



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 18

Agenda Date: November 3, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Police Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: William McManus, Chief of Police

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Amending Chapter 33 “Vehicles for Hire” of the City Code

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes amendments to Chapter 33, Vehicle-for-Hire Ordinance of the City Code. The proposed amendments primarily impact the taxicab industry. These amendments change specific requirements relating to taxicabs and adjust taxicab industry rates, create two new industry categories, and update language of the City Code.

The Transportation and Mobility Committee was brief on September 20, 2022 and forwarded this item to City Council for consideration.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Taxicab Requirements and Rates

On September 20, 2022, staff presented amendments and additions to Chapter 33 “Vehicles for Hire” of the City Code, as recommended by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), to the Transportation and Mobility Committee. The Committee approved and forwarded these amendments and additions for full City Council consideration.

Taxicab Requirements and Rates:

Amendments to Chapter 33 related to the taxicab industry to include:

1. Sec. 33.034 and Sec. 33-930: Increase the time from 90 days to 180 days for companies to replace or add a new taxicab.
2. Sec. 33-018: Require only permitted in-service taxicabs be commercially insured. Out of service or vehicles being repaired would not be required to maintain commercial insurance. The permits of vehicles not commercially insured would be returned to the City.
3. Sec. 33-929: Remove the requirement of the Taxicab Permit Allocation Committee to process taxicab permits. This will allow taxicab companies, like other VFH industries, to apply for and be issued permits on an as needed basis.
4. Sec. 33-981: Remove the two Taxicab Fuel Surcharge adjustment per year limitation to allow for unlimited adjustments if the average fuel price increases or decreases by \$0.25 per gallon.
5. Sec 33-928: Extend the maximum taxicab vehicle age from 12 years to 15 years.

Increase the following taxicab rates that have not been increased since October 2011.

Rate	Current Rate	Recommended Rate
Drop Rate - Day (Fee to enter a taxicab)	\$2.50	\$3.50
Drop Rate - Night (7:00 pm – 7:00 am)	\$3.50	\$3.50 (No Change)
Per Mile	\$2.35	\$2.70
Wait/Traffic Delay	\$24.00 per hour	\$27.00 per hour
Downtown Minimum	\$5.00	\$10.00
Airport Minimum	\$10.50	\$20.00
Additional passengers over 4 (Taxicabs may only carry a maximum of 6 passengers)	none	\$2.00 fee for each additional passenger

Addition of Two New VFH Industries

Electric Vehicles for Hire (EVH) will be a new VFH industry in San Antonio. These all-electric vehicles have a maximum speed of 45 mph. EVH are required to meet all federal and state motor vehicle requirements to be permitted by the City. EVHs may only operate on roads with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or lower and will charge a flat rate in the downtown area. This industry will provide the City with an environmentally friendly ground transportation option.

This ordinance will approve an operating fee schedule for Electric Vehicles-for-Hire that is the same as the taxicab operating fee schedule.

Motorbike Side Cars are combustion or electric motorbikes/scooters with a sidecar attached that will be a new VFH industry. The vehicles must meet all federal and state motor vehicle requirements and will have only one passenger driven by a permitted driver. For example, they

will provide tours of the downtown area, Pearl district and Blue Star area.

This ordinance will approve an operating fee schedule for Motorbike Sidecars that is the same as the Group Cycle operating fee schedule

City Code Update

This ordinance will approve the removal of the requirement to advertise group cycle permits and allow them to be issued upon request, like all other industries.

This ordinance will remove all references to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), or app based VFHs like Uber and Lyft. All TNCs are regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations. The City has no jurisdiction over TNCs. .

ISSUE:

Amendments to Chapter 33 of the City Code to change specific requirements relating to taxicabs and increase taxicab rates to provide relief to the taxicab industry. In addition, the amendments would provide flexibility to specific requirements, create two new VFH industries and update language of the City Code.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative to the proposed amendments is the status quo.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The addition of two new industries, electric vehicle for hire and motorbike sidecars for hire, will generate approximately \$2,627.00 annually in new fees. This revenue will be deposited in the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends amending Chapter 33 of the City Code relating to taxicabs and adjusting taxicab rates, the addition of Electric Vehicles and Motorbike Side Cars as new VFH industries and updating the language of the City Code.