



**LEGAL DIVISION**  
**MEMO**

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**TO:** Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing  
**FROM:** Ronald O'Neal, City Attorney  
**DATE:** August 20, 2008  
**RE:** Vehicles for hire ordinance amendment (Limousines)

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On March 3, 2008, the City Council passed, and you approved, an ordinance that amended various sections of the City's Vehicles for Hire ordinance (Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances). These amendments were designed to bring about uniformity in the way the City of Urbana and the City of Champaign license all vehicles for hire (Champaign and Urbana have, for some time, promulgated nearly identical "taxi" ordinances for the sake of expediency since most vehicles for hire obviously travel through both communities daily.).

There are a few issues arising out of the variety of vehicle types being used for commercial, passenger transport. For example, some companies use the traditional taxicab with a metered rate or zone rates; some use a multi-passenger van, charging per head, metered rates, or by zone; some are using limousines as taxis and vice versa; and some yet use vehicles designated by the State of Illinois as "public transportation" vehicles—apparently, this is any vehicle that can carry up to fifteen people and has a gross vehicle weight of 10K pounds or more. The State of Illinois, however, has been irregular in how it licenses these vehicles. Some vehicles that would outwardly appear to be "public transportation" vehicles are not tagged that way, and there does not seem to be any methodology we can follow as to how and when the State determines whether a vehicle has taxi plates, livery plates (limousines), or public transportation plates.

In any case, certain vehicle for hire operators were using public transportation vehicles and our ordinances did not include this type of vehicle. Further, because the lines that had traditionally separated a

taxi from a limousine, a limousine from a shuttle, etc. are now fuzzy, we needed ordinance language that treated all operators the same, no matter what kind of vehicle they use. That brought about the March 3rd amendments. However, §26-61(a) was erroneously left with language that exempted limousine operators from submitting their rates to the Finance Department—a consumer protection we require from all vehicle for hire operators. This proposed ordinance remedies that oversight. If you have any further questions or issues, please let me know.

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-09-118

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING §26-61 OF THE  
URBANA CODE OF ORDINANCES

(Limousines)

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana ("Urbana") is a home-rule municipality with a population in excess of 25,000; and

WHEREAS, Urbana has an interest in providing consumer protections for those citizens and visitors who utilize vehicles for hire; and

WHEREAS, Urbana has a further interest in protecting the safety and well-being of its citizenry and visitors by regulating its vehicle for hire industry; and

WHEREAS, Urbana requires all vehicle for hire businesses to submit their rate schedule to the Finance Department; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 2007-10-115 amended certain sections of Chapter 26, and limousine businesses were inadvertently exempted from the requirement to submit rates to the City;

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

**Section One**

That §26-61 of the City of Urbana Code of Ordinances shall be, and is hereby, amended by striking the words "excluding limousines"

from the language of Subsection (a), and said subsection will thereafter read as follows:

**Sec. 26-61. Established; posting.**

(a) All licensees, ~~excluding limousines,~~ shall provide the comptroller/finance director with a written schedule of all rates charged, including but not limited to, per person or flat rates, zone rates, taximeter rates, flag and mileage rates and rates for transportation and carrying of luggage, hand luggage and parcels. The comptroller/finance director shall be notified in writing ten (10) days prior to the effective date of any rate changes.

**Section Two**

**A. Effective Date.**

That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect, and shall be controlling, upon its passage and approval. It shall apply to all existing vehicle for hire businesses then licensed at its passage, as well as to subsequent new license applicants.

**B. Conflicts.**

That all ordinances, or parts of ordinances thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of any such conflict.

**C. Severability.**

That any section or provision of this Ordinance that is construed to be valid or void shall not affect the remaining sections or provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

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Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor