



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Regulatory Services

Date: November 28, 2011

To: Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, Chair – Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee

Subject: Taxicab Ordinance Amendments to Chapter 341, Sections I and IA

Recommendation: That the Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee approve amending the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances Chapter 341, Section I related to General Provisions and Section IA related to Taxicab Driver Conduct.

Previous Directives: None

Department Information

Prepared by: Patrick Hilden, District Supervisor, Licenses and Consumer Services,
(612) 673-3317

Approved by:

Henry Reimer, Interim Director of Regulatory Services

Dana Banwer, Director of Licensing & Environmental Services

Grant Wilson, Manager of Business Licenses

Presenters in Committee: Patrick Hilden

Financial Impact

- No financial impact

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification: Public hearing notices were sent to all taxi service companies with instructions to post for drivers; all neighborhood organizations and business associations, Meet Minneapolis, and the DID; and posted on the Business Licenses public website and the city's cable channel.
- City Goals: A City that Works - 21st century government: collaborative, efficient and reform-minded

Supporting Information

The Licenses and Consumer Services Division regulates approximately 782 taxi vehicles, 1465 drivers, and 28 service companies in Minneapolis. Our goal, on behalf of the City, is to provide an adequate supply of safe, affordable, and reliable taxi services to residents and visitors. Our regulatory priorities include:

- Competent drivers
- Uncompromised vehicle safety standards
- Superior passenger experience
- Universal accessibility
- Environmentally friendly fleets

Chapter 341 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances is dedicated to taxi regulation. The proposed amendments to Section I, Generally and Section IA, Taxicab Driver Conduct, represent the first phase of a comprehensive update to Chapter 341.

Staff conducted research and collaboratively met nine times with taxicab industry representatives for over a year to develop state of the industry ordinance language. In addition to aligning definitions in Section I with state statute language, issues addressed in Section IA include the following:

- Professional dress code
- Vehicle inspection logs and trip sheets
- Lost articles
- Service to passengers who use wheelchairs
- Taxicab stands
- Prohibited acts including cell phone use while driving
- Courtesy, maps and change for fares.

The purpose of these updates address driver responsibilities and safety for both drivers and passengers.