class A);

9 J. The vehicle contains the following current documentation: the state for-hire certificate,  
10 the county and/or city taxicab or for-hire vehicle license, the vehicle registration, and the proof of  
11 insurance card ((a map of Seattle and the region published within the past two (2) years, which  
12 will be displayed to any passenger upon request)) (Class A);

13 K. The taxicab is equipped with a properly sealed, working and accurate taximeter as  
14 prescribed by the Director (Suspension and Class B);

15 L. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle is equipped with a consumer information board, the size,  
16 material, and placement of which is prescribed by the Director by rule. Such board shall include,  
17 at a minimum, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle name and number, ~~((the driver's license number,))~~  
18 the taxi hotline number and consumer survey and complaint cards (Class A);

19 M. The taxicab contains no scanner or other type of receiver that is capable of monitoring  
20 another Taxicab Association's assigned frequency, except as otherwise permitted by the Director  
21 (Suspension and Class B);

22 ~~After December 31, 1999,~~ <sup>2001</sup> the taxicab is equipped and operated so that it can be contacted  
23 by continuous two-way radio communications ~~((in response to a telephone or other))~~ using a  
24 central dispatch radio base station and a non-cell frequency assigned and licensed by the FCC to  
25 an association or contracted dispatch service. ~~((Until December 31, 1999, this requirement can~~  
26 ~~be met by use of a mobile radio telephone service.~~ <sup>2001</sup> ~~After December 31, 1999, the requirement can~~  
27 ~~only be met by two-way radio communication. Taxicab drivers using mobile radio telephone~~



1 service must respond to Director inquiries within a time period to be specified by rule))

2 (Summary suspension and Class B); ((and))

3 O. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the minimum size requirements as prescribed by  
4 Director's rule (Denial of license), and

5 P. The for-hire vehicle must have any color scheme or vehicle number approved with the  
6 Director (Summary suspension and Class B fine amount);

7 Q. Any other requirements set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter (safety  
8 regulations-Class B; non-safety regulations-Class A).

9 Section 8. SMC 6.310.330 is amended as follows. Taxicab owner and for-hire vehicle  
10 owner requirements ~~((responsibilities))~~.

11 A. The owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle must ensure the taxicab or for-hire vehicle is  
12 being operated only by a driver who holds a valid for-hire driver license (Suspension (5 days) and  
13 Class B)

14 B. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must maintain a business address and a mailing  
15 address where the owner can accept mail, and a business telephone in working order that can be  
16 answered at least 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and during all hours of operation. The  
17 taxicab association office or dispatch center may suffice for this requirement (Class A);

18 C. The taxicab owner shall comply with all requirements for taxicabs under the taxicab  
19 association requirements listed in 6.310.200 - .330 (same Class violation as applied to  
20 association for same violation, except that penalty for owner will be monetary penalty only);

21 D. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner must notify the Director within three (3) working  
22 days of learning of the following occurrences:

23 (1) Any conviction, bail forfeiture or other final adverse finding received by the  
24 taxicab driver or for-hire vehicle driver, for any criminal offense that occurs during, or arises out  
25 of, the driver's operation of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle (Class B);  
26  
27  
28

# STATE OF WASHINGTON - KING COUNTY

116258

City of Seattle, City Clerk

—ss.

No. ORDINANCE IN

## Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT:119872 ORD IN FUL

was published on

03/27/00

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$ , which amount has been paid in full.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

03/27/00

Notary Public for the State of Washington,  
residing in Seattle

geography of the Seattle and Puget Sound area, incentives for defensive driving, safety, enhancement of driver/passenger safety.

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geography of the Seattle and Puget Sound area, incentives for defensive driving

## City of Seattle

### ORDINANCE 119672

AN ORDINANCE relating to for-hire vehicles, taxicabs and for-hire drivers, amending Seattle Municipal Code 6.310.110, 6.310.130, 6.310.150, 6.310.205, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.350, 6.310.370, 6.310.400, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.430, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.500, 6.310.530, 6.310.605, and 6.310.710.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. SMC 6.310.110 Definitions—is amended as follows.

For the purposes of this chapter and unless the context plainly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

A. "Affected licensee" means any licensee that may incur some penalty as a result of a violation. For example, if a for-hire driver of a taxicab commits a violation, the for-hire driver, the taxicab owner, and the taxicab association with which that taxicab is associated are all affected licensees.

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J. "For-hire vehicle" means any motor vehicle used for the transportation of passengers for compensation, except:

1. Taxicabs as defined in this chapter;
2. School buses operating exclusively under a contract to a school district;
3. Ride-sharing vehicles under Chapter 46.74 RCW;
4. Limousine carriers licensed under Chapter 81.90 RCW;
5. Vehicles used by nonprofit transportation providers solely for elderly or handicapped persons and their attendants under Chapter 81.66 RCW;
6. Vehicles used by auto transportation companies licensed under Chapter 81.68 RCW;
7. Vehicles used to provide courtesy transportation at no charge to and from parking lots, hotels, and rental offices; and
8. Vehicles licensed under, and used to provide "charter party carrier" and "excursion service carrier" services as defined in, and required by, Chapter 81.70 RCW ((Charter party carriers and excursion service carriers licensed under chapter 81.70 RCW)).

\*\*\*

Section 2. SMC 6.310.130 Licenses required—is amended as follows.

A. It is unlawful to own, lease, drive or otherwise operate within The City of Seattle any taxicab or for-hire vehicle within the scope of this chapter, unless:

1. The for-hire driver has a valid license issued under this chapter;
2. The for-hire vehicle or taxicab has a valid license issued under this chapter;
3. If the vehicle is a taxicab, the taxicab is affiliated with a taxicab association licensed under this chapter;
4. The for-hire driver that operates a taxicab is affiliated with a taxicab association licensed under this chapter.

B. It is unlawful to operate a taxicab association within the City without a valid license issued pursuant to this chapter.

C. The regulatory licenses issued to for-hire drivers, taxicabs, and taxicab associations under this chapter shall be suspended by the Director if the for-hire driver, taxicab, or taxicab association does not maintain a required current business license issued by the City of Seattle.

All taxicab association owners, partners, and principals ((applicants for a taxicab or for-hire vehicle license)) must consent to be fingerprinted for a criminal background check.

Section 5. SMC 6.310.230 Taxicab Association Operating Responsibilities—is amended as follows.

A. In addition to meeting the license application requirements set forth in 6.310.200, the taxicab association must:

- (1) Maintain a business office that
  - (a) Is open and personally staffed all business days between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Class A);
  - (b) Has a business telephone number that is listed in the white and yellow pages of the telephone book and must ((can)) be answered during all hours that affiliated taxicabs are operating ((of operation)) (Class A);
  - (c) Has a mailing address where the taxicab association representative will accept mail (Class A); ((and))
  - (d) Stores all records that this chapter requires the taxicab association to maintain including, but not limited to, copies of taxicab licenses and for-hire drivers licenses, lists of all affiliated taxicabs and affiliated drivers, taxicab vehicle repair and service records, consumer comment cards, new driver training records, vehicle insurance policies, vehicle registrations, vehicle for-hire certificate, trip sheets, passenger complaint log, taxicab sign out log or equivalent, and radio dispatch records (Class A);
  - (e) Provides secure storage for all items left in the taxicab by patrons and turned in by drivers of affiliated taxicabs (Class A); and
  - (f) Provides radio dispatch during all hours that affiliated taxicabs are operating, and every request for service must be satisfied as long as there are any operating taxicabs not in use (Class B both).
- (2) Ensure that each affiliated taxicab is insured as required in SMC 6.310.300 (DX5-6) and 320(D) (Class B);
- (3) Ensure that each affiliated taxicab maintains the taxicab association's color scheme and identification; (( provided, that taxicab associations comprised exclusively of independent taxicabs need not meet this requirement until January 1, 1999. For purposes of this subsection, an "independent taxicab" means a taxicab that, prior to October 1, 1996, shared a central dispatch service with five or fewer other taxicabs. A taxicab permanently loses its status as an "independent taxicab" if it affiliates with a taxicab association that is not comprised exclusively of independent taxicabs)) (Class B)
- (4) Maintain on file at the taxicab association's place of business proof of insurance required by SMC 6.310.300(C)(5-6) and 320(D) (Class A);
- (5) Accept on behalf of any owner or driver of an affiliated taxicab all correspondence from the Director to that owner or driver (Class A);
- (6) Deliver to the owner and for-hire driver of an affiliated taxicab any correspondence from the Director to that owner or driver as soon as reasonably possible after the taxicab association receives such correspondence (Class A);
- (7) Collect and store for at least two (2) years trip sheet records for all affiliated taxicabs, ((including)), daily taxicab sign out logs, and association dispatch records as prescribed by the Director ((of taxicabs in service, together with the driver's name, taxicab number and summary of trip sheet totals)) (Class A);
- (8) Collect and provide the following service information to the Director ((annually quarterly, at a time set by regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter:
  - (a) Number of service requests (trips);
  - (b) Average number of taxicabs operating during the ((year)) quarter;
  - (c) Average number of operating hours per week per taxicab;
  - (d) Total paid trip miles for the past ((year)) quarter per taxicab; and;
  - (e) Number of complaints received from passengers and from consumer complaint hotline regarding:
    - (i) driver conduct sorted by driving behavior, communication, personal dress or hygiene;
    - (ii) vehicle condition sorted by appearance, mechanical and/or safety;
    - (iii) service response; and
    - (iv) lack of driver knowledge of route or requested destination;
- (f) A monthly summary of vehicle accident reports (all subsections Class B