

ORDINANCE

2024-12-12-0998

AMENDING CHAPTER 33 OF THE CITY CODE OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ARTICLE IV (EQUINE-DRAWN CARRIAGES), TO ESTABLISH THE NUMBER OF PERMITS, PROVIDE FOR REVOCATION OF PERMITS BASED ON UNAUTHORIZED CARRIAGES, ESTABLISH THE HOURS OF OPERATION, PROVIDE FOR A RESTRICTION ON LICENSING, AND REPEAL SECTION 33-414; REPEALING ARTICLE IV EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2030 AND PROHIBITING EQUINE-DRAWN CARRIAGES AS VEHICLES FOR HIRE; AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 19, SECTION 19-6 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2030 TO REGULATE EQUINE-DRAWN CARRIAGES IN THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO; AND, AMENDING ARTICLE I (GENERAL PROVISIONS), TO INCLUDE MOTORBIKE SIDECAR SERVICE AND DELETE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES.

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WHEREAS, City Council has determined that the continued operation of Equine-Drawn Carriages is not in the best interests of the City of San Antonio, and that their operation should be phased out in five-years; and

WHEREAS, Motorbike Sidecars were permitted by City Ordinance on November 3, 2022 but several references were not included in Chapter 33 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas; and

WHEREAS, in order to accomplish such revisions, it is necessary to modify City Code Chapter 33, Vehicles for Hire, in Articles I, and IV, and City Code Chapter 19, Section 19-6; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. City Code Chapter 33, Articles I, and IV are hereby amended as stated below, with strikethroughs indicating deletions and underlines indicating additions;

A. Article I

1. Sec. 33.003. Definitions

Ground transportation service shall mean a service which utilizes or connects individuals with vehicles for hire in the transportation of passengers from within the city and which includes, but is not limited to, equine-drawn carriage service, group cycle service, limousine service, pedicab service, tour service, charter service, taxicab service, and motorbike sidecar service ~~transportation network companies~~.

RPPD - SI - SI - #503

2. Sec. 33.062(c). General safety requirements and inspections

The director shall inspect pedicabs, group cycles, motorbike sidecars, and equine-drawn carriages yearly, in accordance with established inspection guidelines and standards of the city, before such vehicle is placed in service, and upon passage of any such inspection, the director shall affix to the vehicle for hire a vehicle permit. The director may inspect a vehicle for hire at any other time which the director determines to be reasonable and necessary for enforcement of compliance with the provisions of this chapter and all other applicable rules, regulations, and laws.

B. Article IV

1. Sec. 33-411. Number of carriages

- (a) ~~The director shall set the total number of carriage permits shall be 25 carriages that may be issued to holders collectively. The director shall establish said total number as a rule or regulation in accordance with Secs. 33-004 and 33-005 of this chapter. Beginning December 12, 2024, existing carriage permits may be renewed subject to the prohibition of the operation of such carriages on January 1, 2030, but no permits for new carriages may be issued.~~

~~A holder shall operate the holder's carriage service with the maximum number of carriages as set forth and approved in the permit agreement.~~

- (b) The director shall issue medallions that identify each carriage authorized in the annual permit. When in operation, a holder shall require that each carriage used in the operation of a carriage service shall display its medallion in a location specified by the director.
- (c) A carriage companies that the director determines is operating more carriages than authorized in the permit agreement, shall have ~~all permits suspended for seven calendar days~~ the number of permits equal to unauthorized carriages revoked.
- (e)(d) Medallions shall mean an identification plate created by the director to identify the quantity of carriages in operations. Replacement of the lost, damaged, or stolen medallions shall be at the owner's expense.

2. Sec. 33-431(a). Hours of operation

- (a) ~~The director shall establish the hours during which a driver may operate a carriage as a rule or regulation in accordance with Secs. 33-004 and 33-005 of this chapter.~~

Carriages shall only operate during the following times for the following periods:

December 12, 2024 – May 31, 2027

Monday – Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 2:00 am

Saturday – Sunday: 10:00 am to 2:00 am

City Holidays: 10:00 am to 2:00 am

June 1, 2027 – May 31, 2028

Monday – Friday: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm to 2:00 am

Saturday – Sunday: 2:00 pm to 2:00 am

City Holidays: 2:00 pm to 2:00 am

June 1, 2028 – December 31, 2029

Monday – Friday: 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm to 12:00 am

Saturday – Sunday: 5:00 pm to 2:00 am

City Holidays: 5:00 pm to 2:00 am

3. 33-461(b). Equine license required
- (b) Equines used in the operation of a carriage shall be licensed by the Animal Care Services Department of the City of San Antonio and shall be made available for inspection by the city at all reasonable times with or without prior notice. Animal Care Services Department shall not issue a license to any horse that has not been licensed prior to December 12, 2024.

4. Sec. 33-462(e)(1). Care of Equine
- (e) Holders and drivers shall ensure that an equine does not work more than eight (8) hours in a twenty-four-hour period without allowing an equine at least a sixteen (16) continuous hour rest period. Holders shall keep a current log provided by animal care services in each stable showing each equine's use.

(1) A shift shall be considered the same as the carriage operating hours.

~~Monday – Friday: Morning shift: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm~~

~~Evening shift: 6:00 pm to 2:00 am~~

~~Saturday – Sunday: Morning shift: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm~~

~~Evening shift: 6:00 pm to 2:00 am~~

~~Holiday: Morning shift: 10:00 am to 6:00 pm~~

~~Evening shift: 6:00 pm to 2:00 am~~

5. Sec. 33-414. Available permit distribution: repealed, to be marked as “Reserved.”

SECTION 2. Effective January 1, 2030, City Code Chapter 33, Article IV is repealed to be marked as “Reserved”; Equine Drawn Carriages are not allowed as Vehicles for Hire. The Rules and Regulations enacted pursuant to Article IV are repealed.

1. Article I, Sections 33-003 Definitions, Ground Transportation Service, is amended as follows:

Ground transportation service shall mean a service which utilizes or connects individuals with vehicles for hire in the transportation of passengers from within the city and which includes, but is not limited to, ~~equine drawn carriage service,~~ group cycle service, limousine service, pedicab service, tour service, charter service, taxicab service and motorbike sidecar service ~~transportation network companies.~~

2. Article I, Section 33-062(c), General safety requirements and inspections, is amended as follows:

(c) The director shall inspect pedicabs, motorbike sidecars, and group cycles ~~and equine drawn carriages~~ yearly, in accordance with established inspection guidelines and standards of the city, before such vehicle is placed in service, and upon passage of any such inspection, the director shall affix to the vehicle for hire a vehicle permit. The director may inspect a vehicle for hire at any other time which the director determines to be reasonable and necessary for enforcement of compliance with the provisions of this chapter and all other applicable rules, regulations, and laws.

3. Article I, Section 33-006(a), Operating permit required, is amended as follows:

(a) A person shall not knowingly operate, allow to be operated, or cause to be operated, a ground transportation service as defined in section 33-003 of this chapter, or any other service providing or related to ground transportation service, without a current and valid operating permit issued under this chapter, nor shall a person transport a passenger for hire from within the city unless the person driving the vehicle for hire or another who employs or contracts with said driver has a current and valid operating permit under this chapter. Equine-drawn carriages are prohibited as vehicles for hire.

SECTION 3. Effective January 1, 2030, City Code, Chapter 19, Sec. 19-6. Persons propelling pushcarts or riding animals to obey traffic regulations, is amended as follows:

Sec. 19-6. - Persons propelling pushcarts or riding animals to obey traffic regulations; use of equine-drawn carriages is restricted.

Every person propelling any pushcart, or riding an animal upon a roadway, and every person driving any animal-drawn vehicle, shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter, except those provisions which by their very nature can have no applications. Equine-drawn carriages are prohibited in the City of San Antonio unless approved by the City for use such as in a parade or livestock exhibition.

SECTION 4. The remainder of City Code Chapter 33 shall remain in full force and effect, save and except as amended by this Ordinance.

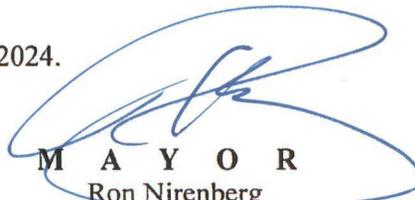
SECTION 5. Should any portion of this Ordinance, for any reason be held illegal, inoperative, invalid, unconstitutional, or ineffective, the remainder shall, nevertheless, stand effective and valid as if it had been enacted or ordained without the portion held to be illegal, inoperative, invalid, unconstitutional, or ineffective.

SECTION 6. The publishers of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas are authorized to amend said Code to reflect the changes adopted herein and to correct typographical errors and to format and number paragraphs to conform to the existing Code.

SECTION 7. The City Clerk of the City of San Antonio is hereby directed to publish notice of this Ordinance as required by Section 17 of the Charter of the City of San Antonio and the laws of the State of Texas.

SECTION 8. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage by eight affirmative votes; otherwise it shall be effective on the tenth day after passage hereof.

PASSED and APPROVED this 12th day of December, 2024.


M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:


Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Andrew Segovia, City Attorney



**City of San Antonio
City Council Meeting
December 12, 2024**

2024-12-12-0998

3. Ordinance approving a three-year plan to phase out the use of horses with horse-drawn carriages in San Antonio, including the abolishment of ordinance(s) and policies as they relate to Chapter 33 permitting equine drawn carriages. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; Chief William McManus, Director, Police Department]

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Kaur seconded the motion The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: Castillo, Nirenberg, Kaur, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Rocha Garcia, Cabello
Havrda, Alderete Gavito, Courage, Whyte

Abstain: Pelaez