

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-684

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

September 20, 2005

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS
ON TAXICAB REGULATIONS**

BACKGROUND:

- A. The Mayor and the City Council have recognized a problem with an overabundance of taxicabs in the downtown area competing for a limited number of customers;
- B. The Mayor and the City Council directed staff to identify and implement improvements to the City Code for regulation of the taxicab industry;
- C. In 2003, the City retained the services of Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates to conduct a taxicab study;
- D. The study process included the creation of the Taxi Study Advisory Panel to provide advisory input, expertise, and feedback to the project team during the course of the study;
- E. The study process included an extensive outreach component with eleven public meetings with stakeholder groups; and
- F. The recommended reforms were based on input from the Taxi Advisory Panel as well as input from the public meetings and meetings with the City's Disability Advisory Commission.

**BASED ON THE FACTS AS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY
COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1 To approve the recommendations on reforms to the City's taxicab regulations as set forth in Exhibit A of this resolution.
- Section 2. To direct staff to return to City Council in thirty (30) days with an ordinance to be adopted by the City Council to amend the City Code related to taxicabs to implement the recommendations as set forth in Exhibit A of this resolution.

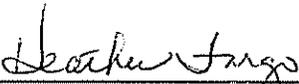
Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on September 20, 2005 by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Cohn, Hammond, McCarty, Pannell, Sheedy, Tretheway, Waters and Mayor Fargo.

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Fong



Mayor Heather Fargo

Attest:



Shirley Concolino, City Clerk

**City of Sacramento
Specific Recommendations for Taxicab Reforms**

Taxicab Companies and Associations

- Require all permit holders to be affiliated with a company or association with at least 25 insured, permitted vehicles
- Provide flexibility as to the legal form of the association, including corporations, sole proprietorships and associations governed by bylaws, as long as a single contact officer is authorized to bind the association in dealings with the City.
- Association responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - Maintain a staffed place of business within 10 miles of the city limits
 - Minimum business hours of 9am to 5 pm weekdays where some person in charge can be contacted by phone or in person
 - Maintain a common phone number which must be listed in the telephone directories
 - Provide a two-way dispatch service during operational hours
 - Respond to complaints and report complaints and actions taken to the City
 - Assume responsibility for all penalties incurred by affiliated vehicles and drivers
 - Responsible for all permitting, licensing, and insurance requirements for all vehicles and drivers

Fares

- Prohibit "minimum rates" other than flag drop
- Establish maximum rates in common increments
- Continue to allow each operator to set own rates that do not exceed the maximum and filed with the City
- Evaluate fare rates annually, based on the CPI-U (Transportation) price index

Vehicle standards

- Adopt comprehensive vehicle standards
- Identify garages qualified to conduct comprehensive taxicab inspections
- Require a signed and completed checklist certifying compliance, prior to issuing or renewing vehicle permits
- Establish unique vehicle ID numbers for easy identification

Permit Fees and Enforcement

- Increase permit fees consistent with peer cities to improve cost recovery
- Introduce a new category of association fee as part of the minimum fleet size requirement
- Introduce administrative penalties for most violations consistent with current Code Enforcement procedures
- Hold associations and companies liable for all penalties incurred by affiliated vehicles and drivers. (An association would be able to recoup the penalty from

the individual, or impose disciplinary measures, but this would not be the responsibility of the City.)

Accessibility

- Prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities with an enforcement mechanism in the permitting process.
- Require cab companies to operate a minimum number of accessible vehicles as a condition of doing business in the City of Sacramento as follows.

Customer Bill of Rights

- Require the Bill of Rights to be posted in taxicabs, including version in Braille
- Establish a City complaint line, with calls to be referred to company/association operators in the first instance
- Require company/associations to report complaints received, and their resolution, to the City
- An association/company complaint number will be included in the bill of rights

Drivers Guide

- Following approval of a new ordinance develop a Guide for Taxi Drivers which would provide user-friendly information on taxi regulations, other regulatory and administrative requirements and safety tips

Parking and Taxicab Stands

- Extend the ban on taxicab parking at meters to the entire downtown
- Continue working with the taxi industry on additional taxi stands