

CLERK'S OFFICE
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Submitted by: Assembly Member Abney
Prepared by: Department of Law
For reading: November 24, 1998

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO NO. 98-187

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 4.50.095 AND CHAPTERS 11.10-11.40 CREATING A SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR VEHICLES REGULATED BY THE ANCHORAGE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, REQUIRING ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT ON VEHICLES REGULATED BY THE ANCHORAGE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND MAKING OTHER CHANGES AIMED AT INCREASING THE SAFETY OF CHAUFFEURS OF TAXICABS.

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1: That the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new section 4.50.095 to read as follows:

4.50.095 Regulated vehicle safety advisory committee.

- A. There is established a regulated vehicle safety advisory committee. The committee shall consist of 15 members, fourteen of which shall be employed or otherwise make their living in the regulated vehicle industry. The committee shall meet every three months unless it meets more frequently. The committee shall make safety-related recommendations to the assembly, mayor, and transportation commission concerning vehicles regulated by the transportation commission.
- B. The transportation inspector shall provide staff support to the regulated vehicle safety advisory committee.

Section 2: That section 11.20.070 of the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

11.20.070 Taxicabs—Vehicle markings.

- A. Every taxicab shall bear the trade name under which it is operated on each side of the taxicab with permanent letters no less than four inches high.
- B. Every taxicab shall bear its vehicle number, as assigned to it by the transportation inspector, on all sides of the taxicab with permanent letters no less than four inches high.
- C. Except as otherwise provided by law, no taxicab may be used or sold for any purpose other than for use as a taxicab until all signs, insignia, lights or other markings have been

1 removed or an "out of service" sign is posted on the taxicab in the form and manner
2 designated by the transportation inspector.

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4 D. Every taxicab shall bear the markings adopted by its dispatch service.

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6 E. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a taxicab may be used for shared ride
7 service in accordance with this title so long as the vehicle is clearly marked on both
8 exterior sides in the manner prescribed by the transportation inspector.

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10 F. Each owner shall display on his or her taxicab(s) a decal stating "Driver does not carry
11 more than \$20 in change." This decal shall be prominently displayed on the exterior and
12 the interior of each taxicab. A chauffeur may not be cited for a violation of this Code
13 based on the amount of change the chauffeur is carrying.

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15 **Section 3:** That section 1 .20.080 of the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended to
16 read as follows:

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18 **11.20.080 Taxicabs—Required equipment.**

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20 A. Every taxicab shall be equipped with an operable two-way radio that receives and
21 transmits a signal only on the frequency used by that taxicab's dispatch service. At no
22 time may a taxicab be equipped with an apparatus capable of monitoring a frequency
23 used by a dispatch service other than that used by that taxicab's dispatch service. The
24 radio of each taxicab shall be identifiable through the dispatch company through which
25 the taxicab is dispatched.

26
27 B. Every taxicab shall be equipped at all times with an interior light of not less than two
28 candlepower arranged so as to illuminate the entire passenger compartment. The light
29 shall be illuminated whenever passengers are being loaded or unloaded from the taxicab
30 between one-half hour after sunset of one day and one-half hour before sunrise the next
31 day. No shades or blinds shall be drawn over any windows of the taxicab while occupied
32 by a passenger.

33
34 C. Every taxicab shall be equipped with a nonflashing light on the exterior of the roof of a
35 type approved by the transportation inspector. The light shall be illuminated only when
36 the taxicab is not occupied by a paying passenger.

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38 D. Every taxicab shall be equipped with a taximeter unless that taxicab is used exclusively at
39 all times for shared ride taxicab service and is never used for another type of taxicab
40 service.
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E. Every taxicab shall be equipped with a silent electronic alarm system in conjunction with the radio between the taxicab and dispatch company. The electronic alarm system shall be chauffeur-activated by a foot switch or other means approved by the transportation inspector. A radio capable of being activated by a foot switch or other means approved by the transportation inspector shall qualify as a silent electronic alarm system under this section. The owner of the taxicab shall be responsible for installing such electronic alarm system.

F. Every taxicab shall be equipped at all times with one or more of the following three items: a safety shield; a surveillance system; or global positioning system capability. The owner of the taxicab shall acquire and cause to be installed one or more of the three items identified in the previous sentence.

The safety shield shall be installed between the front compartment in which the chauffeur sits and the rear compartment or second seat. Each safety shield shall meet the standards established by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for "Level Two" protection against medium-power small arms.

2. The surveillance system shall have the capability to operate 24 hours a day and be compatible with any safety shield for surveillance during both daytime and nighttime. The surveillance system shall either have continuous operation or be activated by the opening of a door, the starting of the taxicab meter, or some other self-initiating device which does not require the specific decision or action by the chauffeur to activate the surveillance system. The system shall be based on either a low-light or infrared light source capable of producing high-quality pictures of suspects for law enforcement use.

3. The global positioning system capability of any taxicab shall either have continuous operation or be activated by a self-initiating device which does not require the specific decision or action by the chauffeur to activate the global positioning system. The global positioning system must be capable of alerting the monitoring station of emergencies. The dispatch company will be the monitoring station for a global positioning system.

Section 4: That section .30.020 of the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

11.30.020 Application for license.

A. An application for a chauffeur's license shall be made to the transportation inspector.

1 B. An application shall be submitted on a form approved by the transportation inspector and
2 shall be accompanied by:

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4 The fee specified in section 1 10.160.

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6 2. Photographs to be taken by the transportation inspector.

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8 3. A complete set of fingerprints made by the police department or transportation
9 inspector on an FBI-approved form.

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11 4. A certificate from a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state verifying
12 the applicant's physical ability to drive and proof of a negative drug test certificate
13 from a municipal-approved drug and alcohol testing facility. A positive test
14 showing will be cause for denial of any license application.

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16 5. Proof that the applicant currently holds a valid state driver's license which entitles
17 him to operate a vehicle by which persons are transported for compensation.

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19 6. Proof that the applicant is at least 19 years old.

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21 7. Demonstrated ability to read, write and speak the English language.

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23 C. An application shall not be complete until the applicant has passed an examination
24 administered by the transportation inspector or his or her designee and has satisfactorily
25 completed a commission-approved course of study encompassing safe driving, safe
26 vehicle maintenance, knowledge of city streets and significant locations, driver personal
27 safety, elements of successful tourism and visitor service, and commission regulations
28 encompassing drug and alcohol testing, driver behavior and appearance, and any other
29 subjects the commission finds to be in the public interest of ensuring safe and responsible
30 public transportation. The course will include check ride certification for new chauffeurs
31 by persons authorized by the transportation inspector to conduct check rides.

32
33 D. Applicants for a chauffeur's license must show proof of successful passage of [WILL
34 PAY TO THE OPERATOR OF] the chauffeur training and testing program and payment
35 of a fee developed by the commission [AND APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY TO
36 DEFRAY A REASONABLE PORTION OF THE COSTS FOR THE TRAINING AND
37 TESTING PROGRAM].

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39 E. Any person who has been denied a license pursuant to this chapter may not apply again
40 for such a license for a period of one year except for those denied or revoked under
41 section 11.10.085.A.2 and 3 and pursuant to section 11.10.110.A.3.
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F. A chauffeur applying for renewal of a chauffeur's license must have at least two hours of refresher training before the license is renewed. The refresher training program described in this subsection shall be provided by the Municipality of Anchorage.

Section 5: That section 11.40.040 of the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

11.40.040 Provision of service; joint dispatch service.

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a dispatch service shall serve all taxicab permittees and their chauffeurs who request dispatch service and meet the requirements of this section so long as the fee for such service has been paid.
- B. A dispatch service may promulgate reasonable internal rules and regulations and shall supply the transportation inspector with a current copy thereof at all times. A dispatch service may refuse to serve a permittee or chauffeur only after the permittee or chauffeur has habitually and knowingly violated one or more provisions of the reasonable rules and regulations on file with the transportation inspector. If a dispatch service executes one or more types of written contracts pertaining to dispatch of taxicabs, the dispatch service shall supply the transportation inspector with one copy of each such current contract form at all times.
- C. A dispatch service shall not dispatch any taxicab unless such taxicab is being operated by a properly licensed chauffeur pursuant to a valid taxicab permit.
- D. A dispatch service may dispatch taxicabs from another taxicab company, but that company shall retain its own business name, style and color and shall be substantially different in its business name, style and color from that used by any other dispatch company.
- E. A dispatch service seeking to merge with another for joint dispatch service shall submit a plan which includes all the terms and conditions of the merger to the transportation commission for approval.
- F. Each dispatch service shall establish a system for identifying radio transmissions from each taxicab which is dispatched through the dispatch service.

Section 6: That the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new section 11.40.051 to read as follows:

11.40.051 Caller identification required.

Dispatch companies shall not accept a request for taxicab service or dispatch a taxicab without identifying and recording the person or persons making the request and the telephone number from the person or persons are calling. Each dispatch company shall cause to have installed a caller identification system which will automatically display the telephone number of each caller.

Section 7: That the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new section 11.40.052 to read as follows:

11.40.052 Dispatcher and telephone assistant drug and alcohol testing.

A. By regulation, the commission shall:

1. Cause to be established a drug and alcohol testing program for dispatchers and telephone assistants. The program shall include applicant drug screening tests, random tests, and reasonable cause tests. The program shall be approved and administered by the transportation inspector.
2. Provide for the immediate order by the transportation inspector that a dispatch company stop employing as a dispatcher or telephone assistant any such dispatcher or telephone assistant failing, or failing to submit to, such an applicant drug test, a random drug or alcohol test, or a reasonable cause drug or alcohol test for a period of not less than six (6) months for a first offense and not less than two years for a second or subsequent offense.
3. Provide for fees to pay for drug and alcohol testing with costs of testing for applicant drug screening borne by applicants and costs of subsequent testing borne by dispatch companies.

B. A design, cost structure, and fee determination for the drug and alcohol testing program shall be developed by the commission and submitted to the assembly for approval subject to the following conditions:

1. Costs for a drug screening shall be borne by applicants for jobs as dispatchers and telephone assistants.
2. Direct operational costs for random and reasonable cause drug and alcohol testing program shall be borne by dispatch companies through an increase in the annual permit renewal fee.

Section 8: That the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new section 11.40.053 to read as follows:

11.40.053 Two-way communication requirement between dispatchers and taxicab chauffeurs.

Each dispatch company licensed under this title must operate and maintain a two-way communications system between dispatchers and taxicab chauffeurs. The two-way communications system shall allow each chauffeur on a dispatch company radio frequency to monitor dispatcher transmissions and transmissions from other chauffeurs on that dispatch company radio frequency.

Section 9: That the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new section 11.40.054 to read as follows:

11.40.054 Standardized training and certification programs, standardized emergency notification code, and biennial refresher training.

Dispatch services shall establish a standardized training and certification program that each dispatcher must complete successfully before beginning or maintaining employment as a dispatcher. Such standardized program will include but not be limited to a standardized emergency notification code with procedures and a biennial refresher training course. The scope and curriculum of such training programs shall be approved by the transportation commission before the course is offered.

Section 10: That the Anchorage Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding a new section 11.40.057 to read as follows:

11.40.057 Compliance with Federal Communications Commission regulations.

Each dispatch service shall take steps to ensure that dispatchers and chauffeurs comply with the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission as to operation of radios.

Section 11: Ordinance review.

Within ^{18 months} ~~one year~~ after the adoption of this ordinance, the mayor in conjunction with the regulated vehicle safety action committee and the transportation commission shall review the ordinance and report and make recommendations to the Municipal Assembly concerning the effectiveness of safety devices required by this ordinance.

Section 12: That unless this ordinance provides otherwise, this ordinance shall become effective sixty (60) days after passage and approval by the Assembly.

Section 13: That Sections 1, 2, and 8 shall become effective ninety (90) days after passage and approval by the Assembly.

Section 14: That Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 shall become effective one hundred and eighty (180) days after passage and approval by the Assembly, except that the provisions of Section 3 adding new subsection 11.20.080.F shall become effective three hundred and sixty-five (365) days after passage and approval by the Assembly.

Section 15: That Section 4 shall become effective one hundred and eighty (180) days after passage and approval by the Assembly, except that the provision of Section 4 adding new subsection 11.30.020.F shall become effective sixty (60) days after passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 15th day of December, 1999.


Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk