

Chapter 32

VEHICLES FOR HIRE*

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ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

Secs. 32-1--32-35. Reserved.

ARTICLE II. TAXICABS

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 32-36. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Taxicab means any vehicle seating nine or fewer passengers operated upon any street on call or on demand, accepting or soliciting passengers indiscriminately for hire.

(Code 1973, § 20-1)

Cross References: Definitions generally, § 1-2.

Sec. 32-37. Operation generally.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate any taxicab within the corporate limits in violation of any provision of this Code, other ordinance or regulation of the city or state law.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any owner or operator of a taxicab to knowingly permit any driver or chauffeur who has not complied fully with this article to operate any of his taxicabs within the corporate limits.

(Code 1973, § 20-2)

Sec. 32-38. Insurance.

It shall be unlawful for any owner of a taxicab to operate such taxicab within the corporate limits without first taking out and keeping in effect at all times a policy or policies of insurance to cover damages and injury resulting from the operation of such taxicabs. Such insurance shall at all times equal or exceed the minimum requirements in effect under the insurance regulations of the state.

(Code 1973, § 20-3)

Sec. 32-39. Inspection of vehicles.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or cause to be operated within the corporate limits any taxicab without first presenting each taxicab to be so used to the chief of police for an inspection of brakes, lights, tires, horn, motor, windshield wipers, turn signal indicators and all parts of such vehicles which in the opinion of the chief of police are in need of repair to maintain such taxicab in a safe and proper condition.

(b) It shall also be the duty of every taxicab owner to present each and every motor vehicle used as a taxicab once each six months after the first inspection for a reinspection. A reasonable fee for such inspection shall be determined by the chief of police, who shall issue an inspection card to the taxicab owner showing the make, model, name of the owner and the inspection date of any taxicab so inspected.

(Code 1973, § 20-4)

Sec. 32-40. Required identification markings.

(a) The name of the taxicab company, the telephone number and the city's name shall be painted with permanent paint on both sides of each taxicab with letters and numbers at least four inches in height. The taxicab company's name shall be painted on the rear of each taxicab in letters at least four inches in height. Colors of paint to be used for the lettering and numbering are to be in sharp contrast with the color of the surface paint to which they are applied so as to be visible at a reasonable distance.

(b) No lettering or numbering shall be acceptable which has been painted upon a sheet of metal or other material which, in turn, can be removed or detached from the vehicle.

Secs. 32-41--32-55. Reserved.

DIVISION 2. PERMIT

Sec. 32-56. Required; factors determining issuance.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a taxicab within the corporate limits without first securing a taxicab permit. Such permit shall only be issued by the city council if such issuance is in the public interest, convenience or necessity, which shall be determined upon the following factors, among other things taken into consideration:

- (1) The applicant's financial responsibility.
- (2) The likelihood of the proposed service being permanent in nature and character.
- (3) The number and condition of the applicant's taxicabs and any and all of the applicant's taxicab facilities.
- (4) The number of taxicabs now operated and the demand for increased service.
- (5) Whether or not the safe use of the streets by the public, both vehicular and pedestrian, will be preserved.
- (6) The applicant's experience in the taxicab business.
- (7) The current population of the city and its projected growth.
- (8) Any other factors relevant to a particular application and the taxicab situation as it exists as of the time of the application.

(Code 1973, § 20-7)

Sec. 32-57. Effect of issuance; renewal; transfer; employing or allowing person without permit to drive.

(a) A taxicab permit, when issued shall constitute a franchise to operate taxicabs within the corporate limits for a period of one year from the date of the permit's issuance. Applications for renewal must be filed annually, and such permits are not transferable.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any taxicab owner to employ any driver who has not been issued a taxicab permit or to allow anyone without such permit to operate his taxicabs.

(Code 1973, § 20-8)

Sec. 32-58. Fee; application generally.

(a) Any applicant shall pay the currently required fee for a taxicab permit and cash renewal thereof.

(b) All applications for taxicab permits shall be made upon blanks furnished by the city and shall, among other things, state the name, address, physical description, former employers, court records and state chauffeur's license number of the applicant. Such application shall be sworn to and signed by the applicant.

(Code 1973, § 20-9)

Sec. 32-59. Investigation of application; issuance of preliminary and temporary permits; issuance by council.

(a) The chief of police is charged with the duty of investigating the facts stated in the application for a permit under this division, and he shall report his findings to the city council.

(b) The chief of police shall have the authority to issue a preliminary and temporary permit authorizing the applicant to operate a taxicab within the corporate limits until the city council has acted on such application.

(c) If the city council finds that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony, any

violations of state and federal statutes relating to intoxicating liquor, prostitution, controlled substances or narcotics, and is not a repeated violator of the motor vehicle laws of this state or any other state, the city council may issue a taxicab permit. If after such permit is issued, the applicant violates any provisions of this section, his permit shall be immediately rescinded.

(Code 1973, § 20-10)