

2011-Or-____

**AN ORDINANCE
of the
CITY OF
MINNEAPOLIS**

By Glidden

**Amending Title 13, Chapter 341 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances
relating to Licenses and Business Regulations: Taxicabs.**

The City Council of the City of Minneapolis do ordain as follows:

Section 1. That Section 341.10 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.10. Definitions. Whenever used in this chapter the following words shall mean:

Central business district: The geographic area bounded by and including the Mississippi River southeasterly to Interstate 35; Interstate 35 southerly to Interstate 94; Interstate 94 westerly and northerly to Glenwood Avenue; Glenwood Avenue easterly to North Ninth Street; North Ninth Street northerly to Second Avenue North, and Second Avenue North to the Mississippi River.

Committee: The committee of the city council to which responsibility for licensing and consumer services may be assigned.

Department: The department of the city responsible for licensing and consumer services.

Director: The director of the department of licenses and consumer services and his or her designee.

Limousine: ~~A plain painted, unmarked motor vehicle which carries passengers for hire, driven by a uniformed chauffeur, subject to call only from its own garage or central place of business, and which charges its customers a flat rate by the trip or by the hour, day or longer period of time, where such rate is greater than the taximeter rate for a comparable trip~~ A luxury passenger automobile with a seating capacity for not more than twelve (12) people, excluding the driver, which does not have a meter, and has a chassis and wheelbase that has been stretched, or is a sedan that the manufacturer promotes as a luxury automobile. A limousine does not include a bus, a pickup truck, station wagon, taxicab, truck, van, multipurpose vehicle, or sport utility vehicle.

Limousine service: A service that is for-hire, is provided in a limousine, is not provided on a regular route, provides only prearranged pickup and charges more than a taxicab for a comparable trip.

Motor carrier of passengers: A person engaged in the for-hire transportation of passengers in vehicles designed to transport eight (8) or more persons, including the driver.

Service company: The company which, for each group of taxicab owners operating under a common color scheme, provides common services and facilities such as radio dispatching, color rights, advertising, telephone listings, maintenance, insurance, credit accounts, driver assignments, and record keeping.

Seven-county metropolitan area: The counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington, within the State of Minnesota.

Taxi driver's license: A license granted in accordance with Article III of this chapter.

Taxicab: Any motor vehicle, except a limousine or motor carrier of passengers, regularly engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire, having a seating capacity of ~~less than ten (10) persons~~ seven (7) or fewer persons including the driver and not operated on a fixed route or schedule.

Taxicab license: A license granted in accordance with Article IV of this chapter.

Taximeter: An instrument or device attached to a vehicle and designed to measure mechanically the distance traveled by such vehicle, to record the time said vehicle travels or is in waiting and to indicate upon such record the fare to be charged.

Wheelchair accessible taxicab: A motor vehicle for hire of a distinctive color or colors operated at rates per mile or upon a waiting-time basis, or both, which is a minivan or similar vehicle specially adapted for wheelchair users, which is also equipped with a taximeter, and which prioritizes requests for service from wheelchair users for purposes of transportation over and along the public streets, not over a defined route but, as to the route and destination, in accordance with and under the direction of the passenger or person hiring such vehicle.

Section 2. That Section 341.30 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.30. Display of rates in cabs. There shall be conspicuously placed in every taxicab licensed for the conveyance of passengers for hire in such manner as to be easily read by any person riding in the same, a card furnished by the department, which shall be plainly visible to passengers and shall bear the name of the ~~owners~~ service

company, number of taxicab, rate of fare and telephone number of the city taxicab inspector and the 311 call center which may be used to report any complaints. Such card shall be clearly displayed at a location within the cab, approved by the inspector, where it may be easily read by any passenger. The owner, driver, licensee or other person in charge of any taxicab shall not demand or be entitled to receive any pay for the conveyance of any passengers unless said card bearing the maximum rates of fare shall be conspicuously displayed as provided.

Section 3. That Section 341.100 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.100. Courtesy. A taxicab driver shall at all times be courteous when dealing with the public or with any city employee authorized to administer or enforce taxicab regulations.

Section 4. That Section 341.120 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.120. Safe and legal operation. Every taxicab owner and driver shall operate his or her taxi in accordance with the laws, statutes, ordinances and regulations of the state and the city, and with due regard for the safety, convenience and comfort of passengers and the general public.

Section 5. That Section 341.130 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.130. Driver appearance. Every taxicab driver, while on duty, shall keep a clean and well-groomed appearance, and shall be suitably dressed. ~~Drivers shall be clean shaven, and hair shall be neatly trimmed. If a beard or mustache is worn, it shall be neatly trimmed.~~ "Suitably dressed" shall mean long trousers or slacks, pants, jeans or bermuda or postal-type shorts, a skirt or dress, a shirt or blouse with collar, or a turtleneck, and shoes and socks. Footwear shall be worn consisting of shoes and socks, or sandals with a band or strap that fastens over the instep or around the ankle.

The following articles of clothing, when worn as outer garments, are prohibited:

- (a1) T-shirts without a pocket or buttons, underwear, tank tops, swimwear, jogging suits, body shirts, shorts, cut-offs, trunks, or similar attire;
- (b2) Sandals Flip-flop style sandals and clogs.
- (c3) ~~By prior approval of the director, T-shirts may be worn as outer garments in conjunction with special attractions, and bermuda or post office type shorts may be authorized during periods of hot weather.~~ Any clothing items with holes, tears or prominent stains.

By prior approval of the director, T-shirts and sports jerseys and shirts may be worn as outer garments in conjunction with special attractions.

Section 6. That Section 341.140 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.140. Duty to inspect vehicle. Every taxicab driver prior to the beginning of each shift and at the end of each shift shall inspect the taxi vehicle to make sure that all equipment on the vehicle is operating properly and that there is no major body damage to the cab. An entry shall be made on the trip sheet or service company inspection form showing the date and times these inspections were conducted. All equipment defects or body damage shall immediately be reported to the owner and service company. No driver shall knowingly operate any taxi vehicle which is unsafe or ~~which has major body damage~~ not in compliance with section 341.590.

Section 7. That Section 341.160 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.160. Lost articles. Every taxicab driver shall inspect his or her vehicle after the departure of each passenger to ascertain that no article has been left behind. In the event that a passenger does leave an article in a cab, the driver shall immediately attempt to return it. If the driver is unable to immediately return the article, the dispatcher shall be notified and the article shall be turned in to the service company office not later than the end of the driver's shift. A taxicab driver or service company may not require or request a charge in exchange for the return of the article, except a driver may charge the legal rate of fare when requested to deliver the article to its owner. The taxicab owner and service company shall make a diligent effort to locate the owner of any lost article and shall retain the article at the service company officer for at least thirty (30) days and shall maintain a log with a description of each lost article inclusive of any identifying information.

Section 8. That Section 341.175 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.175. Duty to accept and convey wheelchair users. An operator of a taxicab must accept any passenger and convey any passenger where directed upon dispatch or request, unless the operator is previously engaged, the taxicab vehicle is incapable of providing the service or prohibited by this chapter to do so. Consistent with the practical operation thereof, taxicab service companies providing wheelchair accessible taxicabs shall grant priority to requests for service from wheelchair users. Upon a request for wheelchair accessible service, the service company shall immediately dispatch the first available wheelchair accessible taxicab prior to responding to a request for standard service. All requests for wheelchair accessible taxicab service shall be provided with no additional charge or deposit required.

Section 9. That Section 341.180 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.180. Payment of fares. A taxicab driver, when such notice is posted in the cab, may:

- (a~~1~~) Refuse to accept a personal check in payment of the fare;
- (b~~2~~) Refuse to provide more than twenty dollars (\$20.00) in change in return for payment of a fare.

Every driver shall, at all times, be able to provide up to twenty dollars (\$20.00) in change in return for payment of a fare. In the event that fare has accrued and a driver refuses to accept payment under the provisions of this section, the passenger shall be conveyed to the nearest place where acceptable payment may be obtained. Fare may be charged for all distances travelled in this pursuit, and for returning the passenger to his or her original destination.

Section 10. That Section 341.190 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.190. Use of safe mandatory; notice required. ~~Every taxicab driver shall at all times, deposit cash revenues into the drop or deposit safe~~ Taxicabs may be equipped with a drop or deposit safe, and no driver, while on duty, shall carry the keys for such safe. ~~The department shall furnish a notice of such requirement for posting in each licensed taxicab. No taxicab shall operate without such notice having been posted. A notice may be posted in the taxicab indicating that a safe is in use.~~

Section 11. That Section 341.200 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.200. Receipts for fares. Every taxicab driver shall, upon request of the person paying for the taxicab ride, provide a written receipt to that person. The receipt shall contain in legible type or writing the name of the ~~owner~~ service company, the number of the meter in case of an automatic receipt, or the ~~taxicab license~~ vehicle number in the case of a written receipt, the total amount paid and the date and time of payment. Every taxicab shall have displayed on the inside of the cab a printed card, in letters plainly visible to passengers seated in the taxicab, stating that such passengers, upon payment of the fare and upon request, shall be entitled to receive a receipt for the amount paid.

Section 12. That Chapter 341 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances be amended by adding thereto a new Section 341.225 to read as follows:

341.225. Unattended taxicab in taxicab stand. The driver of a taxicab occupying the first or second position in line at a taxicab stand shall remain in the

driver's seat ready to accept passengers at all times. The drivers of any other taxicabs lawfully located at such a taxicab stand shall not engage the drivers of the first two (2) vehicles and shall be no more than five (5) feet away from their taxicab vehicles at all times. All drivers shall remain readily available to accept passengers at all times while located at a taxicab stand. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a person from leaving the vehicle for the purpose of assisting a passenger into or out of the vehicle.

Section 13. That Section 341.230 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.230. Map required. Every taxicab driver shall carry in his or her taxicab at all times a current detailed street map of the seven-county metropolitan area and shall contact his or her dispatcher when in doubt of the most direct route. The map shall be required even if the vehicle is equipped with a global positioning system or similar electronic device.

Section 14. That Section 341.240 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.240. Trip sheets. At the start of each shift, each driver shall enter the following information onto the trip sheet required by this section: (1) date, (2) shift start time, (3) driver name, (4) vehicle number, (5) and a written affirmation that a vehicle inspection was completed in compliance with section 341.140. Every taxicab driver shall keep a trip sheet, current to the last run taken, upon which shall be noted the starting location ~~point~~ and time, and the ~~termination point~~ drop off location and time of each trip, the place of discharge of each passenger, the amount of the fare charged, whether upon the meter, flat rate or trip basis, the time reporting and going off duty, ~~and the driver's name and number.~~ Every taxicab driver shall also indicate on the trip sheet which runs included wheelchair accessible fares and shall indicate such fares with the letters "WC" by that run on the trip sheet. Such sheet shall be filed with and as part of the records of the taxicab vehicle licensee, and at the office of the service company with which the taxicab vehicle is associated. Trip sheets shall be filed not later than seventy-two (72) hours after the completion of the driver's shift, or immediately on demand of a police officer, traffic control officer or license inspector. The trip sheets shall be open to inspection by the chief of police, director, or their representatives at all times, and failure to so make and keep such trip sheets or the falsification of such trip sheets shall constitute a violation of this chapter and shall be cause for the revocation of the driver's taxicab license or, in the event such failure is by the vehicle licensee, shall be cause for the revocation of the taxicab license of such licensee. Each taxicab service company shall preserve trip sheets for a period of six (6) months, and submit upon request of the city council or department, any information contained in the driver's trip sheets, together with the true and correct information as to the orders or calls for taxicabs and the disposition of same. Service companies shall file trip sheets by cab number, chronologically. ~~On the first of each month, every taxicab service licensee shall provide to the department the number of runs each vehicle has made, in the preceding month, and how many of those runs included a wheelchair accessible fare.~~

Section 15. That Section 341.250 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.250. Prohibited acts. No taxicab driver shall:

- (a~~1~~) Operate a taxicab in violation of state or local traffic regulations, or in any event without proper regard for the traffic, surface, and width of the street or highway and the hazards at intersections and any other conditions then existing, nor in such a manner or condition as to endanger or to be likely to endanger the safety of passengers, pedestrians, vehicles or the persons and property of others;
- (b~~2~~) Interfere with, impede, obstruct the legal operation of, or intentionally damage any vehicle or its equipment;
- (c~~3~~) Threaten, abuse, insult, provoke, interfere with, detain, impede or obstruct any other licensed driver, any passenger, prospective passenger or any other person in connection with operations under this chapter;
- (d~~4~~) ~~Have in his or her possession a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or light or smoke same while driving a taxicab which is occupied by a passenger, unless such passenger shall have first granted such driver permission to do so~~ Operate a taxicab in violation of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act;
- (e~~5~~) Have in his or her possession while operating a taxicab, any firearm, knife with a blade length in excess of four (4) inches, or any assault weapon, as defined in section 393.85;
- (f~~6~~) Provide any payment to any doorman, bellhop, taxicab starter, bartender or any other person within the City of Minneapolis in return for the referral of passengers;
- (g~~7~~) Block the normal flow of traffic, except while parallel parking or actively and lawfully loading and unloading passengers;
- (h~~8~~) Knowingly and with intent to disrupt communication on a two-way radio system, manipulate a microphone switch or other jamming device;
- (i~~9~~) ~~Refuse~~ Provide false information to or refuse to obey or to comply with any lawful order or direction of any police officer, traffic-control officer, or duly appointed inspector of the department, nor shall any licensee use profane language or otherwise interfere with such officials while in the performance of their duties;

- (~~j~~10) Report a false location ~~over a two-way radio~~ for purposes of gaining an unfair advantage in bidding to provide service;
- (~~k~~11) Fail to engage the taximeter when the taxicab is in motion and a passenger is present, unless a method of computing the fare without use of the meter is expressly authorized by a provision of this chapter;
- (~~l~~12) Solicit passengers in the City of Minneapolis, or lay hands upon the person or baggage of any person without the express consent of that person, or obstruct the movement of any persons, or follow any person for the purpose of soliciting business. Display of a sign on the taxicab to indicate that it is not engaged shall not be considered solicitation;
- (~~m~~13) Deceive any person as to destination, route, authorized taxicab rates, or fare;
- (~~n~~14) Overcharge;
- (~~o~~15) Take a circuitous route to a destination, or any route other than the most direct route, without the express consent of the passenger;
- (~~p~~16) Drop a passenger at a location other than the location requested unless prohibited by law;
- (~~q~~17) Refuse to convey an orderly passenger;
- (~~r~~18) Report for another driver's order;
- (~~s~~19) Fail to provide a receipt upon request;
- (~~t~~20) Play a radio or tape player without the consent of the passengers, with the exception of the vehicle's two way radio;
- (~~u~~21) Engage in, or permit the use of a taxicab for, illegal gambling, prostitution, or trafficking in alcoholic beverages or controlled substances;
- (~~v~~22) Be in possession of or consume any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance while on duty; consume any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance within four (4) hours before beginning a shift;
- (~~w~~) ~~Use a taxicab for private use at any time, including conveying passengers who are not customers;~~

- ~~(x23)~~ Drive a taxicab for more than twelve (12) hours in any twenty-four-hour period or for more than seventy-two (72) hours in any seven-day period;
- (y24) Park a taxicab in a residential area in violation of section 478.240 of this Code;
- (z25) Allow more passengers to occupy the vehicle than is provided for by its normal seating capacity, as indicated on the vehicle application. In no event shall more than two (2) persons in addition to the driver be permitted in the front seat of such vehicle.;
- (26) Lock, disable or refuse to unlock any taxicab door for the purpose of detaining or impeding a passenger;
- (27) Operate a taxicab while using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send or read a text-based communication, unless such taxicab shall be lawfully standing or parked;
- (28) Operate a taxicab while using a wireless telephone, including a wireless telephone equipped with hands-free technology, except for emergency purposes;
- (29) Knowingly continue to operate a taxicab for hire when the condition of the vehicle is in violation of section 341.590, or otherwise detrimental to public safety;
- (30) Knowingly disable, alter, damage or otherwise render inoperable any mandatory safety equipment required pursuant to section 341.597.

Section 16. That Section 341.695 of the above-entitled ordinance be amended to read as follows:

341.695. Contracts with taxicab drivers. A taxicab vehicle licensee may enter into an agreement with a licensed taxicab driver to drive a licensed taxicab, and the agreement may provide for a per shift payment by the driver. Provided, however:

- (a1) No agreement may provide for services in excess of the shift limitations in subsection 341.250(~~x23~~).
- (b2) No agreement shall exceed one (1) week in duration, nor require a driver to post any deposit or advance in an amount greater than one (1) week's shift payment.
- (c3) No agreement shall require a driver to pay any vehicle operating costs except for gas.
- (d4) No taxicab vehicle licensee shall enter an agreement allowing the use of his or her taxicab except directly with a driver who actually operates the

vehicle; nor shall any licensee enter an agreement delegating to another the right to manage the vehicle and employ drivers.

- (e~~5~~) An owner or service company who leases a taxicab must make shift rates available to all qualified drivers without regard to race, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or religion. Owners who offer different lease rates during different times of the day must make those rates available to all drivers qualified by this chapter.
- (f~~6~~) An owner or service company shall not charge any driver more than eighty-five dollars (\$85.00) per twelve-hour shift for use of a vehicle.