

**SUBJECT: TAXICAB ORDINANCE REVISION**

PREPARED BY: Kristie VanGorder, City Clerk *KV* DATE: November 4, 1999

FOR AGENDA OF: November 22, 1999

**SUMMARY:**

Over the past few years, we have found the taxicab business to be more prominent in our community. The police chief and clerk's office have worked together to attempt to come up with a streamlined process for the issuance of taxicab and chauffeur's permits.

The proposed ordinance allows for greater responsibility to the police chief in assisting the clerk's office in issuing taxicab and chauffeur's permits. At the time the taxicab ordinance was incorporated, the police department did not exist. The clerk's office relies a great deal on the police department to assist them in issuing these permits.

When reviewing the proposed ordinance, you will find we provided for greater clarity of the process. The changes to the code are as follows:

Taxicab permits:

- Requires the owner of a taxicab business to provide a copy of their criminal history background check and provides that a taxicab permit shall not be issued if the owner has been convicted of a felony as stated in WMC 14.30.060.
- Allows for a three-day waiting period prior to a permit being issued to allow for a more comprehensive review of the applicant by the police department.
- Under the vehicle inspection section, it is added to allow the police chief to inspect vehicles or to designate automotive shops to inspect the vehicle. The police chief is also allowed to perform spot checks and if damage to a vehicle occurs, the police chief must be notified.
- Allows the taxicab permit a grace period for renewal.
- The renewal fee of \$45 for each taxicab permit is eliminated. The annual fee a taxicab permit is \$75, the same as the current initial fee.

Chauffeur permits:

- If an applicant has been convicted of a felony involving a sex crime, a permit shall not be issued.
- Allows for a three-day waiting period prior to a permit being issued to allow for a more comprehensive review of the applicant by the police department.
- Eliminates the need for fingerprints and a physician's certificate.
- Requires operators that lease a taxicab with a business to obtain a city business license.

Presented to council on: 12/13/99  
 Action taken:  Approved  Denied  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Verified by: *KV*

- Permits will now expire twelve months after issuance, rather than the expiration date being based on a calendar year.
- A suspension, revocation, and penalty section is added.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** \_\_No \_\_Yes, amount requested: \$

Fund:

**CLERK'S OFFICE RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Introduce the proposed ordinance and set for public hearing.

Administration Initial: SP