

8/25/78

Introduced by: R.R. "Bob" Greive  
#78-753

ORDINANCE NO. 3926

AN ORDINANCE relating to the operation of taxicabs and for-hire vehicles, creating reciprocity between the City of Seattle and King County; amending Ordinance 1120, Section 2(b) and KCC 6.64.020(b); Ordinance 1120, Section 3 and KCC 6.64.030; Ordinance 1120, Section 12 and KCC 6.64.120; and Ordinance 1120, Section 29 and KCC 6.64.290.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 1120, Section 2(b) and KCC 6.64.020(b) are hereby amended as follows:

License Applications. It is unlawful to own, operate or engage in the business of operating a taxicab or for-hire car in the unincorporated areas of King County without first having obtained, for each and every vehicle so used, a license from the director, to be known as a for-hire or taxicab license.

Licenses shall be obtained in the following manner and under the following conditions:

(a) The applicant for such license, in a manner approved by the director shall show in his application: The true name and address of the applicant, and if a corporation, the names and addresses of the principal officers and shareholders thereof, the classification under which the vehicle will be operated, whether as taxicab or other vehicle for-hire; the year for which the license is sought; and shall furnish full, true and accurate information concerning the ownership, identification, company vehicle number, the name of the business, fictitious or otherwise under which the vehicle is to be operated, the distinguishing color scheme, design or dress, including any monogram or insignia to be used on such vehicle or vehicles, the number of days and the mileage for each day of operation for any or all vehicles operated by the applicant under any license issued under the provisions of this chapter or any prior ordinance of King County regulating taxicab and for-hire vehicles for the year preceding the yearly period specified in the

8/25/78

1 application; whether he has been convicted of any violation  
 2 within ten years preceding the date of application relating to  
 3 the sale or possession of intoxicating liquor, gambling, or any  
 4 law or ordinance relating to public morality and decency or for  
 5 violating any law or ordinance involving an intent to defraud, or  
 6 whether the applicant has ever been convicted of any law or  
 7 ordinance relating to the use, sale or possession of narcotic  
 8 drugs or barbituates, or any such other information the director  
 9 may require, which he deems reasonably necessary to aid in the  
 10 enforcement of this chapter.

11 (b) The director shall inquire into the correctness of  
 12 the information furnished, and if so satisfied, after due  
 13 investigation, that the applicant is the reliable and bona fide  
 14 owner of the motor vehicle, has met the various requirements of  
 15 this chapter, that the name under which the applicant is to  
 16 operate and the color scheme used upon the motor vehicle does not  
 17 conflict with others so used, or intend to deceive the public,  
 18 that the motor vehicle is equipped with proper state license and  
 19 City of Seattle license, if applicable, and is properly insured  
 20 for the protection of the public as required by law, and that  
 21 there is a bona fide need for taxicab or for-hire service in the  
 22 unincorporated area of King County, a license may thereupon be  
 23 issued in accordance with the provisions of this chapter,  
 24 authorizing the operation of the motor vehicle under the  
 25 classification applied for; provided; however, (~~that no new~~  
 26 ~~licenses to engage in the business of operating a taxicab shall~~  
 27 ~~be issued after the effective date of the ordinance codified in~~  
 28 ~~this chapter for a period ending July 31, 1978, or until a form~~  
 29 ~~of joint or reciprocal licensing and enforcement is adopted by~~  
 30 ~~King County and the City of Seattle, pursuant to and including~~  
 31 ~~provisions one through five of King County Motion No. 2362 and~~  
 32 ~~City of Seattle Resolution No. 25223, whichever is sooner;~~  
 33 ~~provided further, that licenses~~) that a reciprocal license may

9/22/78

1 be issued, ~~((during this period to any person who holds a valid~~  
 2 ~~City of Seattle taxicab license on the effective date of the~~  
 3 ~~ordinance codified in this chapter for a fee of twenty-five~~  
 4 ~~dollars.))~~ granting the authority to operate the same taxicab in  
 5 unincorporated King County, to a person who has a valid taxicab  
 6 license issued by the City of Seattle, for a fee of twenty-five  
 7 dollars. ((The)) Such reciprocal license is to be valid ((until  
 8 July 31, 1978,)) for one year, expiring August 31, of each year,  
 9 or until ~~((the term of))~~ joint or reciprocal licensing and  
 10 enforcement is formally adopted by King County and the City of  
 11 Seattle ~~((, pursuant to their respective motion and resolution.~~  
 12 ~~The license will only be valid if the City of Seattle adopts a~~  
 13 ~~similar restriction on new City of Seattle taxicab licenses and~~  
 14 ~~allows a person holding a valid King County taxicab license to~~  
 15 ~~obtain a City of Seattle taxicab license in a manner identical~~  
 16 ~~with this section)).~~

17 (c) A license may be denied to any person if the  
 18 director, after due investigation, has reason to believe that the  
 19 applicant is dishonest or immoral, or desires such license to  
 20 enable him to engage in a dishonest, unlawful, or immoral act,  
 21 practice or enterprise. Willful falsification or omission of any  
 22 information required in the application shall constitute grounds  
 23 for denial of the license.

24 (d) No license shall be transferable to any person  
 25 except in case of a bona fide sale of the business of the owner  
 26 or operator of the motor vehicle, and no license shall be  
 27 transferred to any other motor vehicle without approval of the  
 28 director and then only in cases where the motor vehicle for which  
 29 the license is issued shall be sold, become obsolete, unsafe or  
 30 unfit for further use. Such determination shall be made by the  
 31 director and his determination shall be conclusive. All county-  
 32 licensed taxicabs shall be operated for at least ten miles per  
 33 day for two hundred thirty days of the licensed year, nor shall

9/22/78

1 any new taxicab license be issued to any person holding a license  
 2 which lapses because of failure to meet the foregoing requirement  
 3 in the next preceding license year; provided, however, that the  
 4 director, upon good cause shown, may waive the foregoing  
 5 requirement.

6 SECTION 2. Ordinance 1120, Section 3 and KCC 6.64.030 are  
 7 hereby amended as follows:

8 Taxicabs, maximum number. The maximum number of  
 9 taxicabs authorized to operate and for which licenses may be  
 10 issued shall be based upon the population of unincorporated King  
 11 County as determined by the last preceding United States census,  
 12 at the ratio of one taxicab to each forty-four hundred  
 13 inhabitants; provided, that this limitation shall not affect  
 14 taxicabs in operation under reciprocal licenses (~~on the~~  
 15 ~~effective date of the ordinance codified in this section~~),  
 16 except as such vehicles are abandoned through inability of  
 17 operators to meet the requirements of this chapter (~~provided,~~  
 18 ~~further, that this limitation shall not apply during the period~~  
 19 ~~specified in Section 6.64.020(b)~~)).

20 SECTION 3. Ordinance 1120, Section 12 and KCC 6.64.120 are  
 21 hereby amended as follows:

22 Taximeter. It is unlawful for any person to drive,  
 23 operate, or engage in the business of operating a taxicab unless  
 24 the vehicle is equipped with a taximeter which has been  
 25 inspected by the director, or approved by the City of Seattle  
 26 pursuant to reciprocal licensing.

27 It shall be the duty of the owner, driver, or any other  
 28 person having possession or control of a taxicab to keep such  
 29 taximeter accurate and in good working condition at all times.  
 30 Prior to the installation of such taximeter, same shall be  
 31 approved for operation by an official testing station so  
 32 designated by the director and upon such approval, a written  
 33 notice and lead wire seal shall be plainly posted and attached to

9/22/78

1 the taximeter for the information of the public. Such taxicab  
2 meters shall be rechecked and inspected at least semiannually in  
3 the same manner as the original inspection.

4 It is unlawful for any person to drive, operate or  
5 engage in the business of operating a taxicab whenever the lead  
6 wire seal of approval has been broken, cut, removed or is  
7 missing.

8 It is unlawful for any person to fail, resist or refuse  
9 the director or any duly authorized agent to test and reinspect  
10 the taximeter at any time.

11 SECTION 4. Ordinance 1120, Section 29(a) and KCC  
12 6.64.290(a) are hereby amended as follows:

13 Licensing Fees. It is unlawful to engage in the  
14 business of operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle as defined in  
15 this chapter without first having obtained a valid and subsisting  
16 license to do so. This license shall be known as and the fee  
17 shall be as follows:

18 (a) Taxicab license...((~~\$150.00~~)) \$100.00 per vehicle,  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33

1 prorated semiannually; ((provided, however, that the renewal fee  
2 for all taxicabs possessing valid King County taxicab licenses on  
3 the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter  
4 shall be one hundred dollars per vehicle per license year;  
5 further provided, that said one hundred dollar renewal fee will  
6 be effective only if the City of Seattle adopts provisions  
7 identical to Section 6.64.020(b).)) \$25.00 per vehicle, prorated  
8 semiannually for reciprocal licenses.

9 (b) For-hire vehicle license...\$100.00 per vehicle,  
10 prorated semiannually.

11 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 14<sup>th</sup> day of  
12 August, 1978.

13 PASSED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 1978.

14  
15 KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
16 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

17 Bernice Stum  
18 Chairman

19 ATTEST:

20 Dorothy M. Owens  
21 Deputy Clerk of the Council

22 APPROVED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1978.

23  
24 [Signature]  
25 King County Executive  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33