

Memorandum



Date: September 19, 2013

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Commission Directive Relating to the Limousine and Taxicab Advisory Groups

On July 3, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. R-599-12. This Resolution directed the Mayor to provide the votes taken and the meeting minutes of the Taxicab Advisory and Limousine Advisory Group on a quarterly basis and, where the votes taken or minutes of these Advisory Groups relate to pending legislation, to submit such information as soon as practicable in order to allow full consideration by the County Commission or Committee of relevant jurisdiction.

The following information is submitted in compliance with the Board's request in anticipation of the September 24, 2013 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Legistar # 131012

ORDINANCE RELATING TO FOR-HIRE VEHICLES; AMENDING CHAPTER 31, ARTICLE II, OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO TAXICABS; MANDATING THAT TAXICABS THAT TRANSPORT PERSONS AND THEIR BAGGAGE FROM MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORTMIAMI BE EQUIPPED WITH CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SYSTEMS WITHIN SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SYSTEMS AND PROVIDERS; EMPOWERING DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO APPROVE CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SYSTEMS; REQUIRING COUNTY COMMISSION TO AMEND TAXICAB FARES TO INCLUDE DISCOUNT FOR PAYMENT BY CASH, CHECK OR OTHER MEANS NOT INVOLVING THE USE OF A CREDIT CARD WITHIN SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD; AMENDING CHAPTER 8CC OF THE CODE TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The Taxicab Advisory Group at their July 23, 2013 quarterly meeting had considerable discussion on the proposed ordinance from both TAG members and those in the audience. Members expressed concern that the credit card requirement should be imposed on all taxicabs providing service throughout Miami-Dade County. The TAG proffered a motion to support the proposed ordinance but recommended it apply Countywide. The vote carried 9-0. TAG's official meeting minutes will not be approved until their next scheduled quarterly meeting.

Legistar # 131217

ORDINANCE RELATING TO VEHICLES FOR HIRE; AMENDING CHAPTER 31, ARTICLE VI OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGULATING FOR-HIRE LIMOUSINES; AMENDING DEFINITIONS OF CSD, LIMOUSINE, LUXURY LIMOUSINE SEDAN AND PRE-ARRANGED, AND DEFINING DIGITAL DISPATCH SOFTWARE AND DIGITAL DISPATCH SOFTWARE PROVIDER; REQUIRING DIGITAL DISPATCH SOFTWARE PROVIDERS TO OBTAIN A

BUSINESS LICENSE; ELIMINATING REQUIREMENT THAT LIMOUSINES SHALL BE SOLELY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE FOR-HIRE LICENSE HOLDER; AMENDING PROHIBITIONS REGARDING THE ADVERTISEMENT OF LIMOUSINE SERVICES; PROVIDING THAT LUXURY LIMOUSINE SEDAN LICENSE HOLDERS MAY OPERATE MORE THAN ONE VEHICLE PER

LICENSE; ELIMINATING LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF LUXURY LIMOUSINE SEDAN FOR-HIRE LICENSES THAT MAY BE ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR; PROVIDING THAT LIMOUSINE LICENSE HOLDERS OR DIGITAL DISPATCH SOFTWARE PROVIDERS SHALL DETERMINE LIMOUSINE RATES; AMENDING VEHICLE AGE REQUIREMENTS; ELIMINATING REQUIREMENT FOR MINIMUM LIMOUSINE RATES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The Taxicab Advisory Group on July 23, 2013 also had considerable discussion on the proposed ordinance from both TAG members and those in the audience. TAG Members proffered a motion to oppose the proposed ordinance. The TAG vote carried 5-1; with 2 members abstaining. Official meeting minutes have not been approved by the Taxicab Advisory Group.

The Limousine Advisory Group (LAG) held their quarterly meeting on August 6, 2013. LAG Members and audience participants had a prolonged discussion regarding the above ordinance. An Uber Miami Representative in attendance was provided the opportunity to address some of LAG's concerns raised at this meeting. The Uber Miami Representative explained the various amendments proposed. Discussion ensued as to the potential fiscal impacts to the limousine industry. LAG members agreed to schedule a special meeting to further discuss this proposed ordinance. Official meeting minutes for the August 6, 2013 meeting will not be approved by the LAG until their scheduled October quarterly meeting.

On August 20, 2013 a special Limousine Advisory Group meeting was convened. Upon closure of their discussion a vote was taken. LAG members proffered a motion to oppose the proposed ordinance. The vote carried 4-1; and, 1 member abstained. Official meeting minutes for the August 20, 2013 meeting will not be approved by the LAG until their scheduled October quarterly meeting.

Legistar #131673

ORDINANCE RELATING TO VEHICLES FOR HIRE; AMENDING CHAPTER 31, ARTICLES II AND V OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGULATING FOR-HIRE TAXICABS; AMENDING DEFINITIONS OF FARES OR RATES AND RATE CARD; INCREASING PENALTIES WHERE CHAUFFEUR COLLECTS OR CHANGES FARES OR RATES OTHER THAN ESTABLISHED FARES OR RATES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

On September 10, 2013 a special meeting of the Taxicab Advisory Group was convened at the request of Commissioner Moss. TAG members as well as audience participants, discussed the above ordinance. TAG proffered a motion in support of the proposed ordinance in its entirety. The TAG vote carried 8-0. TAG's official meeting minutes will not be approved until their next scheduled quarterly meeting.

Legistar #131692

ORDINANCE RELATING TO FOR-HIRE MOTOR VEHICLES; AMENDING CHAPTER 31 OF THE CODE OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING TAXICABS THAT TRANSPORT PERSONS AND THEIR BAGGAGE FROM MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE PORT OF MIAMI AS AMBASSADOR CABS; ESTABLISHING SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AMBASSADOR CABS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SYSTEMS, GLOBAL POSITIONING DISPATCH SYSTEMS, AND SUNPASS DEVICES; AMENDING VEHICLE AGE REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS; ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CHAUFFEURS OPERATING AMBASSADOR CABS; ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SYSTEMS AND PROVIDERS; EMPOWERING DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO APPROVE CREDIT CARD PROCESSING SYSTEMS; PROVIDING PRIORITY ACCESS TO AIRPORT AND SEAPORT TERMINALS FOR ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES; AMENDING CHAPTER 8CC OF THE CODE TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE CODE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

At this special TAG meeting there also was extensive discussion on the above proposed ordinance. TAG dissected the proposed ordinance in the following manner below:

1. **Credit Card Processing System.** TAG proffered a motion to support extraction of the proposed ordinance credit card language above. TAG further supported replacing the language with the language as written in Commissioner Zapata's ordinance (Legistar #131012). By doing that it would mandate not only credit card processing systems for taxicabs serving Miami International Airport and the Port of Miami and add credit card system Countywide. The vote carried 7-1.
2. **Vehicle Age Requirements and Standards (for regular and wheelchair taxicabs).** TAG proffered a motion recommending elimination of the language relating to the vehicle age limits and restriction on the use of police vehicles. TAG supported keeping prohibition on the use of taxicab vehicles with a "rebuilt" or "savage" title. During the discussions above TAG members also discussed the section of the proposed ordinance that allowed alternative fuel vehicles to have priority access to pick-up passengers at Miami International Airport and the Port of Miami terminals. There was a general consensus that this issue needed further discussion and should not be part of the Ambassador Cabs program. The vote carried 4-3.
3. **Taxicab Chauffeurs – Additional Requirements.** TAG members proffered a motion to support the additional chauffeur requirements but recommended that all active taxicab chauffeurs be eligible for the Ambassador Cabs Program upon the effective date of the ordinance. The vote carried 7-0.

4. **Dress Code.** TAG members proffered a motion to support the stipulated dress code requiring chauffeurs, without exception, shall wear a collared shirt, dark trousers or skirts and closed shoes. The vote carried 7-0.
5. **Opening Doors.** TAG members proffered a motion to support a requirement that all chauffeurs of Ambassador Cabs shall open doors for passengers. The vote carried 7-0.
6. **Luggage Loading and Unloading.** TAG members proffered a motion to support a requirement that chauffeurs of Ambassador Cabs shall load and unload luggage, unless otherwise instructed by the passenger. The vote carried 7-0.
7. **Taxicab Technology and Safety Improvements.** TAG members proffered a motion in support of all taxicab technology enhancements to include the Global Positioning Dispatch System and security cameras but recommends replacing mobile two-way radio dispatch system with a two-way communication system. The vote carried 7-0.
8. **Top Lights.** TAG members proffered a motion to support proposed new requirements for taxicab top lights. The vote carried 7-0.

Should you have further inquiries or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact myself or For-Hire Transportation Division Chief Joe Mora at 305 375-4578.

c: Jack Osterholt, Deputy Mayor/Director, Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources
Joe Mora, For-Hire Transportation Division Chief, Business Affairs Division, Department of
Regulatory and Economic Resources