

Staff Report - Department of Safety and Inspections

Taxicab Ordinance Changes

Update the Saint Paul Taxicab Ordinance (Chapter 376) to reflect the current state of the for-hire small vehicle passenger service industry.

Background

In January 2015, the City of Saint Paul adopted a new ordinance pertaining to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). At that time the taxicab industry was assured that after the ordinance was in effect, current taxicab ordinances would be evaluated.

Beginning in June 2015, a series of three (3) stakeholder meetings were held to gather input and identify proposed ordinance changes. Discussion focused on creating a regulatory framework to produce a more level playing field for Taxicabs and TNCs while ensuring continued protection of public health and safety. The current taxicab regulatory framework was evaluated and local and regional research was also completed.

Taxicab Service Company License

In order to accommodate some of the proposed ordinance changes and more effectively address industry-expressed concerns regarding non-licensed operators, the establishment of a Taxicab Service Company license is necessary. This license will serve as a regulatory tool to enable service companies to become more self-sufficient and provide DSI control to ensure ordinance requirements are met. DSI recommends the fee for this license be \$400.00.

Recommended Ordinance Changes Proposed by Stakeholder Group

- Allow licensed service companies to administer required driver training program.
- Increase the maximum allowable vehicle age from 5 years to 10 years.
- Eliminate driver physical examination requirement.
- Allow digital taxicab meters to calculate fares.
- Allow digital trip sheet logs.

Non-recommended Ordinance Changes Proposed by Stakeholder Group

- Allow taxicab service companies to administer required mechanical vehicle inspections.
- Increase minimum fare.
- Require drug testing.
- Create incentives for use of accessible taxicab vehicles.

Recommendation

City Council approval of the Taxicab Ordinance (Chapter 376) as amended.