



FINANCE DEPARTMENT
MUNICIPAL COLLECTOR'S DIVISION
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bruce Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Delora Siebrecht, Office Manager

DATE: May 22, 2006

RE: Vehicle for Hire Ordinance

Brief Description of the item

Late fees for filing vehicle for hire license applications and supporting documents after the filing deadline dates.

Identification of the Issues and any approvals required

Some owners of taxicab and limousine companies are habitually late when filing the application to renew their taxicab or limousine company business license. In an effort to promote timely filing of license applications, we are proposing a late fee of \$25.00, plus a per diem late fee of \$10.00 per day for each day after a filing deadline of June 25th. Renewal applications are mailed to business owners a minimum of 30 days in advance of the renewal date.

Also, the vehicle for hire ordinance requires vehicle safety inspections every four months, six months or annually depending upon the age and the mileage on the vehicle. We are proposing a late fee of \$10.00 per day for each day past the due date of a required vehicle inspection.

Amendment to the Schedule of Fees to add the late fees.

Changes in the Vehicle for Hire Ordinance and Schedule of Fees require Council approval.

Options and their consequences

The Vehicle for Hire ordinance requires that a business license application include proof of insurance, license plate registrations, schedule of rates and vehicle safety inspections. These various documents help provide for the safety of citizens utilizing taxicab and limousine services.

Many taxicab and limousine companies use older vehicles that accumulate significant mileage. Inspections are required multiple times during the license year to ensure that the vehicle body, braking system, exhaust system, and tires are maintained so that the vehicle is safe. Experience has been that repeated letters and phone calls were required before some companies complied with the ordinance, resulting in pushing back the inspection four to six weeks.

Fiscal impact

None

Recommendation

To encourage compliance with filing requirements and vehicle safety inspections, staff recommends approval of the attached ordinances.

ORDINANCE NO. 2006-05-063

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE VEHICLES FOR HIRE
ORDINANCE**

**(Section 26-41 License Required, and
Sec. 26-94 Condition of Vehicle for Hire; Inspections)**

WHEREAS, to encourage the timely filing of license applications and vehicle safety certificates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Sec. 26-41. License required.

- (a) No person shall engage in the business of operating a vehicle for hire in the city without first having secured a license therefore as provided in this division.
- (b) Renewal. If a license holder wants to renew their license to offer a vehicle for hire so that the renewal takes effect immediately upon the expiration of the prior annual license, such license holder must submit the renewal application before June 25th. Applications for renewal submitted after June 25th shall incur a late fee as set forth in Section 14-7 of the City of Urbana Code of Ordinances. If the late fee is not paid prior to issuance of the renewed license, the existing license shall lapse as of midnight June 30th.

Sec. 26-94. Condition of vehicle for hire; inspections.

(a) No license to engage in the business of operating a vehicle for hire shall be issued unless:

- (1) The vehicle for hire bears a state license plate duly issued and appropriate for vehicles for hire;
- (2) The vehicle for hire is equipped with proper brakes, lights, tires, horn, muffler, rear vision mirror, windshield wiper, speedometer, and when applicable, an approved taximeter in good condition to record the amount of fare to be charged for each trip;
- (3) The vehicle for hire has been thoroughly and carefully inspected and found by the City to be in clean, sanitary, safe, and good mechanical condition for the transportation of passengers; and
- (4) A written certificate of the inspection required by this section is filed with the comptroller/finance director.

(b) ~~The comptroller/finance director may require the inspection of every vehicle for hire in operation to determine whether such vehicle meets the requirements of this chapter.~~ Every vehicle for hire in operation shall be inspected at the intervals set forth below to determine if such vehicle meets the requirements of this chapter. The inspections required may be conducted

by the city or by such duly qualified persons as the comptroller/finance director may direct. The schedule of inspections shall be as follows:

~~(1) One (1) inspection per year for vehicles manufactured less than three (3) years from the date of inspection or vehicles with under seventy five thousand (75,000) miles on the odometer.~~ A vehicle that was manufactured fewer than three (3) years from the date of inspection, or has fewer than 75,000 miles on the odometer shall be inspected one year after the date of the last inspection of such vehicle and the written certificate of such inspection required under subsection (a) for above shall be filed with the Comptroller/Finance Director.

~~(2) One inspection every six (6) months for vehicles manufactured three (3) to five (5) years from the date of inspection or vehicles with seventy five thousand one (75,001) miles to one hundred twenty five thousand (125,000) miles on the odometer.~~ A vehicle that was manufactured more than three (3) years but fewer than five (5) years from the date of inspection or has more than 75,001 miles but less than 125,000 miles on the odometer shall be inspected 180 days after the date of the last inspection of such vehicle and the written certificate of such inspection required under the subsection (a) (4) above shall be filed with the Comptroller/Finance Director.

~~(3) One inspection every four (4) months for vehicles manufactured over five (5) years from the date of inspection or with over one hundred twenty five thousand (125,000) miles on the odometer.~~ A vehicle that was manufactured more than five (5) years from the date of inspection or has greater than 125,000 miles on the odometer shall be inspected 120 days after the date of the last inspection of such vehicle and the written certificate of such inspection required under subsection (a) (4) above shall be filed with the Comptroller/Finance Director.

(4) Additional inspections may be required as often as the apparent condition of the vehicle warrants.

(c) Failure to file the certificate required under subsection (a) (4) above at the time and in accordance with the requirements of the above shall require the payment of a late fee as set forth in Section 14-7 of the City of Urbana Code of Ordinances.

(ed) The licensee shall pay all required fees for all inspections before a certificate of inspection will be issued.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____,
_____.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____,
_____.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor