

Ordinance No. 121738

Council Bill No. 115154

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taxicab regulatory license fees, processing fees, and penalty fees; providing for a new license year period; providing additional requirements for taxicab association reports; providing standards for the use of taxicab zones and requiring industry supervisors to regulate the use of taxicab zones; requiring new safety equipment for taxicabs and establishing notification requirements for crimes against for-hire drivers; enhancing safety operating procedures; increasing the minimum underinsured motorist insurance coverage; requiring a raised letter and Braille passenger information notice in all taxicabs; requiring receipt-issuing taximeters; addressing the transferability of licenses; clarifying for technical purposes only the Director's approval authority for advertising on taxicabs; establishing operating standards and training requirements for wheelchair accessible taxicabs; requiring for-hire driver's license applicants to include their driving record with their application; expanding training and testing requirements for for-hire drivers; adding standards of conduct for drivers; adding a new section to the Seattle Municipal Code relating to violation classifications; and amending sections 6.310.110, 6.310.150, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.340, 6.310.350, 6.310.400, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.425, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.460, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.475, 6.310.500, 6.310.510, 6.310.605, 6.310.635, 6.310.700, and 6.310.710, respectively, of the Seattle Municipal Code.

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Date Re - Referred:		To: (committee)
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Date Passed Over Veto:		Veto Sustained:

The City of Seattle - Legislative Department

McIVER

Council Bill/Ordinance sponsored by: E. McIVER

Councilmember

Committee Action:

~~1-20-05 PASS RM~~
2-16-05 Pass as Amended RM, NL
(E)
2-22-05 Passed 7-0 (Excused: Licata, Stemberneck)

This file is complete and ready for presentation to Full Council. Committee: _____
(initial/date)

Law Department

Law Dept. Review

OMP
Review

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ORDINANCE 121738

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taxicab regulatory license fees, processing fees, and penalty fees; providing for a new license year period; providing additional requirements for taxicab association reports; providing standards for the use of taxicab zones and requiring industry supervisors to regulate the use of taxicab zones; requiring new safety equipment for taxicabs and establishing notification requirements for crimes against for-hire drivers; enhancing safety operating procedures; increasing the minimum underinsured motorist insurance coverage; requiring a raised letter and Braille passenger information notice in all taxicabs; requiring receipt-issuing taximeters; addressing the transferability of licenses; clarifying for technical purposes only the Director's approval authority for advertising on taxicabs; establishing operating standards and training requirements for wheelchair accessible taxicabs; requiring for-hire driver's license applicants to include their driving record with their application; expanding training and testing requirements for for-hire drivers; adding standards of conduct for drivers; adding a new section to the Seattle Municipal Code relating to violation classifications; and amending sections 6.310.110, 6.310.150, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.340, 6.310.350, 6.310.400, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.425, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.460, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.475, 6.310.500, 6.310.510, 6.310.605, 6.310.635, 6.310.700, and 6.310.710, respectively, of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, many of the taxicab license fees, inspection fees, and penalties contained in Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Ch. 6.310 have not been raised since January 1, 1997 and an increase in the fee and penalty amount is warranted to cover the cost of the taxicab enforcement program; and

WHEREAS, King County/Metro Transportation has received a grant to fund a pilot wheelchair accessible taxicab program which will supply both the City of Seattle and King County with information as to whether a wheelchair accessible taxicab program is economically viable without subsidies; and

WHEREAS, taxicab license renewal and the annual safety and taximeter inspection schedules should be changed from September through August to July through June to align the taxicab license renewal period with the annual taxicab safety inspection/taximeter test cycle; and

WHEREAS, driving a taxicab is identified as a high risk occupation by the National Institute of Occupation Safety and Health, and a recent safety study recommended that additional safety equipment be provided and additional safety procedures and training be established; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 6.310.110 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.110 Definitions.

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

Y. "Wheelchair accessible taxicab" means a taxicab designed or modified to transport passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices and conforming to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and inspected and approved by the Director.

Section 2. Section 6.310.125 of the Seattle Municipal Code is added as follows:

6.310.125 Violation Classifications

A. Requirements contained within this chapter shall specify violation classifications in parentheses for the purpose of assessing monetary penalties and penalty points. General provisions for penalty enforcement are set forth in SMC 6.310.600, 6.310.605, 6.310.610, and 6.310.635. Monetary penalties and penalty points for each violation classification are specifically set forth in SMC 6.310.605.

B. Violation classifications are as follows:

1. Class A - violations of administrative or non-safety requirements.
2. Class B - violations of safety requirements.
3. Class C - other serious violations.
4. Suspensions, revocations, and denials of licenses are imposed when taxicab associations, taxicab licensees, or for-hire drivers fail to comply with licensing



requirements pursuant to this chapter, or there is an immediate safety concern with the taxicab.

Section 3. Section 6.310.150 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.150 Fees.

The following nonrefundable fees shall apply:

~~((Taxicab Association, Taxicab, For hire Vehicle and For Hire Driver Fees:))~~

A. Taxicab association:

~~((a))~~ Annual fee ~~(((\$750))~~ \$900

Late renewal fee ~~((for taxicab association annual fee))~~ ~~((75))~~ \$90

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

B. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license:

Annual fee (through 5/15/06) ~~\$(240))~~ 250

Annual fee (eff. 5/16/06) \$300

Wheelchair accessible taxicab annual license fee Waived

Late fee (license renewal) ~~((24))~~ \$30

Change of ~~((equipment))~~ vehicle ~~((50))~~ \$75

Change of ~~((owner))~~ vehicle licensee:

Effective through August 31, 2005:

September~~((/))~~ – February \$240

March~~((/))~~ – August ~~((pro-rated))~~ (half year) \$120

July 16~~((th))~~ – August 31~~((st))~~ *

Effective September 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006:

September – January \$250

February – June (half year) \$125

July 16 – August 31*

Effective July 1, 2006 (new license year period):

July – December \$300

January – June (half year) \$150

May 16 – June 30*

Replace taxicab plate ((~~\$10~~)) \$25

Special inspection fee ~~((SMC Chapter 7.04))~~** ((~~30~~)) \$60/hour

(1/2 hour minimum)

~~((Vehicle reinspection fee (for Class A violations) 20))~~

Inspection rescheduling fee (non-City licensed vehicles only) ((~~20~~)) \$25

~~((Taxicab meter registration fee (SMC Chapter 7.04).... 5))~~

Taxicab change of association affiliation ((~~50~~)) \$60

Vehicle re-inspection fee (for Class A violations) \$25

Suspension reinstatement fee (when no penalty is assessed) or reinspection fee
(for Class B violations) ((~~50~~)) \$60

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 Section 6.310.605))~~

* No change of taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee fee is due if ((change of ownership)) the
transfer occurs between ((takes place during)) July 16((th)) - Aug 31((st)), 2005 ((and is in
e conjunction with annual license renewal)). Effective January 1, 2006, no change of taxicab for-
hire vehicle licensee fee is due if the transfer occurs between May 16 - June 30. During these

1 periods, the change of taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee and the annual license renewal are
2 accomplished together and only one fee will be assessed.

3 ** For ~~((re))~~testing of taxicab meter or taxicab inspections provided to other municipalities.

4 C. For-hire driver license:

5 ~~((For hire))~~Annual fee ((\$55)) \$75****

6 Add/change affiliation***.... \$20

7 Late fee ~~((40))~~ \$15

8 ID photo ~~((2))~~ \$5

9 Fingerprinting Charge as determined by Director to cover costs

10 Replacement license \$5

11 Training class fee As determined by Director

12 *** For-hire drivers may only be affiliated with a maximum of three (3) taxicab associations at
13 any given time. This fee is only charged when the driver is affiliated with three (3) associations
14 and now wants to delete one (1) association and add another.

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

19
20 **Section 4.** Section 6.310.230 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
21 follows:

22 **6.310.230 Taxicab association--Operating responsibilities.**

23 ~~((A-))~~ In addition to meeting the license application requirements set forth in Section
24 6.310.200, the taxicab association must:

25 ~~((+))~~A. Maintain a business office that:

1 ((a))1. Is open and personally staffed all business days between nine a.m. (9:00
2 a.m.) and five p.m. (5:00 p.m.) (Class A),

3 ((b))2. Has a local Seattle business telephone number that is listed in the white
4 and yellow pages of the telephone book and must be answered during all hours
5 that affiliated taxicabs are operating (Class A),

6 ((e))3. Has a mailing address where the taxicab association representative will
7 accept mail (Class A),

8 ((d))4. Stores all records that this chapter requires the taxicab association to
9 maintain including, but not limited to, copies of taxicab licenses and for-hire
10 drivers licenses, lists of all affiliated taxicabs and affiliated drivers, taxicab
11 vehicle repair and service records, ((consumer)) passenger comment cards, new
12 driver training records, vehicle insurance policies, vehicle registrations, vehicle
13 for-hire certificate, ((trip sheets,)) passenger complaint log, taxicab sign out log or
14 equivalent, and radio dispatch records (Class A – each requirement),

15 ((e))5. Provides secure storage for all items left in the taxicab by patrons and
16 turned in by drivers of affiliated taxicabs (Class A), and

17 ((f))6. Provides radio or computer dispatch during all hours that affiliated
18 taxicabs are operating, and every request for service must be satisfied as long as
19 there are any operating taxicabs not in use; except that associations and for-hire
20 drivers that refuse service pursuant to SMC 6.310.465 L shall not be subject to
21 any penalties by the Director, or, in the case of for-hire drivers, by the association

22 (Class B – both requirements);

23 ((2))B. Ensure that each affiliated taxicab is insured as required in SMC Sections
24 6.310.300 D5-6 and 6.310.320 D (Class B);

25 ((3))C. Ensure that each affiliated taxicab maintains the taxicab association's color
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1 scheme and identification (Class B);

2 ((4))D. Maintain on file at the taxicab association's place of business proof of insurance
3 required by SMC Sections 6.310.300 C5-6 and 6.310.320 D (Class A);

4 ((5))E. Accept on behalf of any ((owner)) taxicab licensee or driver of an affiliated
5 taxicab all correspondence from the Director to that ((owner)) taxicab licensee or driver (Class
6 A);

7 ((6))F. Send, by first class mail, ((Deliver)) to the ((owner)) taxicab licensee and for-hire
8 driver of an affiliated taxicab any correspondence from the Director ((to that owner or driver as
9 soon as reasonably possible)) within five (5) business days after the taxicab association receives
10 such correspondence and keeps a written record of the mailings (Class A);

11 ((7))G. Weekly, ((C))collect, verify accuracy and completeness, and store for at
12 least two (2) years trip sheet records for all affiliated taxicabs, daily taxicab sign out logs, and
13 association dispatch records as prescribed by the Director (Class A);

14 ((8))H. Collect and provide ((the following)) service information, ((to the Director

15 quarterly, at a time set by regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter)) vehicle collision reports,
16 service response time reports, reports of crimes against for-hire drivers, and passenger
17 complaints, pursuant to rules adopted by the Director as follows:

18 ((a))1. ((Number of service requests (trips,))) Service Information Reports.

19 Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director, the monthly total of paid
20 trips, paid miles, and operating hours for each affiliated taxicab (Class A);

21 ((b))2. ((Average number of taxicabs operating during the quarter,)) Vehicle
22 Collision Reports. Submit monthly, on forms approved by the Director, a list of
23 vehicle collisions required to be reported to the Washington State Patrol pursuant
24 to RCW 46.52.030(1) and WAC 446.85-010 including the name and number of
25 the affiliated taxicab and for-hire driver, collision fault, injuries, and estimated

1 damage (Class A);

2 ~~((e))3. ((Average number of operating hours per week per taxicab,))~~ Service
3 Response Time Reports. Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director,
4 average response times for service requests in the operating areas served by
5 affiliated taxicabs (Class A);

6 ~~((d))4. ((Total paid trip miles for the past quarter per taxicab, and))~~ Crimes
7 Against Drivers Reports. Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director, a
8 list of all crimes of assault or robbery against affiliated for-hire drivers that were
9 reported to the Seattle Police Department, including the name and number of the
10 affiliated taxicab and for-hire driver, incident number, description of the crime,
11 and injuries (Class A), and

12 ~~((e))5. Passenger Complaints. ((Number of))~~ Submit quarterly, on forms
13 approved by the Director, a report which contains information on complaints
14 received directly from passengers and from the ((consumer)) passenger complaint
15 hotline as compiled from the log required pursuant to subsection I of this section
16 regarding:

17 ~~((i))a.~~ Driver conduct sorted by driving behavior, communication,
18 personal dress or hygiene,

19 ~~((ii))b.~~ Vehicle condition sorted by appearance, mechanical and/or safety,

20 ~~((iii))c.~~ Service response, and

21 ~~((iv))d.~~ Lack of driver knowledge of route or requested destination((;))

22 (Class A).

23 ~~((f. A monthly summary of vehicle accident reports (all subsections Class B;))~~

24 ~~((9))I.~~ Maintain a log of, and forward to the Director upon request, each oral or written
25 ~~((customer))~~ passenger complaint that the taxicab association receives about the taxicab



association, ~~((or about an owner,))~~ a taxicab licensee, or lessee or driver of an affiliated taxicab.
~~((Where applicable, t))~~ The taxicab association ~~((should))~~ must include a notice of the
action taken by the taxicab association to resolve the complaint and the disposition (Class A);

~~((40))~~ J. Notify the Director within two (2) working days of the taxicab association
having knowledge of the following:

~~((a))~~ 1. A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the
driver or the ~~((owner))~~ taxicab licensee of an affiliated taxicab for any criminal
offense or traffic violation that occurs during or arises out of the
driver's operation of the taxicab (Class A for traffic violation, Class B for any
criminal offense),

~~((b))~~ 2. A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the
driver or the ~~((owner))~~ taxicab licensee of an affiliated taxicab for any other
criminal offense directly bearing on the driver's fitness to operate a taxicab or the
~~((owner's))~~ taxicab licensee's fitness to ~~((own a taxicab))~~ be licensed, including
but not limited to theft, fraud, robbery, burglary, assault, sex crimes, alcohol,
drugs, or prostitution (Class B),

~~((c))~~ 3. A vehicle accident required to be reported to the State of Washington
involving any affiliated taxicab (Class B),

~~((d))~~ 4. 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))~~ 5. Any matter listed in SMC Section 6.310.210 B4 or 6.310.210 C (Class B);

~~((41))~~ K. 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, nonrenewal or revocation of a taxicab by the
taxicab association or by any jurisdiction other than The City of Seattle (Class A);



1 ~~((12))~~L. Continue to affiliate with at least fifteen (15) taxicabs licensed under this
2 chapter. If the number of taxicabs falls below fifteen (15), the taxicab association must increase
3 the number to fifteen (15) within six (6) months from the date the number falls below fifteen
4 (15), or combine with an already existing association, or lose its license under this chapter
5 (revocation or nonrenewal);

6 ~~((13))~~M. Comply with all regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter (see
7 applicable rules for penalties or actions);

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

10 ~~((15))~~O. Pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not contested or are
11 upheld after review (revocation of license);~~(())~~

12 P. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone whenever such zone is used by affiliated
13 taxicabs if the Director determines that it is necessary due to: (1) complaints received from
14 passengers and adjacent property owners, or (2) improper use of nearby passenger load zones,
15 truck load zones, and charter bus zones. If the taxicab association fails to provide a supervisor as
16 required by the Director, the Director may suspend all affiliated taxicabs from using the taxicab
17 zone (first offense – Class B violation and 14 day suspension from taxicab zone; second and
18 subsequent offenses – Class B violation and 60 day suspension from taxicab zone); and

19 Q. Determine whether an affiliated driver, who has been the victim of a crime of assault
20 or robbery, has reported the crime to 911. If not, the taxicab association shall call 911 and report
21 the crime immediately (Class B).

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

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

1 **Section 5.** Section 6.310.300 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
2 follows:

3 **6.310.300 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle license application.**

4 A. A taxicab association representative, on behalf of a taxicab license applicant affiliated
5 with the taxicab association, is responsible for filing with the City a taxicab license application,
6 on forms approved by the Director, for each taxicab that is, or is proposed to be, affiliated with
7 the association. The applicant must be the registered owner of the vehicle to be used as a taxicab
8 or for-hire vehicle. The taxicab ((owner)) license applicant must sign and swear to the
9 application, which shall include the information specified in subsection C of this section.

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

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

14 1. ((Ownership)) Applicant type:

- 15 a. If the ((owner)) applicant is an individual, the vehicle owner's full
16 name, home address, home and business telephone number and date of
17 birth (which shall be at least eighteen (18) years prior to the date of
18 application), or
19 b. If the ((owner)) applicant is a corporation, partnership or other legal
20 entity, the names, home addresses, telephone numbers and dates of birth
21 (which must be at least eighteen (18) years before the date of application)
22 for the corporation's or entity's officers, directors, general and managing
23 partners, registered agents, and each person vested with authority to
24 manage or direct the affairs of the legal entity or to bind the legal entity in
25 dealings with third parties; the corporation's, partnership's or entity's true
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1 legal name, state of incorporation or partnership registration (if any),
2 business address and telephone and facsimile numbers and State of
3 Washington business license number, and any other information that the
4 Director may reasonably require;

5 2. Vehicle information, including the name of the taxicab association with which
6 a taxicab is or will be affiliated, the taxicab or for-hire vehicle number assigned by
7 any regulatory agency, the make, model, year, vehicle identification number,
8 Washington State vehicle license plate number, and any other vehicle information
9 required by rule or regulation promulgated under this chapter;

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

14 4. Criminal history, as requested by the Department, of the vehicle owner, or if
15 the vehicle owner is a business entity, of the persons specified in subsection C1b
16 above;

17 5. Insurance policy declarations or insurance binder proving compliance with
18 Chapter 46.72 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, for each taxicab or for-hire
19 vehicle for which a license is sought. The insurance policy declarations or
20 insurance binder shall:

21 a. Be issued by an admitted carrier in the State of Washington with an
22 A.M. Best's Rating of not less than A- and be not less than A.M. Best's
23 Financial Size Category VII; provided however, that the Director may
24 temporarily suspend any or all of these requirements if no other viable
25 insurance options are available to the industry,



b. Name The City of Seattle as an additional insured,

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 ~~((Twenty-five))~~ Fifty Thousand Dollars ~~(((\$25,000)))~~ (\$50,000) per person, and ~~((Fifty))~~ One Hundred Thousand Dollars ~~(((\$50,000)))~~ (\$100,000) per accident;

7. State of Washington For-hire Certificate;

8. State of Washington vehicle registration;

9. Certificate of safety as required in SMC Section 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.

D. The taxicab association applicant must inform the Director in writing within seven (7) days if any of the information provided pursuant to subsection C changes, ceases to be true or is superseded in any way by new information.

Section 6. Section 6.310.320 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.320 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--Vehicle operating requirements.



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

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

5 B. For taxicabs only, and subject to Section 6.310.230 ((A3)) C, the vehicle complies
6 with the approved color scheme of the taxicab ((owner's)) licensee's taxicab association
7 (suspension and Class B);

8 C. ~~((Vehicle age requirements:~~

9 1. ~~Prior to August 31, 2002. The vehicle's model year shall be no more than eight~~
10 ~~(8) years prior to the date of application. For example, vehicles licensed on~~
11 ~~August 31st of 1999 must be 1991 models or newer.~~

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

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

18 E. An approved mechanic has issued a valid certificate of safety for the vehicle within
19 the last license year. The safety certificate remains valid, if the vehicle is sold, until the next
20 renewal date (denial of license);

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

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

2 H. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle displays a taxicab or for-hire vehicle license with a
3 current year decal issued by the Director (suspension and Class B);

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

7 J. The vehicle contains the following current documentation: the state for-hire certificate,
8 the county and/or city taxicab or for-hire vehicle license, the vehicle registration, and the proof of
9 insurance card (Class A);

10 K. Effective July 15, 2005, the taxicab is equipped to accept credit cards (Class A);

11 ~~((K))~~L. The taxicab is equipped with a properly sealed, working, and accurate receipt-
12 issuing taximeter or receipt-issuing mobile data terminal, as prescribed by the Director
13 (suspension and Class B). The receipt-issuing taximeter or receipt-issuing mobile data terminal
14 must be installed when the taxicab is replaced, but no later than June 30, 2006 (denial of license);

15 ~~((L))~~M. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle is equipped with a ~~((consumer))~~ passenger
16 information ((board)) decal, the size, material, and placement of which is prescribed by the
17 Director by rule. Such ~~((board))~~ decal shall include ~~((, at a minimum,))~~ the taxicab or for-hire
18 vehicle name and number ~~((;))~~ and the taxi complaint hotline telephone number ~~((and consumer~~
19 survey complaint cards)). Effective July 15, 2005, a passenger information notice in Braille and
20 raised lettering must be installed as prescribed by the Director by rule. Effective July 15, 2005,
21 passenger survey and complaint cards must be available to passengers in the rear passenger
22 seating area (Class A – each);

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

1 ~~((N))Q.~~ ~~((After December 31, 2001, t))~~ The taxicab is equipped and operated so that it
2 can be contacted by continuous two-way radio communications using a central dispatch radio
3 base station and a noncell frequency assigned and licensed by the FCC to an association or
4 contracted dispatch service. ~~((Until December 31, 2001, this requirement can be met by use of a~~
5 ~~mobile radio telephone service. Taxicab drivers using mobile radio telephone service must~~
6 ~~respond to Director inquiries within a time period to be specified by rule))~~ (summary suspension
7 and Class B);

8 ~~((O))P.~~ The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the minimum size requirements as
9 prescribed by Director's rule (denial of license); ~~((and))~~

10 ~~((P))Q.~~ The for-hire vehicle must have any color scheme or vehicle number approved
11 with the Director (summary suspension and Class B ~~((fine amount)))~~;

12 R. Signs, including notices, announcements, pictures, advertisements or other messages,
13 are allowed in or on taxicabs only as prescribed by this Chapter and by rule promulgated by the
14 Director concerning the manner in which such signs may be displayed, including, but not limited
15 to, requirements concerning the number of signs per vehicle, placement on or within vehicles,
16 size limitations, and devices or mechanisms used to display such signs (Class A);

17 S. After September 1, 2005, the taxicab must be equipped with an operable digital
18 security camera system approved by the Director pursuant to specifications provided by rule and
19 adopted by the Director (summary suspension and Class B). The requirement for digital security
20 cameras will expire on September 1, 2008, unless the City of Seattle adopts an ordinance to
21 extend the requirement. Access to a recording made by any digital security camera is restricted
22 to law enforcement personnel solely for the investigation and prosecution of crimes (Class C);

23 T. The taxicab must be equipped with a monitored silent alarm system approved by the
24 Director pursuant to specifications provided by rule and adopted by the Director. All taxicabs
25 with computer dispatch systems shall comply with this requirement by no later than September 1,
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2005. All taxicabs with radio dispatch systems shall comply with this requirement by no later than January 1, 2008 (summary suspension and Class B);

U. After January 1, 2008, the taxicab must be equipped with a monitored Global Positioning System (GPS) pursuant to specifications contained in a rule promulgated by the Director;

V. A taxicab must maintain a continuous connection between the taximeter and the computer dispatch system, if such system is installed (5-day suspension and Class B); and

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

Section 7. Section 6.310.330 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.330 Taxicab ((owner)) licensee and for-hire vehicle ((owner)) licensee responsibilities

K. A wheelchair accessible taxicab licensee must personally drive the vehicle a minimum of forty (40) hours per week for at least 40 weeks per year (revocation).

Section 8. Section 6.310.340 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.340 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--License transfer.

A for-hire vehicle or taxicab license may be transferred; provided however, that wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses are nontransferable. No transfer of a for-hire vehicle or taxicab license can take effect until all outstanding penalties assessed against the ((owner)) for-hire vehicle or taxicab licensee and/or any driver of the for-hire vehicle or taxicab are paid in full

1 to the Director. The proposed transferee must submit a for-hire vehicle or taxicab license
2 application according to the standards set forth in SMC Section 6.310.300. The standards for
3 denial set forth in SMC Section 6.310.310 apply to proposed transfers. Transfers shall not
4 become effective, and the proposed transferee may not operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle,
5 until the proposed transferee receives the taxicab or for-hire vehicle license.

6
7 **Section 9.** Section 6.310.350 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
8 follows:

9 **6.310.350 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--License expiration and renewal.**

10 A. All taxicab and for-hire licenses for the 2004 - 2005 license period shall expire on
11 ((August 31st of the year following issuance of the license)) August 31, 2005. For the 2005 -
12 2006 license period and subsequent license year periods, all taxicab and for-hire licenses will
13 expire on June 30 of the year following issuance of the license.

14 B. Each taxicab or for-hire vehicle ~~((owner))~~ licensee must renew the for-hire vehicle or
15 taxicab license every year. No taxicab or for-hire vehicle license may be renewed unless all
16 outstanding penalties assessed against the ~~((owner))~~ taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee or the
17 for-hire driver of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle are paid in full to the Director.

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

22
23 **Section 10.** Section 6.310.400 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
24 follows:

25 **6.310.400 For-hire driver's license application.**

1 A. For an initial for-hire driver's license and annually thereafter, ((A)) a for-hire driver
2 must complete, sign, swear to and file with the Director a for-hire driver's license application on
3 forms provided by the Director to include the following information:

- 4 1. Name, aliases, residence and business address, residence and business
5 telephone numbers;
- 6 2. Place and date of birth (which shall be at least twenty-one (21) years prior to
7 the date of application, height, weight, color of hair and eyes;
- 8 3. Washington State driver's license number. Providing the social security
9 number is optional. The applicant must present his/her Washington State driver's
10 license at time of application;
- 11 4. Proof that the applicant is authorized to work in the United States;
- 12 5. The applicant's criminal history for the last five (5) years;
- 13 6. Information indicating whether or not the applicant has ever had a for-hire or
14 driver's license suspended, revoked, or denied and for what cause;
- 15 7. A signed statement authorizing the Director to obtain a current copy of the
16 applicant's driving record from the Washington State Department of Licensing;
17 ((and))
- 18 8. Statement of applicant listing all reportable accidents and all moving violations
19 the applicant was involved in during the previous three (3) years;
20 and
21 ((8))9. Such other information as may be reasonably required by regulation
22 promulgated under this chapter.
23 ~~((9. The above application and information must also be completed on all annual~~
24 ~~renewals.))~~

25 B. The following additional information must be filed prior to sitting for the written
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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 ridden with a trainer designated by the association in a taxicab for at least three (3) full shifts including at least one (1) night shift and successfully completed a ((one (1) week)) four (4) day ((association)) training program provided by the taxicab association, 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))a. Received classroom instruction in the region's geography, important structures and sites of interest;

b. Received instruction in the proper use of the radio, taximeter, and computer (if applicable) and how to complete a trip sheet and safety checklist; and

c. Received at least one (1) hour of instruction on risk factors for crimes against for-hire drivers, emergency procedures, and equipment installed in taxicabs for the driver's personal safety.

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.

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

1 **Section 11.** Section 6.310.415 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
2 follows:

3 **6.310.415 For-hire driver training program.**

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

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

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

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

17 C. A for-hire driver must complete a separate training session and written test on for-hire
18 driver personal safety within three (3) months from the date of issuance of the initial license.
19 The Director shall set forth the requirements of the training program by rule (suspension).

20 D. A for-hire driver who operates a wheelchair accessible taxicab must successfully
21 complete a separate training program for the special needs of passengers in wheelchairs,
22 including but not limited to, loading and tie-down procedures and door-to-door service as
23 prescribed in rule by the Director (Class C).

1 **Section 12.** Section 6.310.420 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
2 follows:

3 **6.310.420 For-hire driver written and oral examination.**

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

- 6 1. Knowledge of taxicab, for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver requirements
7 contained in applicable codes and regulations;
- 8 2. Ability to speak and understand oral and written English sufficient for
9 fulfilling the minimum acceptable standards for a taxicab, for-hire vehicle and/or
10 for-hire driver;
- 11 3. Knowledge of vehicle safety requirements;
- 12 4. Knowledge of the geography of Seattle, King County and surrounding areas,
13 and knowledge of local public and tourist destinations and attractions((-)); and
- 14 5. Knowledge of risk factors for crimes against for-hire drivers, emergency
15 procedures, and taxicab equipment for driver's personal safety.

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

19 C. An applicant who fails the written and/or oral examination, including the initial and
20 periodic for-hire driver written safety test, is entitled to one (1) free opportunity to retake the
21 examination. A second failure will result in a sixty (60) day wait for another opportunity to take
22 the examination, and another license application fee. All later examination tries will require the
23 sixty (60) day wait, and repayment of the license application fee.

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

4
5 **Section 13.** Section 6.310.425 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
6 follows:

7 **6.310.425 For-hire driver temporary permit.**

8 A. Pending final action on a for-hire driver's license application, the Director may issue a
9 temporary for-hire driver's license to an applicant who has filed a complete license application,
10 meets the requirements of Section 6.310.400 A and B and has passed the written and oral
11 examination per Section 6.310.420, except for the driver safety session required by Section
12 6.310.415 C. The temporary license is valid for a period not to exceed ~~((sixty (60)))~~ one hundred
13 and twenty (120) days from the date of the application and shall not be extended or renewed.
14 Only one (1) temporary license may be issued to the same person within any two (2) year time
15 period.

16 B. The temporary license shall not be transferable or assignable and shall be valid only
17 for operating the taxicab(s) or for-hire vehicle(s) specified by the Director on the license.

18 C. The temporary license shall become void immediately upon (1) suspension,
19 revocation or expiration of the applicant's Washington State driver's license, (2) issuance of the
20 for-hire driver's license, or (3) the Director's denial of the for-hire driver's license application,
21 regardless whether the applicant appeals that denial.

22
23 **Section 14.** Section 6.310.450 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
24 follows:

25 **6.310.450 For-hire driver operating standards.**



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 H. A for-hire driver shall pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not
18 contested or are ultimately upheld (revocation or nonrenewal).

19 I. A for-hire driver shall immediately notify the taxicab association when the for-hire
20 driver has been the victim of a crime (Class A).

21 J. A for-hire driver operating a wheelchair accessible taxicab shall provide service to
22 passengers in wheelchairs before any other passengers (Class B).

23 K. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab unless the digital camera is operating at
24 all times while picking up, transporting, or dropping off passengers (Class B).

1 L. A for-hire driver shall accept credit cards for payment of fare when requested by
2 passengers (Class A).

3
4 **Section 15.** Section 6.310.455 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
5 follows:

6 **6.310.455 For-hire driver conduct standards.**

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

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

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

18 D. A for-hire driver shall comply with any written notice of violation issued by the
19 Director (suspension and Class B);

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

24 F. A for-hire driver, as agent of the taxicab licensee, shall immediately surrender the
25 vehicle license plate and year decal to the Director upon written notice that the vehicle license

1 has been suspended, not renewed or revoked (revocation and Class B);

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

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

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

12 J. A for-hire driver shall operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle with due regard for the
13 safety, comfort and convenience of passengers (Class B for safety violations; Class A for
14 nonsafety violations);

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

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

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

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

25 O. A for-hire driver shall, upon request by the Director or a police officer, provide the
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1 City-issued for-hire license and/or Washington State driver's license for inspection (suspension
2 and Class B);

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

6 Q. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab unless the radio, required in SMC Section
7 6.310.320 ((N)) Q, is on and operating, and drivers must notify the taxicab association dispatch
8 that they are available after completing each trip (Class B--both)(-);

9 R. A for-hire driver shall not use a cell phone while a passenger is in the taxicab (Class
10 B);

11 S. A for-hire driver shall not sub-lease a taxicab to another driver unless that driver has a
12 valid for-hire driver license and the for-hire driver is currently affiliated with the taxicab
13 association (suspension and Class B); and

14 T. A for-hire driver must notify the Director within three (3) working days of being
15 involved, while operating a taxicab, in any vehicle accident that is required to be reported to the
16 State of Washington (Class B).

17
18 **Section 16.** Section 6.310.460 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
19 follows:

20 **6.310.460 For-hire driver taxicab meter/rates standards.**

21 A. A for-hire driver shall not operate any taxicab that does not have a sealed taximeter in
22 good working order (suspension and Class B).

23 B. A for-hire driver must activate the taximeter at the beginning of each paid trip,
24 whether the fare is computed by the taximeter, contract or flat rate, and deactivate the taximeter
25 upon completion of the trip. Beginning of a trip means the point where the passenger is seated,
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1 or materials stowed, and the forward motion of the vehicle begins. The taximeter shall not be
2 engaged unless the taxicab is transporting passengers or materials for compensation (Class A).

3 C. A for-hire driver shall assure that the meter reading is visible from a normal passenger
4 position at all times (Class A).

5 D. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that does not have the
6 rate posted as prescribed by the Director (Class A).

7 E. A for-hire driver shall not ask, demand or collect any rate or fare other than as
8 specified on the meter, required by ordinance, or pursuant to special rates or contract rates on file
9 with the Director (Class B).

10 F. A for-hire driver shall complete daily tripsheets, as prescribed by the Director, and
11 shall show all trips in an accurate and legible manner as each trip occurs. The driver's name,
12 vehicle name and number, beginning odometer, and beginning time of the shift worked must be
13 written on the trip sheet at the start of each shift before carrying passengers (Class A). Daily
14 tripsheets shall also include the following information:

15 ((1. — Driver's name and for-hire license number;))

16 ((2))1. ((Owner's)) Taxicab licensee's name and vehicle name and number;

17 ((3))2. Vehicle for-hire license number;

18 ((4))3. ((Beginning and e)) Ending odometer reading;

19 ((5))4. ((Beginning and e)) Ending time of each shift worked;

20 ((6))5. Date, time, place or origin, and dismissal of each trip;

21 ((7))6. Fare collected;

22 ((8))7. Number of passengers;

23 ((9))8. No shows; and

24 ((10))9. Contract rates or special rates (all Class A).

25 G. A for-hire driver shall allow the Director to inspect the daily trip sheet at any time,
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without notice (Class B).

H. A taxicab driver shall turn in completed trip sheets to the taxicab association at least weekly (Class A).

Section 17. Section 6.310.465 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.465 For-hire driver--Passenger relations standards.

I. A for-hire driver shall provide each passenger a receipt upon payment of the fare. The receipt shall accurately show the date and time, place of pickup and delivery, the amount of the 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)))~~. If a receipt-issuing taximeter is installed, a printed receipt must be provided to the passenger upon payment of the fare (Class A each).

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

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

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

1. The for-hire driver has already been dispatched on another call;
2. The for-hire driver arrives at the place of pick-up and upon arrival the passenger is acting in a disorderly or threatening manner, or otherwise is acting in a manner that would cause~~((s the for-hire driver to reasonably))~~ a reasonable person to 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)))~~);

or

4. The passenger refuses to state a specific destination upon entering the taxicab

(Class B).

M. 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 "nonsmoking" taxicab, no-smoking signs must be posted 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).

N. 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).

O. 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).

P. A for-hire driver shall not operate a wheelchair accessible taxicab unless the for-hire driver has successfully completed the special training requirements set forth in SMC 6.310.415 E (Class C and five (5) day suspension).

Section 18. Section 6.310.470 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.470 For-hire driver soliciting and cruising standards.

A. Taxicabs.

1. A for-hire driver may solicit passengers only from the driver's seat or standing immediately adjacent to the taxicab (within twelve (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).

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

4. A for-hire driver shall not park a taxicab and wait for walk up passengers in a marked passenger load zone, truck load zone, or charter bus zone. A for-hire driver may drop off passengers or pick up hailed trips in a passenger load zone except as provided by SMC 6.310.475 D and E (Class A).

B. For-hire Vehicles.

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

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

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

Section 19. Section 6.310.475 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.475 For-hire driver taxi zone standards.

A. A for-hire driver shall not leave the taxicab unattended in a taxicab zone for more than fifteen (15) minutes. Such vehicles will be impounded by order of the Director (Class A).

B. A for-hire driver shall occupy a taxicab zone only when available for hire (Class A).

C. A for-hire driver shall not perform engine maintenance or repairs on the taxicab while in a taxicab zone (Class A).

D. A for-hire driver cannot use a passenger load zone located within one hundred and fifty (150) feet from a taxicab zone designated by the Director, except for wheelchair accessible

1 taxicabs. Notification of such zone designation will be sent to all taxicab associations 10 days
2 prior to the effective date of the designation (Class B and suspended from using the taxicab zone
3 for 14 days).

4 E. For hire-drivers cannot use a taxicab zone while under suspension from that taxicab
5 zone (Class B and suspended from using the taxicab zone for 60 days).

6
7 **Section 20.** Section 6.310.500 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
8 follows:

9 **6.310.500 Taxicabs--Maximum number.**

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

12 B. The number of for-hire vehicle licenses in effect at any one (1) time shall not exceed
13 two hundred (200). Except that if the State Legislature authorizes cities to regulate executive
14 sedans and executive vans, as defined in RCW 46.04.274, then executive sedans and executive
15 vans licensed by the Department of Licensing (DOL) on the authorization date, which meet City
16 vehicle standards would also be allowed to obtain for-hire vehicle licenses.

17 C. The Director may, at the Director's discretion, issue wheelchair accessible taxicab
18 licenses to special service vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons defined in
19 KCC 6.64.010 or to handicapped persons as defined in SMC Section 6.310.110. These are non-
20 transferable wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses and shall not be included in calculating the
21 maximum number of taxicab licenses allowable pursuant to paragraph A of this section. The
22 Director shall conduct a demonstration project to determine the economic feasibility of the long
23 term issuance of such licenses and shall determine and set forth by rule whether such licenses
24 shall be issued as temporary or permanent licenses.

25 D. If the Director determines that issuance of additional taxicab licenses is warranted, not
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1 to exceed the maximum allowable taxicab licenses issued pursuant to paragraph A of this
2 section, such licenses will be issued pursuant to a competitive request for proposal and award
3 process or lottery of qualified applicants, as prescribed in rule adopted by the Director.

4
5 **Section 21.** Section 6.310.510 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
6 follows:

7 **6.310.510 Response times.**

8 The Director shall establish a schedule of optimum average taxicab response times to
9 requests for taxicab service at selected points within the City. The Director shall periodically
10 thereafter survey actual taxicab response times. A comparison of average actual response times
11 to the optimum average taxicab response times shall be used as an indicator of taxicab industry
12 performance and may be used as one criterion in evaluating and recommending ((rate and)) entry
13 changes.

14
15 **Section 22.** Section 6.310.605 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
16 follows:

17 **6.310.605 Monetary penalties and penalty points.**

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

Violation	Penalties Against <u>a</u> For-hire Driver, or ((Owner of)) <u>a</u> Taxicab <u>Licensee</u> or For-hire Vehicle For Each Violation	Penalty Points Attributed to Taxicab Association For Each Violation
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24
25 1. Violations Found During a Calendar Year Away from City's Inspection Facility.

First Class A in one year	((\$ 30.00)) <u>\$35.00</u>	2
Second Class A in one year	((60.00)) <u>\$70.00</u>	3
Third or more Class A violation in one year	((100.00)) <u>\$120.00</u>	4
First Class B violation in one year	((60.00)) <u>\$70.00</u>	4
Second Class B violation in one year	((150.00)) <u>\$175.00</u>	7
Third or more Class B violation in one year	((250.00)) <u>\$300.00</u>	10
All Class C violations	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	20
2. Violations Found During Inspections at City's Inspection Facility.		
Failure to appear for inspection scheduled by the Director (see Section 6.310.330 I and paragraph below)	.\$50	2 penalty points
Class A violation found during inspection at City's inspection facility	Vehicle reinspection fee. See fee schedule in Section 6.310.150	2 each violation
Class B violation found during inspection at City's inspection facility	Vehicle reinspection fee. See fee schedule in Section 6.310.150	4 each violation

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

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

8 ***

9
10 **Section 23.** Section 6.310.635 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
11 follows:

12 **6.310.635 Notice and hearing for denials, violations, suspensions and revocations.**

13 A. For each violation, and for each denial, suspension or revocation, the Director shall
14 give written notice to the affected licensee. If the affected licensee is a taxicab driver, the
15 Director shall at the same time give written notice of violations to the taxicab ~~((owner))~~ licensee
16 and the taxicab association. If the affected licensee is a taxicab ~~((owner))~~ licensee, the Director
17 shall at the same time give written notice of violations to the taxicab association. All notices
18 directed to a taxicab driver or taxicab ~~((owner))~~ licensee may be served by personal delivery to,
19 or by first-class mail addressed to, the taxicab association.

20 B. Any notice of denial, violation, suspension or revocation, other than a summary
21 suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 6.310.610 A, shall state that the driver, ~~((owner))~~
22 taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee, and/or taxicab association is entitled to a hearing to respond
23 to the notice and introduce any evidence to refute or mitigate the violation. Upon written
24 request, submitted by the person named on the violation, filed within ten (10) calendar days after
25 the date of the notice of denial, violation, suspension or revocation, the Director shall set a
26

1 hearing date and time to be held as soon as possible and not more than ~~((fourteen (14)))~~ thirty
2 (30) calendar days from the date of the request or the next business day after that if the thirtieth
3 day falls on a weekend or holiday.

4 C. Any notice of summary suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 6.310.610 A and
5 D1, shall state that the driver, taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee, and/or taxicab association is
6 entitled to a hearing to respond to the notice and introduce any evidence to refute or mitigate the
7 violation. Upon written request, submitted by the person named on the violation, filed within ten
8 (10) calendar days after the date of the notice of the summary suspension or revocation, the
9 Director shall set a hearing date and time to be held as soon as possible and not more than seven
10 (7) calendar days from the date of the request or the next business day after that if the seventh
11 day falls on a weekend or holiday. The Director shall render a decision affirming or reversing the
12 summary suspension or revocation within three (3) business days after the conclusion of the
13 hearing.

14 D. The decision of the Director is final only if a monetary penalty is imposed or if a
15 timely appeal is not filed pursuant to subsection G. A taxicab license or for-hire driver license
16 may be reinstated without a hearing if the violation was for failure to pay a monetary penalty
17 within thirty (30) days, if the licensee pays the monetary penalty in full within ten (10) days of
18 the date of license revocation and pays a license reinstatement fee. This authority to reinstate
19 licenses without a hearing only applies if it is the first instance of failure to pay a monetary
20 penalty in the calendar year.

21 ~~((E))~~E. The hearing shall be held by the Director or the Director's designee, provided that
22 the designee may not be a person who directly supervises the inspector who issued the notice of
23 denial, violation, suspension or revocation.

24 ~~((D))~~F. The hearing shall be informal, but shall be recorded by electronic means provided
25 by the Director. Within twenty (20) days of the hearing, the Director shall issue a written ruling
26
27
28

1 including factual findings and the Director's conclusion, with supporting reasons, affirming,
2 modifying or reversing the notice. The decision shall be mailed by first class mail to each
3 affected licensee at the address listed on the application; or in any supplemental materials.

4 However, if the licensee is a taxicab ~~((owner))~~ licensee or taxicab driver, the decision shall be
5 mailed by first class mail to the licensee at the address of the taxicab association.

6 ~~((E. The decision of the Director is final if a monetary penalty only is imposed or if no
7 timely appeal is filed pursuant to subsection F.))~~

8 ~~((F))~~ G. If the Director's decision imposes or affirms a denial, suspension or revocation,
9 including summary suspension or revocation, any affected licensee may appeal the entire
10 decision to the Hearing Examiner by filing a notice of appeal with the Hearing Examiner within
11 ten (10) days after the date of mailing of the decision. Decisions of the Director imposing a
12 monetary penalty only, pursuant to subsection D, shall not be appealable to the Hearing
13 Examiner.

14 ~~((G))~~ H. If a timely notice of appeal is filed pursuant to subsection ~~((F))~~ G above, a
15 hearing shall be scheduled and conducted by the Hearing Examiner according to the Hearing
16 Examiner rules for contested cases. At the Hearing Examiner hearing, the Department shall have
17 the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the alleged violation occurred.

18 ~~((H))~~ I. The Hearing Examiner may affirm, modify or reverse the decisions of the
19 Director.

20
21 **Section 24.** Section 6.310.700 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
22 follows:

23 **6.310.700 ~~((Consumer))~~ Passenger complaint hotline.**

24 The Director may establish, in conjunction with King County and the Port of Seattle, a
25 shared ~~((consumer))~~ passenger complaint telephone number and complaint resolution process.

1
2 **Section 25.** Section 6.310.710 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
3 follows:

4 **6.310.710 Passenger complaint process.**

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

- 8 1. Issue a notice of complaint to the applicable taxicab association representative
9 or for-hire vehicle licensee advising such person of the allegation(s) made in the
10 complaint;
- 11 2. Require the for-hire vehicle licensee or the taxicab association to respond, in
12 writing, to the allegation(s) in the notice of complaint within ten (10) days of
13 receipt of the notice of complaint;
- 14 3. Require the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle licensee to investigate the
15 allegation(s) in the notice of complaint and the response submitted by the for-hire
16 driver or vehicle owner; (~~and~~)
- 17 4. Require the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle licensee to make a finding
18 as to the validity of the allegation(s) in the complaint. If it is found to be a valid
19 complaint the director may issue a notice of violation pursuant to SMC Section
20 6.310.635(~~-~~); and
- 21 5. Require the taxicab association to take the appropriate action to resolve the
22 complaint which may include a written explanation, a written apology,
23 reimbursement of any fare overcharges, mandatory driver retraining, suspension
24 of driver, or any other reasonable action necessary to resolve the complaint with
25 the passenger.

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

5 C. Failure to comply with any Notice and Order issued as a result of the above process is
6 a Class B violation.

7
8 **Section 26.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and
9 after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten (10)
10 days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

11 Passed by the City Council the 22nd day of February, 2005, and signed by me in
12 open session in authentication of its passage this 22nd day of February, 2005.

13
14
15 Jan Drago
16 President _____ of the City Council

17 Approved by me this 2nd day of March, 2005.

18
19
20 Gregory J. Nickels
21 Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

22 Filed by me this 2nd day of March, 2005.

23
24 Jessie E. Peppie
25 City Clerk

26 (Seal)

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	DOF Analyst/Phone:
Executive Administration	Mel McDonald/3-0067	Tyler Running Deer/4-8075

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taxicab regulatory license fees, processing fees, and penalty fees; providing for a new license year period; providing additional requirements for taxicab association reports; providing standards for the use of taxicab zones and requiring industry supervisors to regulate the use of taxicab zones; requiring new safety equipment for taxicabs and establishing notification requirements for crimes against for-hire drivers; enhancing safety operating procedures; increasing the minimum underinsured motorist insurance coverage; requiring a raised letter and Braille passenger information notice in all taxicabs; requiring receipt-issuing taximeters; addressing the transferability of licenses; clarifying for technical purposes the Director's approval authority for advertising on taxicabs; establishing operating standards and training requirements for wheelchair accessible taxicabs; requiring for-hire driver's license applicants to include their driving record with their application; expanding training and testing requirements for for-hire drivers; adding standards of conduct for drivers; adding a new section to the Seattle Municipal Code relating to violation classifications; and amending sections 6.310.110, 6.310.150, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.340, 6.310.350, 6.310.400, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.425, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.460, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.475, 6.310.500, 6.310.510, 6.310.605, 6.310.635, 6.310.700, and 6.310.710, respectively, of the Seattle Municipal Code.

• **Summary of the Legislation:**

The attached proposed Council Bill would amend numerous provisions of Chapter 6.310 of the Seattle Municipal Code, which regulates the taxicab industry. Key changes improve taxicab driver personal safety by enhancing safety operations, equipment and training. The legislation establishes operating requirements for wheelchair accessible taxicabs (WAT) in consideration of the WAT Demonstration Project 2005–2006. Other proposed revisions improve numerous operational standards for taxicab licensees and drivers, as well as administrative procedures. A briefing paper outlining the proposed revisions in detail is included as an attachment to this fiscal note.

- **Background:**

Safety concerns for taxicab drivers have become of increased concern to the industry as well as the general public in recent years. This concern is further supported by taxicab safety concerns expressed by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. In response to these concerns, and following the homicide of a taxicab driver earlier this year, the Taxicab Advisory Group's Committee on Driver Safety recommended that the City require installation of digital security cameras in all taxicabs, and that the City consider requirements for silent alarm and global position systems. Additional training and crime reporting requirements were also recommended and included in this proposed legislation.

The Seattle Taxicab Code underwent a complete rewrite in 1996. The last significant amendment to the code occurred in 2000. In June of this year, the City Auditor's office issued a report which indicated that Seattle's taxicab regulatory program was not generating enough revenue to cover its expenses. In an effort to provide for revenues equal to the cost of the City's taxicab regulatory program, this Council Bill proposes increases to licensing and regulatory fees, and the monetary penalties provided for in SMC Ch. 6.310. In addition, the regulatory license year period is being changed from September through August to July through June.

- *Please check one of the following:*

 This legislation does not have any financial implications.

 X **This legislation has financial implications.** *(Please complete all relevant sections that follow.)*

Appropriations: *This table should reflect appropriations that are a direct result of this legislation. In the event that the project/ programs associated with this ordinance have appropriations that were, or will be, received because of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below.*

Fund Name and Number	Department	Budget Control Level*	2004 Appropriation	2005 Anticipated Appropriation
TOTAL				

**See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.*

Notes:

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement: Resulting From This Legislation: This table should reflect revenues/reimbursements that are a direct result of this legislation. In the event that the issues/projects associated with this ordinance/resolution have revenues or reimbursements that were, or will be, received because of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below the table.

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2004 Revenue	2005 Revenue
General Fund 00100	DEA	Taxicab association annual fee 6 units at \$900 yields \$5,400 in 2005 revenue	\$ 0	\$ 1,200
General Fund 00100	DEA	Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license fee 642 units at \$250 yields \$160,500	\$ 0	6,420
General Fund 00100	DEA	Late fee (taxicab vehicle license renewal) 5 units at \$30 yields \$150 in 2005 revenues.	\$ 0	30
General Fund 00100	DEA	Change of vehicle fee 191 units at \$75 yields \$14,325 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	4,775
General Fund 00100	DEA	Change of vehicle licensee (full year) 30 units at \$250 yields \$7,500 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	300
General Fund 00100	DEA	Change of vehicle licensee (half-year) 37 units at \$125 yields \$4,625 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	185
General Fund 00100	DEA	Special Inspection Fee 99 units at \$60 yields \$5,940 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	2,970
General Fund 00100	DEA	Vehicle Re-inspection Fee 53 units at \$25 yields \$1,325 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	265
General Fund 00100	DEA	Inspection Rescheduling Fee 29 units at \$25 yields \$725 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	145
General Fund 00100	DEA	Taxicab Change of Association Fee 42 units at \$60 yields \$2,520 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	420
General Fund 00100	DEA	Suspension Reinstatement Fee 86 units at \$60 yields \$5,160 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	860
General Fund 00100	DEA	Taximeter registration fee (deleted) 642 units at (\$5) yields a reduction of \$3,210 in 2005 revenue.	\$ 0	(3,210)
General Fund 00100	DEA	Monetary Penalty – Class A	\$ 0	935
General Fund 00100	DEA	Monetary Penalty – Class B	\$ 0	1,640
TOTAL				\$16,935

Notes: Fees for late payment of taxicab association annual fee and replacement of taxicab plate are raised in the ordinance but do not regularly contribute revenue to the City. The penalty for Class C violations is being raised, but these penalties are infrequently assessed and therefore forecasted revenue is not included above. Finally, revenue associated with revisions SMC 6.310.150 accrues to King County under our partnership agreement, and therefore revenues from these fees are not included above. Taxicab/for-hire vehicle license fees and taxicab association fees are renewed annually.

Total Regular Positions Created Or Abrogated Through This Legislation, Including FTE Impact: This table should only reflect the actual number of positions created by this legislation. In the event that positions have been, or will be, created as a result of previous or future legislation or budget actions, please provide details in the Notes section below the table.



Position Title and Department*	Fund Name	Fund Number	Part-Time/ Full Time	2004 Positions	2004 FTE	2005 Positions**	2005 FTE**
n/a							
TOTAL							

* List each position separately

** 2005 positions and FTE are total 2005 position changes resulting from this legislation, not incremental changes. Therefore, under 2005, please be sure to include any continuing positions from 2004

Notes:

- **Do positions sunset in the future?** (If yes, identify sunset date):

Spending/Cash Flow: This table should be completed only in those cases where part or all of the funds authorized by this legislation will be spent in a different year than when they were appropriated (e.g., as in the case of certain grants and capital projects). Details surrounding spending that will occur in future years should be provided in the Notes section below the table.

Fund Name and Number	Department	Budget Control Level*	2004 Expenditures	2005 Anticipated Expenditures
TOTAL				

* See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.

Notes:

- **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?** (Estimate the costs to the City of not implementing the legislation, including estimated costs to maintain or expand an existing facility or the cost avoidance due to replacement of an existing facility, potential conflicts with regulatory requirements, or other potential costs if the legislation is not implemented.)

None.

- **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?** (Include any potential alternatives to the proposed legislation, such as reducing fee-supported activities, identifying outside funding sources for fee-supported activities, etc.)

The City of Seattle has regulatory authority over the taxicab industry operating within the City limits. Few of these provisions can be initiated without ordinance authority. Some provisions could be addressed through voluntary compliance, but then the City would not be able to impose penalties for violations, nor exercise control over implementation and compliance.

Mel McDonald
November 18, 2004
DEA 2004 Taxicab Ordinance
Version #:2

- **Is the legislation subject to public hearing requirements:** No.
- **Other Issues** (including long-term implications of the legislation): None.

Please list attachments to the fiscal note below:

Attachment A to Fiscal Note:

2004 Revision of Seattle Taxicab Code [SMC Ch. 6.310] – Briefing Paper

2004 Revision of Seattle Taxicab Code [SMC Ch. 6.310]

B R I E F I N G P A P E R

Summary. The proposed ordinance would amend numerous provisions of the Seattle Municipal Code regulating the taxicab industry. Key revisions to SMC Ch. 6.310 include addressing taxicab driver personal safety, adding new licensing and operating requirements for wheelchair-accessible taxicabs, and providing customer service and consumer protection provisions. Additionally, the Department of Executive Administration proposes raising license and inspection fees, and penalties imposed for violation of SMC provisions, to a level that fully recovers the cost to the City for taxicab regulation. Other provisions provide for better regulation of taxicabs using designated taxicab zones, and improve various administrative procedures.

The proposed amendments in this ordinance have been discussed with the Taxicab Advisory Group (TAG), taxicab association representatives, the Cab Drivers' Alliance of King County, and King County officials. To the extent possible, changes have been made to address objections raised by these groups. In particular, DEA intends to implement several recommendations proposed by the TAG Committee on Driver Safety, following the homicide of a taxicab driver earlier this year. The addition of provisions for wheelchair accessible taxicab (WAT) licensing and operating requirements facilitate the planned WAT Demonstration Project 2006 – 2006 with King County.

The following is a discussion of the revisions proposed in each section of the Council Bill. Minor changes and clarifying language changes are not addressed.

Section 1. SMC 6.310.110 Definitions.

Section 1 provides a new definition for wheelchair accessible taxicabs.

Section 2. SMC 6.310.125 Violation Classifications.

A new section identifies the various violation classifications used throughout the chapter.

Section 3. SMC 6.310.150 Fees.

The proposed increases in taxicab license and inspection fees, along with increases in monetary penalties provided for by SMC 6.310.605 (see Section 22) will provide the City with revenue equal to the cost of the taxicab regulatory program. Proposed fee increases range from 15 – 25%, depending on the amount of time since the specific fee was last increased. Additionally, DEA is revising the taxicab license year to align taxicab license renewal and the annual taxicab safety inspection/taximeter test cycle.

Section 4. SMC 6.310.230 Taxicab Association – Operating Responsibilities.

Subsection H. The proposed revision establishes reporting requirements of taxicab associations, including service information, vehicle collisions, service response times, crimes against drivers, and passenger complaints.

Subsection P. This addition provides new authority for the Director to require taxicab associations to assign superintendents to supervise taxicab zones in response to complaints from passengers or adjacent property owners. This authority will help



Attachment A to Fiscal Note

address chronic problems at some of the City's busiest taxicab zones, including the Colman Ferry Dock and the Bell Street Cruise Ship Terminal [Pier 66].

Subsection Q. This additional requirement establishes crime reporting requirements for the taxicab association.

Section 5. SMC 6.310.300 Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle License Application.

Subsection C5. These changes improve insurance protection by requiring taxicab owners to purchase policies from insurers with an A- financial rating or better by A.M. Best and by raising underinsured motorist coverage split limits. The Director has new flexibility to temporarily suspend the "admitted carrier" and "A- financial rating" provisions in extreme situations such as the recent 'hard market' conditions in the insurance industry.

Section 6. SMC 6.310.320 Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle Operating Requirements.

Subsections K and L. As a convenience to passengers, DEA proposes requiring taxicab drivers to accept credit cards. By no later than June 30, 2006, licensees will be required to install receipt-issuing taximeters and provide receipts to customers. Accepting credit card payment will make taxicabs a more convenient mode of transportation and reduce the amount of cash drivers must carry, a significant risk factor for violent crimes against drivers. Receipt-issuing taximeters cost approximately \$400 installed, and have a useful life of ten years or more.

Subsection M. This new subsection requires the posting of passenger complaint information in both Braille and raised lettering, for vision-impaired passengers who don't read Braille.

Subsection R. This requirement has been added to clarify requirements regarding advertisement on taxicabs, currently promulgated only by administrative rule.

Subsection S. This new subsection requires the installation of approved digital security cameras in all Seattle taxicabs by no later than September 1, 2005. This was a key recommendation of the TAG Committee on Driver Safety. The requirement will sunset on September 1, 2008, unless the City affirmatively extends the requirement. This subsection addresses limitations on access and use of photographs taken by the security cameras.

Subsection T. This new subsection requires the installation of a silent alarm system in computer dispatched taxicabs not later than September 1, 2005 and in radio-dispatched taxicabs not later than January 1, 2008. The TAG Committee on Driver Safety recommended that the City consider requiring silent alarms in taxicabs, to allow drivers to secretly notify the dispatcher that there is an emergency, including crimes in progress.

Subsection U. This new subsection requires the installation of a GPS tracking system in all taxicabs by no later than January 1, 2008. The TAG Committee on Driver Safety recommended that the City consider requiring GPS tracking, to assist dispatchers in notifying the police about the location, direction, and speed of a taxicab reporting an emergency.

Subsection V. This new subsection requires a continuous connection between the taximeter and installed computer dispatch system. This amendment was requested by the taxicab industry to prohibit drivers from circumventing the connection.



Attachment A to Fiscal Note

Section 7. SMC 6.310.330 Taxicab Owner and For-Hire Vehicle Owner Responsibilities.

Subsection K. This new subsection establishes minimum hours of operation of wheelchair accessible taxicabs (WATs) per week and per year. The limited number of WAT licenses necessitates these standards, to ensure that the special needs of passengers in wheelchairs are met.

Section 8. SMC 6.310.340 Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle License Transfer.

This section has been amended to make the new wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses nontransferable, providing for easy recall of the licenses if the City determines the WAT program is not economically viable.

Section 9. SMC 6.310.350 Taxicab and For-Hire Vehicle License Expiration and Renewal.

This revision establishes a new taxicab license expiration date, to align taxicab license renewal dates and the annual taxicab safety inspection/taximeter test cycle.

Section 10. SMC 6.310.400 For-Hire Driver's License Application.

Subsection A8. This new subsection requires all for-hire driver license applicants to disclose any reportable collisions and any moving violations during the previous three (3) years. Department of Licensing records often fail to contain recent collisions or violations.

Subsection B1. This subsection adds a requirement that taxicab association training for new for-hire drivers include instruction on risk factors for violent crimes against drivers, emergency procedures, and the use of driver safety equipment installed in taxicabs. Approximately one-half of the drivers responding to a crime survey conducted by the TAG Committee on Driver Safety identified a need for more driver safety instruction.

Section 11. SMC 6.310.415 For-Hire Driver Training Program.

DEA proposes additional driver training requirements to improve driver personal safety. Training will include lessons learned from taxicab crimes, a review of risk factors for violent crimes against drivers, discussion of dispatch and emergency procedures, and the use of taxicab safety equipment. The safety training was recommended by the TAG Committee on Driver Safety. A special training session is required for wheelchair accessible taxicab (WAT) drivers that will provide instruction in the special needs of passengers in wheelchairs, loading and tie down procedures, and door-to-door service.

Section 12. SMC 6.310.420 For-Hire Driver Written and Oral Examination.

This section has been modified to require that the written exam for for-hire driver license applicants must test knowledge of risk factors for violent crimes against drivers, emergency procedures, and taxicab equipment for driver personal safety.

Section 13. SMC 6.310.425 For-hire driver temporary permit.

This section is amended to expand the timeframe of a temporary license from 60 days to 120 days. This change is for the ease of administration of the licensing process.



Attachment A to Fiscal Note

Section 14. SMC 6.310.450 For-Hire Driver Operating Standards.

Subsection I. This new subsection requires that drivers notify the association when they have been victims of a crime. This will facilitate more accurate crime statistics and help us improve safety equipment and procedures.

Subsection J. This new subsection requires wheelchair accessible taxicab (WAT) drivers to provide service to passengers in wheelchairs prior to any others requestors. The number of WATs is limited due to higher operating costs and the expense of purchasing the specially equipped vehicles.

Subsection K. This new subsection requires that the digital cameras be operating while transporting passengers.

Section 15. SMC 6.310.455 For-Hire Driver Conduct Standards.

Subsection R. This new subsection prohibits the use of a cell phone by a taxicab driver while a passenger is in the taxicab. Drivers using cell phones is one of the most common passenger complaints. Passengers have expressed safety concerns about drivers being distracted and they resent being ignored by the driver while the cab is in service.

Subsection S. This new subsection forbids the subleasing of taxicabs except to licensed drivers affiliated with that association.

Subsection T. This new subsection establishes vehicle accident reporting responsibilities for the for-hire driver.

Section 16. SMC 6.310.460 For-Hire Driver Taxicab Meter/Rates Standards.

Revisions to this section clarify the requirement that drivers properly complete trip sheets. Incomplete trip sheets are common, interfering with passenger complaint investigations and hindering accurate reporting of service information by taxicab associations (e.g., operating hours, paid miles).

Section 17. SMC 6.310.465 For-Hire Driver-Passenger Relations Standards.

Subsection I. This subsection is amended to require that passengers be provided a receipt (once receipt-issuing taximeters are installed), and specify the contents of the printed taximeter receipts.

Subsection L. This subsection has been amended to authorize for-hire drivers to refuse service if a passenger will not state a specific destination upon entering the taxicab, consistent with recommendations of the TAG Committee on Driver Safety.

Subsection P. This new section prohibits a for-hire driver from operating a wheelchair accessible taxicab unless the driver has successfully completed special training required by SMC 6.310.415E.

Section 18. SMC 6.310.470 For-Hire Driver Soliciting and Cruising Standards.

New provisions prohibit for-hire drivers from parking in passenger load zones to wait for walk-up passengers, rather than in instead of a taxicab zones provided for that purpose. This requirement addresses complaints received from business owners.

Attachment A to Fiscal Note

Section 19. SMC 6.310.475 For-Hire Driver Taxi Zone Standards.

The proposed revision addresses improper use of passenger load zones as waiting areas by prohibiting for-hire drivers from using a passenger load zone located within 150 feet of specially-designated taxicab zones.

Section 20. SMC 6.310.500 Taxicabs – Maximum Number.

Subsection C. This subsection has been changed to establish that wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses issued under this authority are not transferable and not counted toward the maximum number allowed by SMC 6.310.500A.

Subsection D. This new section provides that any new taxicab licenses pursuant to SMC 6.310.500A must be issued using a competitive process or a lottery of qualified applicants as prescribed by a Director's rule.

Section 21. SMC 6.310.510 Response times.

This section is amended to delete response time as a criterion for rate increases. Response time is an appropriate criterion for determining the number of taxicabs allowed within the City, but not for determining taximeter rates.

Section 22. SMC 6.310.605 Monetary penalties and penalty points.

Proposed revisions adjust monetary penalty amounts for inflation.

Section 23. SMC 6.310.635 Notice and Hearing for Denials, Violations, Suspensions, and Revocations.

Subsections B and C. The proposed revision extends the period for scheduling a hearing after a request has been received from 14 to 30 days. There are relatively few hearings and one hearing date per month is generally adequate. However, hearing requests for summary suspension or revocation will be expedited.

Subsection D. This subsection has been changed to provide authority for the Director to reinstate taxicab and for-hire driver licenses without a hearing, when licenses are revoked for failure to pay monetary penalties. It must be a first instance during the calendar year and both the monetary penalty and license reinstatement fee must have been paid within 10 days of the license revocation. There is no purpose served by holding such hearings. If the licensee requests a hearing, a hearing will be provided.

Section 24. SMC 6.310.700 Passenger Complaint Hotline.

This section has been amended with minor edits.

Section 25. SMC 6.310.710 Passenger Complaint Process.

A new subsection requires taxicab associations to take appropriate action to resolve passenger complaints. This requirement is currently addressed only by administrative rule.



City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

December 7, 2004

Honorable Jan Drago
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Drago:

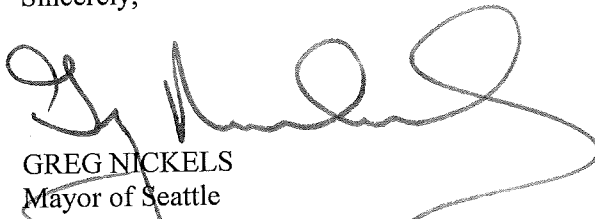
I am pleased to present the proposed Council Bill, which amends numerous provisions of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) that regulate the taxicab industry. The main changes focus on improving taxicab driver personal safety by enhancing safety operations, equipment, and training. The legislation also establishes operating requirements for wheelchair accessible taxicabs. Other proposed revisions will improve numerous operational standards and administrative procedures for taxicab licensees and drivers.

The safety of taxicab drivers is an increasing concern to the industry as well as the general public. In response to these concerns, and following the homicide of a Seattle taxicab driver earlier this year, the Taxicab Advisory Group's Committee on Driver Safety recommended that the City require installation of digital security cameras in all taxicabs. Additionally, the Committee suggested that the City consider requiring taxicab companies to install silent alarms and Global Positioning Systems, and establishing a required set of training classes and reporting procedures. The proposed legislation addresses all of these issues and other safety and customer service concerns of Seattle's taxicab industry.

The attached legislation also proposes increasing licensing fees, regulatory fees, and monetary penalties, which were last revised in 1997. The new fee and penalty levels will allow the City to recover revenue equal to the cost of the taxicab regulatory program. A briefing paper with detailed descriptions of the proposed changes is included as an attachment to the accompanying fiscal note.

The proposed amendments to the City's taxicab regulatory program will enhance driver safety and customer service. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have any questions in this regard, please contact Ken Nakatsu, Director of Executive Administration, at 684-0505, or Mel McDonald, Director of Revenue and Consumer Affairs, at 233-0071.

Sincerely,



GREG NICKELS
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council

600 Fourth Avenue, 7th Floor, P.O. Box 94749, Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Tel: (206) 684-4000, TDD: (206) 684-8811 Fax: (206) 684-5360, E-mail: mayors.office@seattle.gov

An equal employment opportunity, affirmative action employer. Accommodations for people with disabilities provided upon request.



ORDINANCE _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taxicab regulatory license fees, processing fees, and penalty fees; providing for a new license year period; providing additional requirements for taxicab association reports; providing standards for the use of taxicab zones and requiring industry supervisors to regulate the use of taxicab zones; requiring new safety equipment for taxicabs and establishing notification requirements for crimes against for-hire drivers; enhancing safety operating procedures; increasing the minimum underinsured motorist insurance coverage; requiring a raised letter and Braille passenger information notice in all taxicabs; requiring receipt-issuing taximeters; addressing the transferability of licenses; clarifying for technical purposes only the Director's approval authority for advertising on taxicabs; establishing operating standards and training requirements for wheelchair accessible taxicabs; requiring for-hire driver's license applicants to include their driving record with their application; expanding training and testing requirements for for-hire drivers; adding standards of conduct for drivers; adding a new section to the Seattle Municipal Code relating to violation classifications; and amending sections 6.310.110, 6.310.150, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.340, 6.310.350, 6.310.400, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.425, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.460, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.475, 6.310.500, 6.310.510, 6.310.605, 6.310.635, 6.310.700, and 6.310.710, respectively, of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, many of the taxicab license fees, inspection fees, and penalties contained in Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Ch. 6.310 have not been raised since January 1, 1997 and an increase in the fee and penalty amount is warranted to cover the cost of the taxicab enforcement program; and

WHEREAS, King County/Metro Transportation has received a grant to fund a pilot wheelchair accessible taxicab program which will supply both the City of Seattle and King County with information as to whether a wheelchair accessible taxicab program is economically viable without subsidies; and

WHEREAS, taxicab license renewal and the annual safety and taximeter inspection schedules should be changed from September through August to July through June to align the taxicab license renewal period with the annual taxicab safety inspection/taximeter test cycle; and

WHEREAS, driving a taxicab is identified as a high risk occupation by the National Institute of Occupation Safety and Health, and a recent safety study recommended that additional safety equipment be provided and additional safety procedures and training be established; NOW, THEREFORE,



BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 6.310.110 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.110 Definitions.

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

Y. "Wheelchair accessible taxicab" means a taxicab designed or modified to transport passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices and conforming to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and inspected and approved by the Director.

Section 2. Section 6.310.125 of the Seattle Municipal Code is added as follows:

6.310.125 Violation Classifications

A. Requirements contained within this chapter shall specify violation classifications in parentheses for the purpose of assessing monetary penalties and penalty points. General provisions for penalty enforcement are set forth in SMC 6.310.600, 6.310.605, 6.310.610, and 6.310.635. Monetary penalties and penalty points for each violation classification are specifically set forth in SMC 6.310.605.

B. Violation classifications are as follows:

1. Class A - violations of administrative or non-safety requirements.
2. Class B - violations of safety requirements.
3. Class C - other serious violations.
4. Suspensions, revocations, and denials of licenses are imposed when taxicab associations, taxicab licensees, or for-hire drivers fail to comply with licensing



requirements pursuant to this chapter, or there is an immediate safety concern with
the taxicab.

Section 3. Section 6.310.150 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
follows:

6.310.150 Fees.

The following nonrefundable fees shall apply:

~~((Taxicab Association, Taxicab, For-hire Vehicle and For-Hire Driver Fees:))~~

A. Taxicab association:

~~((a))~~ Annual fee ~~(((\$750))~~ \$900

Late renewal fee ~~((for taxicab association annual fee))~~ ~~((75))~~ \$90

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

B. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license:

Annual fee (through 5/15/06) ... ~~\$((240))~~ 250

Annual fee (eff. 5/16/06) \$300

Wheelchair accessible taxicab annual license fee Waived

Late fee (license renewal) ~~((24))~~ \$30

Change of ~~((equipment))~~ vehicle ~~((50))~~ \$75

Change of ~~((owner))~~ vehicle licensee:

Effective through August 31, 2005:

September~~((/))~~ – February \$240

March~~((/))~~ – August ~~((pre-rated))~~ (half year) \$120

July 16~~((th))~~ – August 31~~((st))~~ *

Effective September 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006:

September – January \$250

February – June (half year) \$125

July 16 – August 31*

Effective July 1, 2006 (new license year period):

July – December \$300

January – June (half year) \$150

May 16 – June 30*

Replace taxicab plate (((\$10)) \$25

Special inspection fee (((SMC Chapter 7.04)))** ((30)) \$60/hour

(1/2 hour minimum)

~~((Vehicle reinspection fee (for Class A violations) 20))~~

Inspection rescheduling fee (non-City licensed vehicles only) ((20)) \$25

~~((Taxicab meter registration fee (SMC Chapter 7.04).... 5))~~

Taxicab change of association affiliation ((50)) \$60

Vehicle re-inspection fee (for Class A violations) \$25

Suspension reinstatement fee (when no penalty is assessed) or reinspection fee

(for Class B violations) ((50)) \$60

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 Section 6.310.605))~~

* No change of taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee fee is due if ~~((change of ownership))~~ the
transfer occurs between ~~((takes place during))~~ July 16((th)) - Aug 31((st)), 2005 ~~((and is in~~
conjunction with annual license renewal)). Effective January 1, 2006, no change of taxicab for-
hire vehicle licensee fee is due if the transfer occurs between May 16 - June 30. During these



1 periods, the change of taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee and the annual license renewal are
2 accomplished together and only one fee will be assessed.

3 ** For ~~((re))~~testing of taxicab meter or taxicab inspections provided to other municipalities.

4 C. For-hire driver license:

5 ~~((For hire))~~Annual fee ~~(((\$55))~~ \$75****

6 Add/change affiliation*** \$20

7 Late fee ~~((40))~~ \$15

8 ID photo ~~((2))~~ \$5

9 Fingerprinting Charge as determined by Director to cover costs

10 Replacement license \$5

11 Training class fee As determined by Director

12 *** For-hire drivers may only be affiliated with a maximum of three (3) taxicab associations at
13 any given time. This fee is only charged when the driver is affiliated with three (3) associations
14 and now wants to delete one (1) association and add another.

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

19
20 **Section 4.** Section 6.310.230 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
21 follows:

22 **6.310.230 Taxicab association--Operating responsibilities.**

23 ~~((A.))~~ In addition to meeting the license application requirements set forth in Section
24 6.310.200, the taxicab association must:

25 ~~((+))~~A. Maintain a business office that:

- 1 ((a))1. Is open and personally staffed all business days between nine a.m. (9:00
2 a.m.) and five p.m. (5:00 p.m.) (Class A),
3 ((b))2. Has a local Seattle business telephone number that is listed in the white
4 and yellow pages of the telephone book and must be answered during all hours
5 that affiliated taxicabs are operating (Class A),
6 ((e))3. Has a mailing address where the taxicab association representative will
7 accept mail (Class A),
8 ((d))4. Stores all records that this chapter requires the taxicab association to
9 maintain including, but not limited to, copies of taxicab licenses and for-hire
10 drivers licenses, lists of all affiliated taxicabs and affiliated drivers, taxicab
11 vehicle repair and service records, ((consumer)) passenger comment cards, new
12 driver training records, vehicle insurance policies, vehicle registrations, vehicle
13 for-hire certificate, ((trip sheets,)) passenger complaint log, taxicab sign out log or
14 equivalent, and radio dispatch records (Class A – each requirement),
15 ((e))5. Provides secure storage for all items left in the taxicab by patrons and
16 turned in by drivers of affiliated taxicabs (Class A), and
17 ((f))6. Provides radio dispatch during all hours that affiliated taxicabs are
18 operating, and every request for service must be satisfied as long as there are any
19 operating taxicabs not in use (Class B-both requirements);
20 ((2))B. Ensure that each affiliated taxicab is insured as required in SMC Sections
21 6.310.300 D5-6 and 6.310.320 D (Class B);
22 ((3))C. Ensure that each affiliated taxicab maintains the taxicab association's color
23 scheme and identification (Class B);
24 ((4))D. Maintain on file at the taxicab association's place of business proof of insurance
25 required by SMC Sections 6.310.300 C5-6 and 6.310.320 D (Class A);
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1 ~~((5))E.~~ Accept on behalf of any ~~((owner))~~ taxicab licensee or driver of an affiliated
2 taxicab all correspondence from the Director to that ~~((owner))~~ taxicab licensee or driver (Class
3 A);

4 ~~((6))F.~~ Send, by first class mail, ~~((Deliver))~~ to the ~~((owner))~~ taxicab licensee and for-hire
5 driver of an affiliated taxicab any correspondence from the Director ~~((to that owner or driver as~~
6 ~~soon as reasonably possible))~~ within five (5) business days after the taxicab association receives
7 such correspondence and keeps a written record of the mailings (Class A);

8 ~~((7))G.~~ Weekly, ((C))collect, verify accuracy and completeness, and store for at
9 least two (2) years trip sheet records for all affiliated taxicabs, daily taxicab sign out logs, and
10 association dispatch records as prescribed by the Director (Class A);

11 ~~((8))H.~~ Collect and provide ~~((the following))~~ service information, ~~((to the Director~~
12 ~~quarterly, at a time set by regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter))~~ vehicle collision reports,
13 service response time reports, reports of crimes against for-hire drivers, and passenger
14 complaints, pursuant to rules adopted by the Director as follows:

15 ~~((a))1.~~ ~~((Number of service requests (trips,)))~~ Service Information Reports.

16 Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director, the monthly total of paid
17 trips, paid miles, and operating hours for each affiliated taxicab (Class A);

18 ~~((b))2.~~ ~~((Average number of taxicabs operating during the quarter,))~~ Vehicle
19 Collision Reports. Submit monthly, on forms approved by the Director, a list of
20 vehicle collisions required to be reported to the Washington State Patrol pursuant
21 to RCW 46.52.030(1) and WAC 446.85-010 including the name and number of
22 the affiliated taxicab and for-hire driver, collision fault, injuries, and estimated
23 damage (Class A);

24 ~~((c))3.~~ ~~((Average number of operating hours per week per taxicab,))~~ Service
25 Response Time Reports. Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director,

1 average response times for service requests in the operating areas served by
2 affiliated taxicabs (Class A);

3 ~~((d))4. ((Total paid trip miles for the past quarter per taxicab, and))~~ Crimes

4 Against Drivers Reports. Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director, a
5 list of all crimes of assault or robbery against affiliated for-hire drivers that were
6 reported to the Seattle Police Department, including the name and number of the
7 affiliated taxicab and for-hire driver, incident number, description of the crime,
8 and injuries (Class A), and

9 ~~((e))5. Passenger Complaints. ((Number of))~~ Submit quarterly, on forms
10 approved by the Director, a report which contains information on complaints
11 received directly from passengers and from the ((consumer)) passenger complaint
12 hotline as compiled from the log required pursuant to subsection I of this section
13 regarding:

14 ~~((i))a. Driver conduct sorted by driving behavior, communication,~~
15 ~~personal dress or hygiene,~~

16 ~~((ii))b. Vehicle condition sorted by appearance, mechanical and/or safety,~~

17 ~~((iii))c. Service response, and~~

18 ~~((iv))d. Lack of driver knowledge of route or requested destination((,))~~

19 (Class A).

20 ~~((f. A monthly summary of vehicle accident reports (all subsections Class B);))~~

21 ~~((g))I. Maintain a log of, and forward to the Director upon request, each oral or written~~

22 ~~((customer)) passenger complaint that the taxicab association receives about the taxicab~~
23 ~~association, ((or about an owner,)) a taxicab licensee, or lessee or driver of an affiliated taxicab.~~

24 ~~((Where applicable, t))The taxicab association ((should))~~ must include a notice of the
25 action taken by the taxicab association to resolve the complaint and the disposition (Class A);

1 ~~((14))~~J. Notify the Director within two (2) working days of the taxicab association
2 ~~having~~ knowledge of the following:

3 ~~((a-))~~1. A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the
4 driver or the ~~((owner))~~ taxicab licensee of an affiliated taxicab for any criminal
5 offense or traffic violation that occurs during or arises out of the
6 driver's operation of the taxicab (Class A for traffic violation, Class B for any
7 criminal offense),

8 ~~((b))~~2. A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the
9 driver or the ~~((owner))~~ taxicab licensee of an affiliated taxicab for any other
10 criminal offense directly bearing on the driver's fitness to operate a taxicab or the
11 ~~((owner's))~~ taxicab licensee's fitness to ~~((own a taxicab))~~ be licensed, including
12 but not limited to theft, fraud, robbery, burglary, assault, sex crimes, alcohol,
13 drugs, or prostitution (Class B),

14 ~~((c))~~3. A vehicle accident required to be reported to the State of Washington
15 involving any affiliated taxicab (Class B),

16 ~~((d))~~4. Any restriction, suspension or revocation of a State of Washington driver's
17 license issued to a driver of an affiliated taxicab (Class B), and/or

18 ~~((e))~~5. Any matter listed in SMC Section 6.310.210 B4 or 6.310.210 C (Class B);

19 ~~((14))~~K. Notify the Director within five (5) working days of any change in the affiliation
20 status of any taxicab, including any new taxicab joining the association, any taxicab leaving the
21 association, and any suspension, termination, nonrenewal or revocation of a taxicab by the
22 taxicab association or by any jurisdiction other than The City of Seattle (Class A);

23 ~~((12))~~L. Continue to affiliate with at least fifteen (15) taxicabs licensed under this
24 chapter. If the number of taxicabs falls below fifteen (15), the taxicab association must increase
25 the number to fifteen (15) within six (6) months from the date the number falls below fifteen
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(15), or combine with an already existing association, or lose its license under this chapter (revocation or nonrenewal);

~~((13))~~ M. Comply with all regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter (see applicable rules for penalties or actions);

~~((14))~~ N. 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))~~ O. Pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not contested or are upheld after review (revocation of license); ~~((:))~~

P. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone whenever such zone is used by affiliated taxicabs if the Director determines that it is necessary due to: (1) complaints received from passengers and adjacent property owners, or (2) improper use of nearby passenger load zones, truck load zones, and charter bus zones. If the taxicab association fails to provide a supervisor as required by the Director, the Director may suspend all affiliated taxicabs from using the taxicab zone (first offense – Class B violation and 14 day suspension from taxicab zone; second and subsequent offenses – Class B violation and 60 day suspension from taxicab zone); and

Q. Determine whether an affiliated driver, who has been the victim of a crime of assault or robbery, has reported the crime to 911. If not, the taxicab association shall call 911 and report the crime immediately (Class B).

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

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

Section 5. Section 6.310.300 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:



6.310.300 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle license application.

A. A taxicab association representative, on behalf of a taxicab license applicant affiliated with the taxicab association, 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 applicant must be the registered owner of the vehicle to be used as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle. The taxicab ((owner)) license applicant 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)) Applicant type:

- a. If the ((owner)) applicant is an individual, the vehicle owner's full name, home address, home and business telephone number and date of birth (which shall be at least eighteen (18) years prior to the date of application), or
- b. If the ((owner)) applicant is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, the names, home addresses, telephone numbers and dates of birth (which must be at least eighteen (18) 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, the make, model, year, vehicle identification number, Washington State vehicle license plate number, 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, nonrenewable or revocation, imposed in connection with a taxicab or for-hire vehicle owned or leased by the vehicle owner within the last three (3) years;

4. Criminal history, as requested by the Department, of the vehicle owner, or if the vehicle owner is a business entity, of the persons specified in subsection C1b above;

5. Insurance policy declarations or insurance binder 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 shall:

a. Be issued by an admitted carrier in the State of Washington with an A.M. Best's Rating of not less than A- and be not less than A.M. Best's Financial Size Category VII; provided however, that the Director may temporarily suspend any or all of these requirements if no other viable insurance options are available to the industry,

b. Name The City of Seattle as an additional insured,

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 ~~((Twenty-five))~~ Fifty Thousand Dollars ~~(((\$25,000)))~~ (\$50,000) per person, and
~~((Fifty))~~ One Hundred Thousand Dollars ~~(((\$50,000)))~~ (\$100,000) per accident;

7. State of Washington For-hire Certificate;

8. State of Washington vehicle registration;

9. Certificate of safety as required in SMC Section 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.

D. The taxicab association applicant must inform the Director in writing within seven (7)
days if any of the information provided pursuant to subsection C changes, ceases to be true or is
superseded in any way by new information.

Section 6. Section 6.310.320 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
follows:

6.310.320 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--Vehicle operating requirements.

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
2 for-hire vehicle (Misdemeanor or Class C);

3 ~~B. For taxicabs only, and subject to Section 6.310.230 ((A3)) C, the vehicle complies~~
4 ~~with the approved color scheme of the taxicab ((owner's)) licensee's taxicab association~~
5 ~~(suspension and Class B);~~

6 C. ~~((Vehicle age requirements:~~

7 ~~1. Prior to August 31, 2002. The vehicle's model year shall be no more than eight~~
8 ~~(8) years prior to the date of application. For example, vehicles licensed on~~
9 ~~August 31st of 1999 must be 1991 models or newer.~~

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

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

16 E. An approved mechanic has issued a valid certificate of safety for the vehicle within
17 the last license year. The safety certificate remains valid, if the vehicle is sold, until the next
18 renewal date (denial of license);

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

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

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

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

J. The vehicle contains the following current documentation: the state for-hire certificate, the county and/or city taxicab or for-hire vehicle license, the vehicle registration, and the proof of insurance card (Class A);

K. Effective July 15, 2005, the taxicab is equipped to accept credit cards (Class A);

~~((K))~~L. The taxicab is equipped with a properly sealed, working, and accurate receipt-issuing taximeter or receipt-issuing mobile data terminal, as prescribed by the Director (suspension and Class B). The receipt-issuing taximeter or receipt-issuing mobile data terminal must be installed when the taxicab is replaced, but no later than June 30, 2006 (denial of license);

~~((L))~~M. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle is equipped with a ~~((consumer))~~ passenger information ((board)) decal, the size, material, and placement of which is prescribed by the Director by rule. Such ~~((board))~~ decal shall include ~~((, at a minimum,))~~ the taxicab or for-hire vehicle name and number ~~((;))~~ and the taxi complaint hotline telephone number ~~((and consumer survey complaint cards))~~. Effective July 15, 2005, a passenger information notice in Braille and raised lettering must be installed as prescribed by the Director by rule. Effective July 15, 2005, passenger survey and complaint cards must be available to passengers in the rear passenger seating area (Class A – each);

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

~~((N))~~O. ~~((After December 31, 2001, t))~~The taxicab is equipped and operated so that it can be contacted by continuous two-way radio communications using a central dispatch radio

base station and a noncell frequency assigned and licensed by the FCC to an association or contracted dispatch service. ~~((Until December 31, 2001, this requirement can be met by use of a mobile radio telephone service. Taxicab drivers using mobile radio telephone service must respond to Director inquiries within a time period to be specified by rule))~~ (summary suspension and Class B);

((Θ))P. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the minimum size requirements as prescribed by Director's rule (denial of license); ~~((and))~~

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

R. Signs, including notices, announcements, pictures, advertisements or other messages, are allowed in or on taxicabs only as prescribed by this Chapter and by rule promulgated by the Director concerning the manner in which such signs may be displayed, including, but not limited to, requirements concerning the number of signs per vehicle, placement on or within vehicles, size limitations, and devices or mechanisms used to display such signs (Class A);

S. After September 1, 2005, the taxicab must be equipped with an operable digital security camera system approved by the Director pursuant to specifications provided by rule and adopted by the Director (summary suspension and Class B). The requirement for digital security cameras will expire on September 1, 2008, unless the City of Seattle adopts an ordinance to extend the requirement. Access to a recording made by any digital security camera is restricted to law enforcement personnel solely for the investigation and prosecution of crimes (Class C);

T. The taxicab must be equipped with a monitored silent alarm system approved by the Director pursuant to specifications provided by rule and adopted by the Director. All taxicabs with computer dispatch systems shall comply with this requirement by no later than September 1, 2005. All taxicabs with radio dispatch systems shall comply with this requirement by no later than January 1, 2008 (summary suspension and Class B);



U. After January 1, 2008, the taxicab must be equipped with a monitored Global Positioning System (GPS) pursuant to specifications contained in a rule promulgated by the
Director;

V. A taxicab must maintain a continuous connection between the taximeter and the computer dispatch system, if such system is installed (5-day suspension and Class B); and

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

Section 7. Section 6.310.330 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.330 Taxicab ~~((owner))~~ licensee and for-hire vehicle ~~((owner))~~ licensee
responsibilities

* * *

K. A wheelchair accessible taxicab licensee must personally drive the vehicle a minimum of forty (40) hours per week for at least 40 weeks per year (revocation).

Section 8. Section 6.310.340 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

~~6.310.340 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--License transfer.~~

A for-hire vehicle or taxicab license may be transferred; provided however, that wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses are nontransferable. No transfer of a for-hire vehicle or taxicab license can take effect until all outstanding penalties assessed against the ~~((owner))~~ for-hire vehicle or taxicab licensee and/or any driver of the for-hire vehicle or taxicab are paid in full to the Director. The proposed transferee must submit a for-hire vehicle or taxicab license application according to the standards set forth in SMC Section 6.310.300. The standards for



denial set forth in SMC Section 6.310.310 apply to proposed transfers. Transfers shall not become effective, and the proposed transferee may not operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, until the proposed transferee receives the taxicab or for-hire vehicle license.

Section 9. Section 6.310.350 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.350 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--License expiration and renewal.

A. All taxicab and for-hire licenses for the 2004 - 2005 license period shall expire on ~~((August 31st of the year following issuance of the license))~~ August 31, 2005. For the 2005 - 2006 license period and subsequent license year periods, all taxicab and for-hire licenses will expire on June 30 of the year following issuance of the license.

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

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

Section 10. Section 6.310.400 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.400 For-hire driver's license application.

A. For an initial for-hire driver's license and annually thereafter, ~~((A))~~ a for-hire driver must complete, sign, swear to and file with the Director a for-hire driver's license application on



forms provided by the Director to include the following information:

1. Name, aliases, residence and business address, residence and business telephone numbers;
2. Place and date of birth (which shall be at least twenty-one (21) years prior to the date of application, height, weight, color of hair and eyes;
3. 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;
4. Proof 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;
8. Statement of applicant listing all reportable accidents and all moving violations the applicant was involved in during the previous three (3) years;
and
~~((8))~~9. 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 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 ridden with a trainer designated by the association in a taxicab for at least three (3) full shifts including at least one (1) night shift and successfully completed a ((one (1) week)) four (4) day ((association)) training program provided by the taxicab association, 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))a. Received classroom instruction in the region's geography, important structures and sites of interest;~~

~~b. Received instruction in the proper use of the radio, taximeter, and computer (if applicable) and how to complete a trip sheet and safety checklist; and~~

~~c. Received at least one (1) hour of instruction on risk factors for crimes against for-hire drivers, emergency procedures, and equipment installed in taxicabs for the driver's personal safety.~~

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.

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



1 **Section 11.** Section 6.310.415 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
2 follows:

3 ~~**6.310.415 For-hire driver training program.**~~

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

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

- 13 1. A taxicab association with which the for-hire driver is affiliated requests that
14 the for-hire driver receive a refresher course; or
15 2. The Director has reasonable grounds, based on documented complaints and/or
16 violations, to believe that a refresher course is necessary (suspension).

17 C. A for-hire driver must complete a separate training session and written test on for-hire
18 driver personal safety within three (3) months from the date of issuance of the initial license.

19 The Director shall set forth the requirements of the training program by rule (suspension).

20 D. A for-hire driver must successfully complete a refresher training course and pass a
21 written test on for-hire driver personal safety every three (3) years to be completed prior to the
22 license renewal date and in conjunction with the required medical examination pursuant to SMC
23 6.310.410 (denial of license).

24 E. A for-hire driver who operates a wheelchair accessible taxicab must successfully
25 complete a separate training program for the special needs of passengers in wheelchairs.



1 including but not limited to, loading and tie-down procedures and door-to-door service as
2 prescribed in rule by the Director (Class C).

3
4 **Section 12.** Section 6.310.420 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
5 follows:

6 **6.310.420 For-hire driver written and oral examination.**

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

- 9 1. Knowledge of taxicab, for-hire vehicle and for-hire driver requirements
10 contained in applicable codes and regulations;
- 11 2. Ability to speak and understand oral and written English sufficient for
12 fulfilling the minimum acceptable standards for a taxicab, for-hire vehicle and/or
13 for-hire driver;
- 14 3. Knowledge of vehicle safety requirements;
- 15 4. Knowledge of the geography of Seattle, King County and surrounding areas,
16 and knowledge of local public and tourist destinations and attractions((:)); and
- 17 5. Knowledge of risk factors for crimes against for-hire drivers, emergency
18 procedures, and taxicab equipment for driver's personal safety.

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

22 C. An applicant who fails the written and/or oral examination, including the initial and
23 periodic for-hire driver written safety test, is entitled to one (1) free opportunity to retake the
24 examination. A second failure will result in a sixty (60) day wait for another opportunity to take
25 the examination, and another license application fee. All later examination tries will require the
26

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 13. Section 6.310.425 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.425 For-hire driver temporary permit.

A. Pending final action on a for-hire driver's license application, the Director may issue a temporary for-hire driver's license to an applicant who has filed a complete license application, meets the requirements of Section 6.310.400 A and B and has passed the written and oral examination per Section 6.310.420, except for the driver safety session required by Section 6.310.415 C. The temporary license is valid for a period not to exceed ~~((sixty (60)))~~ one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of the application and shall not be extended or renewed. Only one (1) temporary license may be issued to the same person within any two (2) year time period.

B. The temporary license shall not be transferable or assignable and shall be valid only for operating the taxicab(s) or for-hire vehicle(s) specified by the Director on the license.

C. The temporary license shall become void immediately upon (1) suspension, revocation or expiration of the applicant's Washington State driver's license, (2) issuance of the for-hire driver's license, or (3) the Director's denial of the for-hire driver's license application, regardless whether the applicant appeals that denial.



1 **Section 14.** Section 6.310.450 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
2 follows:

3 **6.310.450 For-hire driver operating standards.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 H. A for-hire driver shall pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not
21 contested or are ultimately upheld (revocation or nonrenewal).

22 I. A for-hire driver shall immediately notify the taxicab association when the for-hire
23 driver has been the victim of a crime (Class A).

24 J. A for-hire driver operating a wheelchair accessible taxicab shall provide service to
25 passengers in wheelchairs before any other passengers (Class B).

1 K. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab unless the digital camera is operating at
2 all times while picking up, transporting, or dropping off passengers (Class B).

3 L. A for-hire driver shall accept credit cards for payment of fare when requested by
4 passengers (Class A).

5
6 **Section 15.** Section 6.310.455 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
7 follows:

8 **6.310.455 For-hire driver conduct standards.**

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

12 B. A for-hire driver shall, at the end of each trip, check the vehicle for any article(s) that
13 ((is)) are left behind by passenger(s). Such articles found in taxicabs are to be reported as found
14 property to the taxicab association, and such property is to be returned to the taxicab association
15 representative at the end of the shift or sooner if possible (Class A);

16 C. A for-hire driver shall have in the driver's possession a valid for-hire driver's license
17 and valid Washington State driver's license at any time the for-hire driver is operating the taxicab
18 or for-hire vehicle((;such)). An enlargement of the for-hire license shall be displayed in a
19 permanent frame as prescribed by the Director (suspension and Class B);

20 D. A for-hire driver shall comply with any written notice of violation issued by the
21 Director (suspension and Class B);

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



1 F. A for-hire driver, as agent of the taxicab licensee, shall immediately surrender the
2 vehicle license plate and year decal to the Director upon written notice that the vehicle license
3 has been suspended, not renewed or revoked (revocation and Class B);

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

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

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

14 J. A for-hire driver shall operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle with due regard for the
15 safety, comfort and convenience of passengers (Class B for safety violations; Class A for
16 nonsafety violations);

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

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

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

24 N. A for-hire driver shall not use offensive language, expressions, or gestures to any
25 person while driving, operating, picking up customers, or in control of a taxicab or for-hire
26
27
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vehicle (Class B);

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

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

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

R. A for-hire driver shall not use a cell phone while a passenger is in the taxicab (Class B);

S. A for-hire driver shall not sub-lease a taxicab to another driver unless that driver has a valid for-hire driver license and the for-hire driver is currently affiliated with the taxicab association (suspension and Class B); and

T. A for-hire driver must notify the Director within three (3) working days of being involved, while operating a taxicab, in any vehicle accident that is required to be reported to the State of Washington (Class B).

Section 16. Section 6.310.460 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.460 For-hire driver taxicab meter/rates standards.

A. A for-hire driver shall not operate any taxicab that does not have a sealed taximeter in good working order (suspension and Class B).



1 B. A for-hire driver must activate the taximeter at the beginning of each paid trip,
2 whether the fare is computed by the taximeter, contract or flat rate, and deactivate the taximeter
3 upon completion of the trip. Beginning of a trip means the point where the passenger is seated,
4 or materials stowed, and the forward motion of the vehicle begins. The taximeter shall not be
5 engaged unless the taxicab is transporting passengers or materials for compensation (Class A).

6 C. A for-hire driver shall assure that the meter reading is visible from a normal passenger
7 position at all times (Class A).

8 D. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that does not have the
9 rate posted as prescribed by the Director (Class A).

10 E. A for-hire driver shall not ask, demand or collect any rate or fare other than as
11 specified on the meter, required by ordinance, or pursuant to special rates or contract rates on file
12 with the Director (Class B).

13 F. A for-hire driver shall complete daily tripsheets, as prescribed by the Director, and
14 shall show all trips in an accurate and legible manner as each trip occurs. The driver's name,
15 vehicle name and number, beginning odometer, and beginning time of the shift worked must be
16 written on the trip sheet at the start of each shift before carrying passengers (Class A). Daily
17 tripsheets shall also include the following information:

18 ((1. — Driver's name and for-hire license number;))

19 ((2))1. ((Owner's)) Taxicab licensee's name and vehicle name and number;

20 ((3))2. Vehicle for-hire license number;

21 ((4))3. ((Beginning and e)) Ending odometer reading;

22 ((5))4. ((Beginning and e)) Ending time of each shift worked;

23 ((6))5. Date, time, place or origin, and dismissal of each trip;

24 ((7))6. Fare collected;

25 ((8))7. Number of passengers;



1 ((9))8. No shows; and

2 ((10))9. Contract rates or special rates (all Class A).

3 G. A for-hire driver shall allow the Director to inspect the daily trip sheet at any time,
4 without notice (Class B).

5 H. A taxicab driver shall turn in completed trip sheets to the taxicab association at least
6 weekly (Class A).

7
8 **Section 17.** Section 6.310.465 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
9 follows:

10 **6.310.465 For-hire driver--Passenger relations standards.**

11 ***

12 I. A for-hire driver shall provide each passenger a receipt upon payment of the fare. The
13 receipt shall accurately show the date, start and end time, distance traveled, ~~((place of pickup and~~
14 ~~delivery,))~~ the amount of the fare, additional charges, total fare, and the taxicab name((;)) and
15 ~~number ((and association, and the printed name and for hire driver's license number of the for-~~
16 ~~hire driver (Class A)))~~. If a receipt-issuing taximeter is installed, a printed receipt must be
17 provided to the passenger upon payment of the fare (Class A each).

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

20 K. 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 L. 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 2. The passenger is acting in a disorderly, ~~((or))~~ threatening, or suspicious

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)));

or

4. The passenger refuses to state a specific destination upon entering the taxicab (Class B).

M. 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 "nonsmoking" taxicab, no-smoking signs must be posted 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).

N. 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).

O. 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).

P. A for-hire driver shall not operate a wheelchair accessible taxicab unless the for-hire driver has successfully completed the special training requirements set forth in SMC 6.310.415 E (Class C and five (5) day suspension).

1 **Section 18.** Section 6.310.470 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
2 follows:

3 **6.310.470 For-hire driver soliciting and cruising standards.**

4 A. Taxicabs.

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

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

9 3. A for-hire driver shall not hold out the taxicab for designated destinations
10 (Class A).

11 4. A for-hire driver shall not park a taxicab and wait for walk up passengers in a
12 marked passenger load zone, truck load zone, or charter bus zone. A for-hire
13 driver may drop off passengers or pick up hailed trips in a passenger load zone
14 except as provided by SMC 6.310.475 D and E (Class A).

15 B. For-hire Vehicles.

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

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

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

21
22 **Section 19.** Section 6.310.475 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
23 follows:

24 **6.310.475 For-hire driver taxi zone standards.**

25 A. A for-hire driver shall not leave the taxicab unattended in a taxicab zone for more
26

1 than fifteen (15) minutes. Such vehicles will be impounded by order of the Director (Class A).

2 B. A for-hire driver shall occupy a taxicab zone only when available for hire (Class A).

3 C. A for-hire driver shall not perform engine maintenance or repairs on the taxicab while
4 in a taxicab zone (Class A).

5 D. A for-hire driver cannot use a passenger load zone located within one hundred and
6 fifty (150) feet from a taxicab zone designated by the Director, except for wheelchair accessible
7 taxicabs. Notification of such zone designation will be sent to all taxicab associations 10 days
8 prior to the effective date of the designation (Class B and suspended from using the taxicab zone
9 for 14 days).

10 E. For hire-drivers cannot use a taxicab zone while under suspension from that taxicab
11 zone (Class B and suspended from using the taxicab zone for 60 days).

12
13 **Section 20.** Section 6.310.500 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as
14 follows:

15 **6.310.500 Taxicabs--Maximum number.**

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

18 B. The number of for-hire vehicle licenses in effect at any one (1) time shall not exceed
19 two hundred (200). Except that if the State Legislature authorizes cities to regulate executive
20 sedans and executive vans, as defined in RCW 46.04.274, then executive sedans and executive
21 vans licensed by the Department of Licensing (DOL) on the authorization date, which meet City
22 vehicle standards would also be allowed to obtain for-hire vehicle licenses.

23 C. The Director may, at the Director's discretion, issue wheelchair accessible taxicab
24 licenses to special service vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons defined in
25 KCC 6.64.010 or to handicapped persons as defined in SMC Section 6.310.110. These are non-

transferable wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses and shall not be included in calculating the maximum number of taxicab licenses allowable pursuant to paragraph A of this section. The Director shall conduct a demonstration project to determine the economic feasibility of the long term issuance of such licenses and shall determine and set forth by rule whether such licenses shall be issued as temporary or permanent licenses.

D. If the Director determines that issuance of additional taxicab licenses is warranted, not to exceed the maximum allowable taxicab licenses issued pursuant to paragraph A of this section, such licenses will be issued pursuant to a competitive request for proposal and award process or lottery of qualified applicants, as prescribed in rule adopted by the Director.

Section 21. Section 6.310.510 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.510 Response times.

The Director shall establish a schedule of optimum average taxicab response times to requests for taxicab service at selected points within the City. The Director shall periodically thereafter survey actual taxicab response times. A comparison of average actual response times to the optimum average taxicab response times shall be used as an indicator of taxicab industry performance and may be used as one criterion in evaluating and recommending ((rate and)) entry changes.

Section 22. Section 6.310.605 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.605 Monetary penalties and penalty points.

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

Violation	Penalties Against a For-hire Driver, or ((Owner of)) a Taxicab Licensee or For-hire Vehicle For Each Violation	Penalty Points Attributed to Taxicab Association For Each Violation
1. Violations Found During a Calendar Year Away from City's Inspection Facility.		
First Class A in one year	((\$ 30.00)) <u>\$35.00</u>	2
Second Class A in one year	((60.00)) <u>\$70.00</u>	3
Third or more Class A violation in one year	((100.00)) <u>\$120.00</u>	4
First Class B violation in one year	((60.00)) <u>\$70.00</u>	4
Second Class B violation in one year	((150.00)) <u>\$175.00</u>	7
Third or more Class B violation in one year	((250.00)) <u>\$300.00</u>	10
All Class C violations	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	20
2. Violations Found During Inspections at City's Inspection Facility.		
Failure to appear for inspection scheduled by the Director (see Section 6.310.330 I and paragraph below)	\$50	2 penalty points



Class A violation found during inspection at City's inspection facility Vehicle reinspection fee. 2 each violation
See fee schedule in Section 6.310.150

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

"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.

Section 23. Section 6.310.635 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.635 Notice and hearing for denials, violations, suspensions and revocations.

A. For each violation, and for each denial, suspension or revocation, the Director shall give written notice to the affected licensee. If the affected licensee is a taxicab driver, the Director shall at the same time give written notice of violations to the taxicab ((owner)) licensee and the taxicab association. If the affected licensee is a taxicab ((owner)) licensee, the Director shall at the same time give written notice of violations to the taxicab association. All notices directed to a taxicab driver or taxicab ((owner)) licensee may be served by personal delivery to,



or by first-class mail addressed to, the taxicab association.

B. Any notice of denial, violation, suspension or revocation, other than a summary suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 6.310.610 A, shall state that the driver, ~~((owner))~~ taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee, and/or taxicab association is entitled to a hearing to respond to the notice and introduce any evidence to refute or mitigate the violation. Upon written request, submitted by the person named on the violation, filed within ten (10) calendar days after the date of the notice of denial, violation, suspension or revocation, the Director shall set a hearing date and time to be held as soon as possible and not more than ~~((fourteen (14)))~~ thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the request or the next business day after that if the thirtieth day falls on a weekend or holiday.

C. Any notice of summary suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 6.310.610 A and D1, shall state that the driver, taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee, and/or taxicab association is entitled to a hearing to respond to the notice and introduce any evidence to refute or mitigate the violation. Upon written request, submitted by the person named on the violation, filed within ten (10) calendar days after the date of the notice of the summary suspension or revocation, the Director shall set a hearing date and time to be held as soon as possible and not more than seven (7) calendar days from the date of the request or the next business day after that if the seventh day falls on a weekend or holiday. The Director shall render a decision affirming or reversing the summary suspension or revocation within three (3) business days after the conclusion of the hearing.

D. The decision of the Director is final only if a monetary penalty is imposed or if a timely appeal is not filed pursuant to subsection G. A taxicab license or for-hire driver license may be reinstated without a hearing if the violation was for failure to pay a monetary penalty within thirty (30) days, if the licensee pays the monetary penalty in full within ten (10) days of the date of license revocation and pays a license reinstatement fee. This authority to reinstate



1 licenses without a hearing only applies if it is the first instance of failure to pay a monetary
2 penalty in the calendar year.

3 ~~((E))E.~~ The hearing shall be held by the Director or the Director's designee, provided that
4 the designee may not be a person who directly supervises the inspector who issued the notice of
5 denial, violation, suspension or revocation.

6 ~~((D))E.~~ The hearing shall be informal, but shall be recorded by electronic means provided
7 by the Director. Within twenty (20) days of the hearing, the Director shall issue a written ruling
8 including factual findings and the Director's conclusion, with supporting reasons, affirming,
9 modifying or reversing the notice. The decision shall be mailed by first class mail to each
10 affected licensee at the address listed on the application; or in any supplemental materials.
11 However, if the licensee is a taxicab ~~((owner))~~ licensee or taxicab driver, the decision shall be
12 mailed by first class mail to the licensee at the address of the taxicab association.

13 ~~((E. The decision of the Director is final if a monetary penalty only is imposed or if no~~
14 ~~timely appeal is filed pursuant to subsection F.))~~

15 ~~((F))G.~~ If the Director's decision imposes or affirms a denial, suspension or revocation,
16 including summary suspension or revocation, any affected licensee may appeal the entire
17 decision to the Hearing Examiner by filing a notice of appeal with the Hearing Examiner within
18 ten (10) days after the date of mailing of the decision. Decisions of the Director imposing a
19 monetary penalty only, pursuant to subsection D, shall not be appealable to the Hearing
20 Examiner.

21 ~~((G))H.~~ If a timely notice of appeal is filed pursuant to subsection ~~((F))~~ G above, a
22 hearing shall be scheduled and conducted by the Hearing Examiner according to the Hearing
23 Examiner rules for contested cases. At the Hearing Examiner hearing, the Department shall have
24 the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the alleged violation occurred.

25 ~~((H))I.~~ The Hearing Examiner may affirm, modify or reverse the decisions of the



Director.

Section 24. Section 6.310.700 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.700 ((Consumer)) Passenger complaint hotline.

The Director may establish, in conjunction with King County and the Port of Seattle, a shared ((consumer)) passenger complaint telephone number and complaint resolution process.

Section 25. Section 6.310.710 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.710 Passenger complaint process.

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 advising such person of the allegation(s) made in the complaint;
2. Require the for-hire vehicle licensee or the taxicab association 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 investigate the allegation(s) in the notice of complaint and the response submitted by the for-hire driver or vehicle owner; ((and))
4. Require the taxicab association or for-hire vehicle licensee to make a finding as to the validity of the allegation(s) in the complaint. If it is found to be a valid

1 complaint the director may issue a notice of violation pursuant to SMC Section
2 6.310.635((-)); and

3 5. Require the taxicab association to take the appropriate action to resolve the
4 complaint which may include a written explanation, a written apology,
5 reimbursement of any fare overcharges, mandatory driver retraining, suspension
6 of driver, or any other reasonable action necessary to resolve the complaint with
7 the passenger.

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

12 C. Failure to comply with any Notice and Order issued as a result of the above process is
13 a Class B violation.

Section 26. 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 _____, 200__, and signed by me in
open session in authentication of its passage this ____ day of _____, 200__.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this _____ day of _____, 200__.

~~Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor~~

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 200__.

City Clerk

(Seal)



Theresa Dunbar - Re: CB115154 as amended by F&B

From: Carlton Seu
To: Carter, Margaret; Dunbar, Theresa; Weissman, Amy
Date: 2/16/2005 3:16:56 PM
Subject: Re: CB115154 as amended by F&B

To all,
I have reviewed Version #19 of CB115154 (taxicab ordinance) and will sign off on it and have it stamped once received.

Carlton W. M. Seu
Assistant City Attorney
carlton.seu@seattle.gov

>>> Amy Weissman 02/16/05 02:27PM >>>
Attached is the version of CB115154 (taxicab ordinance) as amended and passed by Finance & Budget today. This version is now in the jacket in Theresa's office.

Carlton, by way of a reply to all email, can you indicate your approval of this version for the clerk's office? This version incorporates the 4 separate amendments that you reviewed over the past few days (dealing with receipts, experienced driver training, refusing pick-ups, and retaliation); those are the only changes.

Thanks!
Amy

CC: Lewis, Jeanette; Sanchez, Emilia

CB 115154
Ord. 121738

FILED
CITY OF SEATTLE
05 FEB 18 AM 9:24
CITY CLERK

STATE OF WASHINGTON - KING COUNTY

--SS.

182001
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Affidavit of Publication

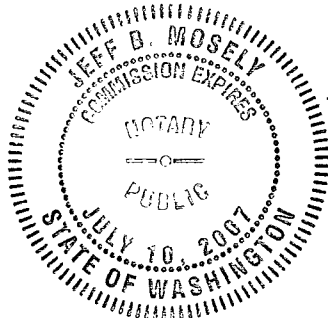
The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published 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:TAXI REGULATIONS

was published on

2/14/2005



Madan

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

2/14/2005

Jeff B. Mosely
Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

Affidavit of Publication

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle

Seattle City Council Notice of Public Hearing Taxi Regulations

The Seattle City Council's Finance and Budget Committee will listen to the public at a hearing on Wednesday, February 16th at 9:30 a.m., regarding taxicab rates and regulations.

Two Council Bills (CB115115 and CB115154) call for increases in the current taximeter rate and the charge for taxi service from downtown hotels to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, and require new methods of determining temporary fuel surcharges.

The Bills also propose changes to the Municipal Code, to implement new regulations on for-hire drivers and include banning cell phone use and new requirements for wheelchair accessibility.

Passage of the bills would also change several operational standards and procedures for taxicab licensees and drivers. These include: standards for the use of taxicab zones and requiring industry supervisors to regulate the use of those zones; increasing minimum insurance coverage; requiring a raised letter and Braille passenger information notice in all taxicabs; requiring receipt-issuing taximeters; addressing the transferability of licenses; clarifying the director's approval authority over advertising on taxicabs; requiring for-hire driver's license applicants to include their driving record with their application; expanding training and testing requirements for for-hire drivers; and adding standards of conduct for drivers.

To review the proposed Council Bills, go to <http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us>, then select Legislative Data Bases, then select Council Bills, then search on CB 115115 or CB 115154.

The hearing will be held on the 2nd floor of City Hall in Council Chambers (600 Fourth Avenue with main entrance on Fifth Avenue between James and Cherry).

Publication Ordered by Judith E. Pippin,
City Clerk

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily
Journal of Commerce, February 14, 2005.

2/14(182001)

STATE OF WASHINGTON – KING COUNTY

--SS.

182806
CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

No. ORDINANCE IN FULL

Affidavit of Publication

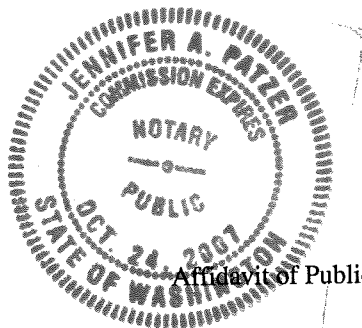
The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published 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:121738 ORD IN FULL

was published on

3/7/2005



Affidavit of Publication

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael", written over a horizontal line.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

3/7/2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer A. Patzer", written over a horizontal line.

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

City of Seattle

ORDINANCE 121738

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicabs; increasing the taxicab regulatory license fees, processing fees, and penalty fees; providing for a new license year period; providing additional requirements for taxicab association reports; providing standards for the use of taxicab zones and requiring industry supervisors to regulate the use of taxicab zones; requiring new safety equipment for taxicabs and establishing notification requirements for crimes against for-hire drivers; enhancing safety operating procedures; increasing the minimum underinsured motorist insurance coverage; requiring a raised letter and Braille passenger information notice in all taxicabs; requiring receipt-issuing taximeters; addressing the transferability of licenses; clarifying for technical purposes only the Director's approval authority for advertising on taxicabs; establishing operating standards and training requirements for wheelchair accessible taxicabs; requiring for-hire driver's license applicants to include their driving record with their application; expanding training and testing requirements for for-hire drivers; adding standards of conduct for drivers; adding a new section to the Seattle Municipal Code relating to violation classifications; and amending sections 6.310.110, 6.310.150, 6.310.230, 6.310.300, 6.310.320, 6.310.330, 6.310.340, 6.310.350, 6.310.400, 6.310.415, 6.310.420, 6.310.425, 6.310.450, 6.310.455, 6.310.460, 6.310.465, 6.310.470, 6.310.475, 6.310.500, 6.310.510, 6.310.605, 6.310.635, 6.310.700, and 6.310.710, respectively, of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, many of the taxicab license fees, inspection fees, and penalties contained in Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Ch. 6.310 have not been raised since January 1, 1997 and an increase in the fee and penalty amount is warranted to cover the cost of the taxicab enforcement program; and

WHEREAS, King County/Metro Transportation has received a grant to fund a pilot wheelchair accessible taxicab program which will supply both the City of Seattle and King County with information as to whether

a wheelchair accessible taxicab program is economically viable without subsidies; and

WHEREAS, taxicab license renewal and the annual safety and taximeter inspection schedules should be changed from September through August to July through June to align the taxicab license renewal period with the annual taxicab safety inspection/taximeter test cycle; and

WHEREAS, driving a taxicab is identified as a high risk occupation by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, and a recent safety study recommended that additional safety equipment be provided and additional safety procedures and training be established; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 6.310.110 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.110 Definitions.

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

Y. "Wheelchair accessible taxicab" means a taxicab designed or modified to transport passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices and conforming to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and inspected and approved by the Director.

Section 2. Section 6.310.125 of the Seattle Municipal Code is added as follows:

6.310.125 Violation Classifications A.

Requirements contained within this chapter shall specify violation classifications in parentheses for the purpose of assessing monetary penalties and penalty points. General provisions for penalty enforcement are set forth in SMC 6.310.600, 6.310.605, 6.310.610, and 6.310.635. Monetary penalties and penalty points for each violation classification are specifically set forth in SMC 6.310.605.

B. Violation classifications are as follows:

1. Class A - violations of administrative or non-safety requirements.

2. Class B - violations of safety requirements.

3. Class C - other serious violations.

4. Suspensions, revocations, and denials of licenses are imposed when taxicab associations, taxicab licensees, or for-hire drivers fail to comply with licensing requirements pursuant to this chapter, or there is an immediate safety concern with the taxicab.

Section 3. Section 6.310.150 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.150 Fees.

The following nonrefundable fees shall apply:

((Taxicab Association, Taxicab, For-hire Vehicle and For-Hire Driver Fees))

A. Taxicab association;

((a)) Annual fee.... ((750)) \$900

Late renewal fee ((for taxicab association annual fee)).... ((75)) \$90

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

B. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license:

Annual fee (through 5/15/06) ((240)) 250

Annual fee (eff. 5/16/06) ... \$300

Wheelchair accessible taxicab annual license fee Waived

Late fee (license renewal).... ((24)) \$30

Change of ((equipment)) vehicle ((60)) \$75

Change of ((owner)) vehicle license:

Effective through August 31, 2005:

September((/)) - February.... \$240

March((/)) - August ((pro-rated)) (half year) ... \$120

July 16((th)) - August 31((st))*

Effective September 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006:

September - January.... \$250

February - June (half year).... \$125

July 16 - August 31*

Effective July 1, 2006 (new license year period):

be satisfied as long as there are any operating taxicabs not in use; except that associations and for-hire drivers that refuse service pursuant to SMC 6.310.465 L shall not be subject to any penalties by the Director, or, in the case of for-hire drivers, by the association (Class B - both requirements).

((2))B. Ensure that each affiliated taxicab is insured as required in SMC Sections 6.310.300 D5-6 and 6.310.320 D (Class B);

((3))C. Ensure that each affiliated taxicab maintains the taxicab association's color scheme and identification (Class B);

((4))D. Maintain on file at the taxicab association's place of business proof of insurance required by SMC Sections 6.310.300 C5-6 and 6.310.320 D (Class A);

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

((6))F. Send, by first class mail, ((Deliver)) to the ((owner)) taxicab licensee and for-hire driver of an affiliated taxicab any correspondence from the Director ((to that owner or driver as soon as reasonably possible)) within five (5) business days after the taxicab association receives such correspondence and keeps a written record of the mailings (Class A);

((7))G. Weekly, ((G)) collect, verify accuracy and completeness, and store for at

least two (2) years trip sheet records for all affiliated taxicabs, daily taxicab sign out logs, and

association dispatch records as prescribed by the Director (Class A);

((8))H. Collect and provide ((the following)) service information, ((to the Director

quarterly, at a time set by regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter)) vehicle collision reports, service response time reports, reports of crimes against for-hire drivers, and passenger complaints, pursuant to rules adopted by the Director as follows:

((a))L. ((Number of service requests (trips))) Service Information Reports. Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director, a list of vehicle collisions required to be reported to the Washington State Patrol pursuant to RCW 46.52.030(1) and WAC 446.85-010 including the name and number of the affiliated taxicab and for-hire driver, collision fault, injuries, and estimated damage (Class A);

((b))2. ((Average number of taxicabs operating during the quarter)) Vehicle Collision Reports. Submit monthly, on forms approved by the Director, a list of vehicle collisions required to be reported to the Washington State Patrol pursuant to RCW 46.52.030(1) and WAC 446.85-010 including the name and number of the affiliated taxicab and for-hire driver, collision fault, injuries, and estimated damage (Class A);

((c))3. ((Average number of operating hours per week per taxicab)) Service Response Time Reports. Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director, average response times for service requests in the operating areas served by affiliated taxicabs (Class A);

((d))4. ((Total paid trip miles for the past quarter per taxicab, and)) Crimes Against Drivers Reports. Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director, a list of all crimes of assault or robbery against affiliated for-hire drivers that were reported to the Seattle Police Department, including the name and number of the affiliated taxicab and for-hire driver, incident number, description of the crime, and injuries (Class A), and

((e))5. Passenger Complaints. ((Number of)) Submit quarterly, on forms approved by the Director, a report which contains information on complaints received directly from passengers and from the ((consumer)) passenger complaint hotline as compiled from the log required pursuant to subsection 1 of this section regarding:

((b))a. Driver conduct sorted by driving behavior, communication, personal dress or hygiene,

((b))b. Vehicle condition sorted by appearance, mechanical and/or safety,

((b))c. Service response, and

((b))d. Lack of driver knowledge of route or requested destination((,)) (Class A).

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

((g))I. Maintain a log of, and forward to the Director upon request, each oral or written ((customer)) passenger complaint that the taxicab association receives about the taxicab association, ((or about an owner,)) a taxicab licensee, or lessee or driver of an affiliated taxicab. ((Where applicable,)) the taxicab association ((should)) must include a notice of the

action taken by the taxicab association to resolve the complaint and the disposition (Class A);

((H))J. Notify the Director within two (2) working days of the taxicab association

having knowledge of the following:

((a))1. A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the driver or the ((owner)) taxicab licensee of an affiliated taxicab for any criminal offense or traffic violation that occurs during or arises out of the

driver's operation of the taxicab (Class A for traffic violation, Class B for any criminal offense),

((b))2. A conviction, bail forfeiture or other adverse finding received by the driver or the ((owner)) taxicab licensee of an affiliated taxicab for any other criminal offense directly bearing on the driver's fitness to operate a taxicab or the ((owner's)) taxicab licensee's fitness to (own a taxicab) be licensed, including but not limited to theft, fraud, robbery, burglary, assault, sex crimes, alcohol, drugs, or prostitution (Class B),

((c))3. A vehicle accident required to be reported to the State of Washington involving any affiliated taxicab (Class B),

((d))4. 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))5. Any matter listed in SMC Section 6.310.210 B4 or 6.310.210 C (Class B);

((f))K. 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, nonrenewal or revocation of a taxicab by the taxicab association or by any jurisdiction other than The City of Seattle (Class A);

((g))L. 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 nonrenewal);

((h))M. Comply with all regulations promulgated pursuant to this chapter (see applicable rules for penalties or actions);

((i))N. 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))

((j))O. Pay all penalties imposed by the Department that are either not contested or are upheld after review (revocation of license); ((-))

P. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone whenever such zone is used by affiliated taxicabs if the Director determines that it is necessary due to: (1) complaints received from passengers and adjacent property owners, or (2) improper use of nearby passenger load zones, truck load zones, and charter bus zones. If the taxicab association fails to provide a supervisor as required by the Director, the Director may suspend all affiliated taxicabs from using the taxicab zone (first offense - Class B violation and 14 day suspension from taxicab zone; second and subsequent offenses - Class B violation and 60 day suspension from taxicab zone); and

Q. Determine whether an affiliated driver, who has been the victim of a crime of assault or robbery, has reported the crime to 911. If not, the taxicab association shall call 911 and report the crime immediately (Class B).

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

((C. Failure to meet the requirements of this section (SMC Section 6.310.230) is a violation of this chapter.))

Section 5. Section 6.310.300 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.300 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle license application.

A. A taxicab association representative, on behalf of a taxicab license applicant affiliated with the taxicab association, 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 applicant must be the registered owner of the vehicle to be used as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle. The taxicab (owner) license applicant 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)) Applicant type:

a. If the ((owner)) applicant is an individual, the vehicle owner's full name, home address, home and business telephone number and date of birth (which shall be at least eighteen (18) years prior to the date of application), or

b. If the ((owner)) applicant is a corporation, partnership or other legal entity, the names, home addresses, telephone numbers and dates of birth (which must be at least eighteen (18) 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, the make, model, year, vehicle identification number, Washington State vehicle license plate number, 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, nonrenewal or revocation, imposed in connection with a taxicab or for-hire vehicle owned or leased by the vehicle owner within the last three (3) years;

4. Criminal history, as requested by the Department, of the vehicle owner, or if the vehicle owner is a business entity, of the persons specified in subsection C1b above;

5. Insurance policy declarations or insurance binder 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 shall:

a. Be issued by an admitted carrier in the State of Washington with an A.M. Best's Rating of not less than A- and be not less than A.M. Best's Financial Size Category VII; provided however, that the Director may temporarily suspend any or all of these requirements if no other viable insurance options are available to the industry;

b. Name The City of Seattle as an additional insured;

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, non-standard 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 ((Twenty-five)) Fifty Thousand Dollars (((\$25,000)) (\$50,000) per person, and ((Fifty)) One Hundred Thousand Dollars (((\$50,000)) (\$100,000) per accident;

7. State of Washington For-hire Certificate;

8. State of Washington vehicle registration;

9. Certificate of safety as required in SMC Section 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.

D. The taxicab association applicant must inform the Director in writing within seven (7) days if any of the information provided pursuant to subsection C changes, ceases to be true or is superseded in any way by new information.

Section 6. Section 6.310.320 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.320 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--Vehicle operating requirements.

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 (Misdeemeanor or Class C);

B. For taxicabs only, and subject to Section 6.310.230 ((A4)) C, the vehicle complies with the approved color scheme of the taxicab ((owner's)) licensee'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.

2. As of August 31, 2002, ((4)) The vehicle model year can be no more than seven (7) years prior to the license date ((of application)) (denial of license);

D. The vehicle has insurance as required by SMC Section 6.310.300 C5 and C6, provided, that if an insurance policy is canceled, or a vehicle is deleted from the policy, 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);

E. An approved mechanic has issued a valid certificate of safety for the vehicle within the last license year. The safety certificate remains valid, if the vehicle is sold, until the next renewal date (denial of license);

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

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

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

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

J. The vehicle contains the following current documentation: the state for-hire certificate, the county and/or city taxicab or for-hire vehicle license, the vehicle registration, and the proof of insurance card (Class A);

K. Effective July 15, 2005, the taxicab is equipped to accept credit cards (Class A);

((K))L. The taxicab is equipped with a properly sealed, working, and accurate receipt-issuing taximeter or receipt-issuing mobile data terminal, as prescribed by the Director (suspension and Class B). The receipt-issuing taximeter or receipt-issuing mobile data terminal must be installed when the taxicab is replaced, but no later than June 30, 2006 (denial of license);

((L))M. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle is equipped with a ((consumer)) passenger information ((board)) decal, the size, material, and placement of which is prescribed by the Director by rule. Such ((board)) decal shall include ((, at a minimum,)) the taxicab or for-hire vehicle name and number ((,)) and the taxi complaint hotline telephone number ((and consumer survey complaint cards)). Effective July 15, 2005, a passenger information notice in Braille and raised lettering must be installed as prescribed by the Director by rule. Effective July 15, 2005, passenger survey and complaint cards must be available to passengers in the rear passenger seating area (Class A - each);

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

((N))O. ((After December 31, 2001, ((4))The taxicab is equipped and operated so that it can be contacted by continuous two-way radio communications using a central dispatch radio base station and a noncell frequency assigned and licensed by the FCC to an association or contracted dispatch service. ((Until December 31, 2001, this requirement can be met by use of a mobile radio telephone service. Taxicab drivers using mobile radio telephone service must respond to Director inquiries within a time period to be specified by rule)) (summary suspension and Class B);

((O))P. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the minimum size requirements as prescribed by Director's rule (denial of license); ((and))

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

R. Signs, including notices, announcements, pictures, advertisements or other messages, are allowed in or on taxicabs only as prescribed by this Chapter and by rule promulgated by the Director concerning the manner in which such signs may be displayed, including, but not limited to, requirements concerning the number of signs per vehicle, placement on or within vehicles, size

limitations, and devices or mechanisms used to display such signs (Class A);

S. After September 1, 2005, the taxicab must be equipped with an operable digital security camera system approved by the Director pursuant to specifications provided by rule and adopted by the Director (summary suspension and Class B). The requirement for digital security cameras will expire on September 1, 2008, unless the City of Seattle adopts an ordinance to extend the requirement. Access to a recording made by any digital security camera is restricted to law enforcement personnel solely for the investigation and prosecution of crimes (Class C);

T. The taxicab must be equipped with a monitored silent alarm system approved by the Director pursuant to specifications provided by rule and adopted by the Director. All taxicabs with computer dispatch systems shall comply with this requirement by no later than September 1, 2005. All taxicabs with radio dispatch systems shall comply with this requirement by no later than January 1, 2008 (summary suspension and Class B);

U. After January 1, 2008, the taxicab must be equipped with a monitored Global Positioning System (GPS) pursuant to specifications contained in a rule promulgated by the Director;

V. A taxicab must maintain a continuous connection between the taximeter and the computer dispatch system, if such system is installed (5-day suspension and Class B); and

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

Section 7. Section 6.310.330 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.330 Taxicab ((owner)) licensee and for-hire vehicle ((owner)) licensee responsibilities

K. A wheelchair accessible taxicab licensee must personally drive the vehicle a minimum of forty (40) hours per week for at least 40 weeks per year (revocation).

Section 8. Section 6.310.340 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.340 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--License transfer.

A for-hire vehicle or taxicab license may be transferred; provided however, that wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses are non-transferable. No transfer of a for-hire vehicle or taxicab license can take effect until all outstanding penalties assessed against the ((owner)) for-hire vehicle or taxicab licensee and/or any driver of the for-hire vehicle or taxicab are paid in full to the Director. The proposed transferee must submit a for-hire vehicle or taxicab license application according to the standards set forth in SMC Section 6.310.300. The standards for denial set forth in SMC Section 6.310.310 apply to proposed transfers. Transfers shall not become effective, and the proposed transferee may not operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, until the proposed transferee receives the taxicab or for-hire vehicle license.

Section 9. Section 6.310.350 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.350 Taxicab and for-hire vehicle--License expiration and renewal.

A. All taxicab and for-hire licenses for the 2004 - 2005 license period shall expire on ((August 31st of the year following issuance of the license)) August 31, 2005. For the 2005 - 2006 license period and subsequent license year periods, all taxicab and for-hire licenses will expire on June 30 of the year following issuance of the license.

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

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

Section 10. Section 6.310.400 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.400 For-hire driver's license application.

A. For an initial for-hire driver's license and annually thereafter, ((A)) a for-hire driver must complete, sign, swear to and file with the Director a for-hire driver's license application on forms provided by the Director to include the following information:

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

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

3. 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;

4. Proof 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. Statement of applicant listing all reportable accidents and all moving violations the applicant was involved in during the previous three (3) years;

and

((8))9. 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 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 ridden with a trainer designated by the association in a taxicab for at least three (3) full shifts including at least one (1) night shift and successfully completed a ((one (1) week)) four (4) day ((association)) training program provided by the taxicab association, 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))a. Received classroom instruction in the region's geography, important structures and sites of interest;

b. Received instruction in the proper use of the radio, taximeter, and computer (if applicable) and how to complete a trip sheet and safety checklist; and

c. Received at least one (1) hour of instruction on risk factors for crimes against for-hire drivers, emergency procedures, and equipment installed in taxicabs for the driver's personal safety.

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.

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

Section 11. Section 6.310.415 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.415 For-hire driver training program.

A. All initial for-hire driver applicants must have successfully completed, prior to taking the written examination, no earlier than six (6) months before submitting the application, a training program approved by the Director that provides information about the history and geography of the Seattle and Puget Sound area, ((incentives for)) defensive driving, use of emergency procedures and equipment for the driver's ((and)) personal 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 ((denial of license)).

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

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

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

C. A for-hire driver must complete a separate training session and written test on for-hire driver personal safety within three (3) months from the date of issuance of the initial license. The Director shall set forth the requirements of the training program by rule ((suspension)).

D. A for-hire driver who operates a wheelchair accessible taxicab must successfully complete a separate training program for the special needs of passengers in wheelchairs, including but not limited to, loading and tie-down procedures and door-to-door service as prescribed in rule by the Director (Class C).

Section 12. Section 6.310.420 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.420 For-hire driver written and oral examination.

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((;)); and

5. Knowledge of risk factors for crimes against for-hire drivers, emergency procedures, and taxicab equipment for driver's personal safety.

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, including the initial and periodic for-hire driver written safety test, 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 13. Section 6.310.425 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.425 For-hire driver temporary permit.

A. Pending final action on a for-hire driver's license application, the Director may issue a temporary for-hire driver's license to an applicant who has filed a complete license application, meets the requirements of Section 6.310.400 A and B and has passed the written and oral examination per Section 6.310.420, except for the driver safety session required by Section 6.310.415 C. The temporary license is valid for a period not to exceed ((sixty (60))) one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of the application and shall not be extended or renewed. Only one (1) temporary license may be issued to the same person within any two (2) year time period.

B. The temporary license shall not be transferable or assignable and shall be valid only for operating the taxicab(s) or for-hire vehicle(s) specified by the Director on the license.

C. The temporary license shall become void immediately upon (1) suspension, revocation or expiration of the applicant's Washington State driver's license, (2) issuance of the for-hire driver's license, or (3) the Director's denial of the for-hire driver's license application, regardless whether the applicant appeals that denial.

Section 14. Section 6.310.450 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.450 For-hire driver operating standards.

A. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle without first obtaining and maintaining a valid for-hire driver's license (misdemeanor or 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 security camera, 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 (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).

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

I. A for-hire driver shall immediately notify the taxicab association when the for-hire driver has been the victim of a crime (Class A).

J. A for-hire driver operating a wheelchair accessible taxicab shall provide service to passengers in wheelchairs before any other passengers (Class B).

K. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab unless the digital camera is operating at all times while picking up, transporting, or dropping off passengers (Class B).

L. A for-hire driver shall accept credit cards for payment of fare when requested by passengers (Class A).

Section 15. Section 6.310.455 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.455 For-hire driver conduct standards.

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

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

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

D. A for-hire driver shall comply with any written notice of violation issued by the Director (suspension and Class B);

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

R. A for-hire driver shall not use a cell phone while a passenger is in the taxicab (Class B);

S. A for-hire driver shall not sub-lease a taxicab to another driver unless that driver has a valid for-hire driver license and the for-hire driver is currently affiliated with the taxicab association (suspension and Class B); and

T. A for-hire driver must notify the Director within three (3) working days of being involved, while operating a taxicab, in any vehicle accident that is required to be reported to the State of Washington (Class B).

Section 16. Section 6.310.460 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.460 For-hire driver taxicab meter/rates standards.

A. A for-hire driver shall not operate any taxicab that does not have a sealed taximeter in good working order (suspension and Class B).

B. A for-hire driver must activate the taximeter at the beginning of each paid trip, whether the fare is computed by the taximeter, contract or flat rate, and deactivate the taximeter upon completion of the trip. Beginning of a trip means the point where the passenger is seated, or materials stowed, and the forward motion of the vehicle begins. The taximeter shall not be engaged unless the taxicab is transporting passengers or materials for compensation (Class A).

C. A for-hire driver shall assure that the meter reading is visible from a normal passenger position at all times (Class A).

D. A for-hire driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that does not have the rate posted as prescribed by the Director (Class A).

E. A for-hire driver shall not ask, demand or collect any rate or fare other than as specified on the meter, required by ordinance, or pursuant to special rates or contract rates on file with the Director (Class B).

F. A for-hire driver shall complete daily trip sheets, as prescribed by the Director, and shall show all trips in an accurate and legible manner as each trip occurs. The driver's name, vehicle name and number, beginning odometer, and beginning time of the shift worked must be written on the trip sheet at the start of each shift before carrying passengers (Class A). Daily trip sheets shall also include the following information:

((1. Driver's name and for-hire license number;))

((2))1. ((Owner's)) Taxicab licensee's name and vehicle name and number;

((3))2. Vehicle for-hire license number;

((4))3. ((Beginning and e)) Ending odometer reading;

((5))4. ((Beginning and e)) Ending time of each shift worked;

((6))5. Date, time, place or origin, and dismissal of each trip;

((7))6. Fare collected;

((8))7. Number of passengers;

((9))8. No shows; and

((10))9. Contract rates or special rates (all Class A).

G. A for-hire driver shall allow the Director to inspect the daily trip sheet at any time, without notice (Class B).

H. A taxicab driver shall turn in completed trip sheets to the taxicab association at least weekly (Class A).

Section 17. Section 6.310.465 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.465 For-hire driver--Passenger relations standards.

I. A for-hire driver shall provide each passenger a receipt upon payment of the fare. The receipt shall accurately show the date and time, place of pickup and delivery, the amount of the 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)). If a receipt-issuing taximeter is installed, a printed receipt must be provided to the passenger upon payment of the fare (Class A each).

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

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

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

1. The for-hire driver has already been dispatched on another call;

2. The for-hire driver arrives at the place of pick-up and upon arrival the passenger is acting in a disorderly or threatening manner, or otherwise is acting in a manner that would cause (a) 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)); or

4. The passenger refuses to state a specific destination upon entering the taxicab (Class B).

M. 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 "nonsmoking" taxicab, no-smoking signs must be posted 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).

N. 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).

O. 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).

P. A for-hire driver shall not operate a wheelchair accessible taxicab unless the for-hire driver has successfully completed the special training requirements set forth in SMC 6.310.415 E (Class C and five (5) day suspension).

Section 18. Section 6.310.470 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.470 For-hire driver soliciting and cruising standards.

A. Taxicabs.

1. A for-hire driver may solicit passengers only from the driver's seat or standing immediately adjacent to the taxicab (within twelve (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).

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

4. A for-hire driver shall not park a taxicab and wait for walk up passengers in a marked passenger load zone, truck load zone, or charter bus zone. A for-hire driver may drop off passengers or pick up hailed trips in a passenger load zone except as provided by SMC 6.310.475 D and E (Class A).

B. For-hire Vehicles.

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

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

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

Section 19. Section 6.310.475 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.475 For-hire driver taxi zone standards.

A. A for-hire driver shall not leave the taxicab unattended in a taxicab zone for more than fifteen (15) minutes. Such vehicles will be impounded by order of the Director (Class A).

B. A for-hire driver shall occupy a taxicab zone only when available for hire (Class A).

C. A for-hire driver shall not perform engine maintenance or repairs on the taxicab while in a taxicab zone (Class A).

D. A for-hire driver cannot use a passenger load zone located within one hundred and fifty (150) feet from a taxicab zone designated by the Director, except for wheelchair accessible taxicabs. Notification of such zone designation will be sent to all taxicab associations 10 days prior to the effective date of the designation (Class B and suspended from using the taxicab zone for 14 days).

E. For hire-drivers cannot use a taxicab zone while under suspension from that taxicab zone (Class B and suspended from using the taxicab zone for 60 days).

Section 20. Section 6.310.500 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.500 Taxicabs--Maximum number.

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

B. The number of for-hire vehicle licenses in effect at any one (1) time shall not exceed two hundred (200). Except that if the State Legislature authorizes cities to regulate executive sedans and executive vans, as defined in RCW 46.04.274, then executive sedans and executive vans licensed by the Department of Licensing (DOL) on the authorization date, which meet City vehicle standards would also be allowed to obtain for-hire vehicle licenses.

C. The Director may, at the Director's discretion, issue wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses to special service vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons defined in KCC 6.64.010 or to handicapped persons as defined in SMC Section 6.310.110. These are non-transferable wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses and shall not be included in calculating the maximum number of taxicab licenses allowable pursuant to paragraph A of this section. The Director shall conduct a demonstration project to determine the economic feasibility of the long term issuance of such licenses and shall determine and set forth by rule whether such licenses shall be issued as temporary or permanent licenses.

D. If the Director determines that issuance of additional taxicab licenses is warranted, not to exceed the maximum allowable taxicab licenses issued pursuant to paragraph A of this section, such licenses will be issued pursuant to a competitive request for proposal and award process or lottery of qualified applicants, as prescribed in rule adopted by the Director.

Section 21. Section 6.310.510 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.510 Response times.

The Director shall establish a schedule of optimum average taxicab response times to requests for taxicab service at selected points within the City. The Director shall periodically thereafter survey actual taxicab response times. A comparison of average actual response times to the optimum average taxicab response times shall be used as an indicator of taxicab industry performance and may be used as one criterion in evaluating and recommending ((rate-and)) entry changes.

Section 22. Section 6.310.605 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.605 Monetary penalties and penalty points.

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

Violation Penalties Against a For-hire Driver, or ((Owner-of)) a Taxicab Licensee or For-hire Vehicle

For Each Violation

Penalty Points Attributed to Taxicab Association

For Each Violation

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

First Class A in one year ((20-60)) \$35.00 2

Second Class A in one year ((60-90)) \$70.00 3

Third or more Class A violation in one year ((90-60)) \$120.00 4 in one year

First Class B violation in one year ((60-90)) \$70.00 4 year

Second Class B violation ((150-90)) \$175.00 7 year

Third or more Class B violation ((250-90)) \$300.00 10 in one year

All Class C violations \$1,000.00 20

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

Failure to appear for inspection \$50 2 penalty points

scheduled by the Director (see Section 6.310.330 I and paragraph below)

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

Vehicle reinspection fee.

See fee schedule in Section 6.310.150

2 each violation

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

Vehicle reinspection 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.

Section 23. Section 6.310.635 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.635 Notice and hearing for denials, violations, suspensions and revocations.

A. For each violation, and for each denial, suspension or revocation, the Director shall give written notice to the affected licensee. If the affected licensee is a taxicab driver, the Director shall at the same time give written notice of violations to the taxicab ((owner)) licensee and the taxicab association. If the affected licensee is a taxicab ((owner)) licensee, the Director shall at the same time give written notice of violations to the taxicab association. All notices directed to a taxicab driver or taxicab ((owner)) licensee may be served by personal delivery to, or by first-class mail addressed to, the taxicab association.

B. Any notice of denial, violation, suspension or revocation, other than a summary suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 6.310.610 A, shall state that the driver, ((owner)) taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee, and/or taxicab association is entitled to a hearing to respond to the notice and introduce any evidence to refute or mitigate the violation. Upon written request, submitted by the person named on the violation, filed within ten (10) calendar days after the date of the notice of denial, violation, suspension or revocation, the Director shall set a hearing date and time to be held as soon as possible and not more than ((fourteen (14))) thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the request or the next business day after that if the thirtieth day falls on a weekend or holiday.

C. Any notice of summary suspension or revocation pursuant to Section 6.310.610 A and D1, shall state that the driver, taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee, and/or taxicab association is entitled to a hearing to respond to the notice and introduce any evidence to refute or mitigate the violation. Upon written request, submitted by the person named on the violation, filed within ten (10) calendar days after the date of the notice of the summary suspension or revocation, the Director shall set a hearing date and time to be held as soon as possible and not more than seven (7) calendar days from the date of the request or the next business day after that if the seventh day falls on a weekend or holiday. The Director shall render a decision affirming or reversing the summary suspension or revocation within three (3) business days after the conclusion of the hearing.

The decision of the Director is final if a monetary penalty is imposed or if timely appeal is not filed pursuant to subsection G. A taxicab license or for-hire driver license may be reinstated without a hearing if the violation was for failure to pay a monetary penalty within thirty (30) days, if the licensee pays the monetary penalty in full within ten (10) days of the date of license revocation and pays a license reinstatement fee. This authority to reinstate licenses without a hearing only applies if it is the first instance of failure to pay a monetary penalty in the calendar year.

(G)E. The hearing shall be held by the Director or the Director's designee, provided that the designee may not be a person who directly supervises the inspector who issued the notice of denial, violation, suspension or revocation.

(O)E. The hearing shall be informal, but shall be recorded by electronic means provided by the Director. Within twenty (20) days of the hearing, the Director shall issue a written ruling including factual findings and the Director's conclusion, with supporting reasons, affirming, modifying or reversing the notice. The decision shall be mailed by first class mail to each affected licensee at the address listed on the application; or in any supplemental materials. However, if the licensee is a taxicab ((owner)) licensee or taxicab driver, the decision shall be mailed by first class mail to the licensee at the address of the taxicab association.

((E. The decision of the Director is final if a monetary penalty only is imposed or if no timely appeal is filed pursuant to subsection F.))

(F)G. If the Director's decision imposes or affirms a denial, suspension or revocation, including summary suspension or revocation, any affected licensee may appeal the entire decision to the Hearing Examiner by filing a notice of appeal with the Hearing Examiner within ten (10) days after the date of mailing of the decision. Decisions of the Director imposing a monetary penalty only, pursuant to subsection D, shall not be appealable to the Hearing Examiner.

(G)H. If a timely notice of appeal is filed pursuant to subsection (F) G above, a hearing shall be scheduled and conducted by the Hearing Examiner according to the Hearing Examiner rules for contested cases. At the Hearing Examiner hearing, the Department shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the alleged violation occurred.

((H)I. The Hearing Examiner may affirm, modify or reverse the decisions of the Director.

Section 24. Section 6.310.700 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.700 ((Consumer)) Passenger complaint hotline.

The Director may establish, in conjunction with King County and the Port of Seattle, a shared ((consumer)) passenger complaint telephone number and complaint resolution process.

Section 25. Section 6.310.710 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

July - December... \$300
January - June (half year)... \$150
May 16 - June 30*
Replace taxicab plate.... ((\$10)) \$25
Special inspection fee (((SMC Chapter 7.04)))... ((30)) \$50/hour
(1/2 hour minimum)
((Vehicle reinspection fee (for Class A violations)... 20))

Inspection rescheduling fee (non-City licensed vehicles only)... ((20)) \$25
((Taxicab meter registration fee (SMC Chapter 7.04)... 5))

Taxicab change of association affiliation... ((50)) \$50

Vehicle re-inspection fee (for Class A violations)... \$25

Suspension reinstatement fee (when no penalty is assessed) or reinspection fee (for Class B violations)... ((50)) \$60

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 Section 6.310.605))

* No change of taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee fee is due if ((change of ownership)) the transfer occurs between ((takes place during)) July 16((th)) - Aug 31((st)), 2005 ((and is in conjunction with annual license renewal)). Effective January 1, 2006, no change of taxicab for-hire vehicle licensee fee is due if the transfer occurs between May 16 - June 30. During these periods, the change of taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee and the annual license renewal are accomplished together and only one fee will be assessed.

** For ((re))testing of taxicab meter or taxicab inspections provided to other municipalities.

C. For-hire driver license:

((For-hire)) Annual fee... ((\$55)) \$75****

Add/change affiliation***... \$20

Late fee.... ((10)) \$15

ID photo.... ((2)) \$5

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

Replacement license.... \$5

Training class fee.... As determined by Director

*** For-hire drivers may only be affiliated with a maximum of three (3) taxicab associations at any given time. This fee is only charged when the driver is affiliated with three (3) associations and now wants to delete one (1) 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. Section 6.310.230 of the Seattle Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows:

6.310.230 Taxicab association--Operating responsibilities.

((A-)) In addition to meeting the license application requirements set forth in Section 6.310.200, the taxicab association must:

((t))A. Maintain a business office that:

((a))1. Is open and personally staffed all business days between nine a.m. (9:00 a.m.) and five p.m. (5:00 p.m.) (Class A),

((b))2. Has a local Seattle business telephone number that is listed in the white and yellow pages of the telephone book and must be answered during all hours that affiliated taxicabs are operating (Class A),

((c))3. Has a mailing address where the taxicab association representative will accept mail (Class A),

((d))4. 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)) passenger 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 - each requirement),

((e))5. Provides secure storage for all items left in the taxicab by patrons and turned in by drivers of affiliated taxicabs (Class A), and

((f))6. Provides radio or computer dispatch during all hours that affiliated taxicabs are operating, and every request for service must

6.310.710 Passenger complaint process.

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 advising such person of the allegation(s) made in the complaint;

2. Require the for-hire vehicle licensee or the taxicab association 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 investigate the allegation(s) in the notice of complaint and the response submitted by the for-hire driver or vehicle owner; ((and))

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

5. Require the taxicab association to take the appropriate action to resolve the complaint which may include a written explanation, a written apology, reimbursement of any fare overcharges, mandatory driver retraining, suspension of driver, or any other reasonable action necessary to resolve the complaint with the passenger.

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, taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensee's ((owners)), 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.

C. Failure to comply with any Notice and Order issued as a result of the above process is a Class B violation.

Section 26. 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 22nd day of February, 2005, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 22nd day of February, 2005.

Jan Drago

President of the City Council

Approved by me this 2nd day of March, 2005.

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Filed by me this 2nd day of March, 2005.

(Seal) Judith Pippin

City Clerk

Publication ordered by JUDITH PIPPIN, City Clerk.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, March 7, 2005.

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