



**KING COUNTY**  
**Signature Report**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**September 4, 2012**

**Ordinance 17404**

**Proposed No. 2012-0222.2**

**Sponsors Gossett**

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to taxis, for-hire vehicles and  
2 drivers; amending Ordinance 10498, Section 6, as  
3 amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.025 and Ordinance 10498,  
4 Section 95, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.760 and declaring  
5 an emergency.

6 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

7 SECTION 1. Findings:

8 A. Effective January 1, 2012, Chapter 190, Laws of Washington 2011 mandates  
9 that taxicab, limousine, for hire vehicle businesses and for hire vehicle operators be  
10 subject to industrial insurance premiums.

11 B. The law requires that any city, town, county or port district which sets rates  
12 for taxicab services must adjust rates to accommodate the cost of industrial insurance or  
13 other industry-wide costs.

14 C. King County has an interlocal agreement with seventeen cities and the port of  
15 Seattle to regulate and provide taxicab service for these jurisdictions and for  
16 unincorporated King County.

17 D. Approximately five hundred seventy taxicabs are licensed by King County  
18 and many of those are also licensed by the city of Seattle.

19 E. On July 23, 2012, the city of Seattle enacted Ordinance 123939, raising  
20 taxicab rates and fees in accordance with Washington state law.

21 F. Because of this ordinance (Proposed Ordinance 2012-0222), nine hundred  
22 twenty-six vehicles need to have their meters reset, sealed and inspected. By agreement  
23 the city of Seattle inspects and certifies all vehicles for King County.

24 G. The city of Seattle has scheduled the inspections of all nine hundred twenty-  
25 six taxicab meters for September 10, 2012.

26 H. The King County council declares an emergency for purposes of approving  
27 this legislation to avoid hardship on the public and taxicab drivers.

28 I. The King County council recognizes that there are several policies related to  
29 taxicab operations in King County that require updating, some of which were included in  
30 the executive's transmitted version of this ordinance. Due to the time constraints related  
31 to fee and rate adjustments, the council is moving forward with enacting new fees and  
32 rates and encourages the executive to transmit separate legislation covering all other  
33 related policy matters for council consideration as soon as possible.

34 SECTION 2. Ordinance 10498, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.025 are  
35 each hereby amended to read as follows:

36 A. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license

37 Taxicab	\$450.00
38 Wheelchair accessible taxicab	No fee
39 Taxicab late fee	\$45.00
40 For-hire vehicle	\$450.00
41 For-hire vehicle late fee	\$45.00

42	Vehicle equipment change	\$75.00
43	Change of owner: July/Dec	\$450.00
44	Jan/June	\$225.00
45	Replace taxicab plate	\$25.00
46	<u>Vehicle inspection rescheduling fee</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
47	B. For-hire driver	
48	Taxicab and for-hire license	\$95.00
49	Late fee	\$15.00
50	ID photo	\$5.00
51	Fingerprinting	per charge authorized by RCW 10.97.100
52	Replacement license	\$5.00
53	Training fee	per contract
54	Rescheduling fee	\$15.00

55           SECTION 3. Ordinance 10498, Section 95, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.760 are  
56 each hereby amended to read as follows:

57           A. The rates for taxicabs licensed to operate in King County shall be established  
58 by the King County council.

59           B. In reviewing rates, the council may take into account, among other things, and  
60 with the objective of prescribing a just and reasonable rate, the following factors:

61           1. The recommendations of the director pursuant to K.C.C. (~~6.68.740~~)  
62 6.64.740, if any;

63           2. The public need for adequate taxi service at the lowest level of charges  
64 consistent with the provision, maintenance and continuation of such a service;

- 65           3. The rates of other licensees operating in similar areas;
- 66           4. The effect of such rates upon transportation of passengers by other modes of  
67 transportation;
- 68           5. The licensee's need for revenue of a level ~~((which))~~ that under honest,  
69 efficient and economical management is sufficient to cover the cost, including all  
70 operating expenses, depreciation accruals, rents, license fees and taxes of every kind, of  
71 providing adequate taxi service, plus an amount equal to a percentage of the cost that is  
72 reasonably necessary for the replacement of deteriorated taxicabs and a reasonable profit  
73 to the licensee; and
- 74           6. Consistency of rates with those prescribed by the city of Seattle.

75           C. Every taxicab service organization affiliated representative or vehicle licensee  
76 in the case of an independent owner shall file with the director rates to be charged for the  
77 services of affiliated taxicabs it operates. Affiliated taxicabs shall have no more than one  
78 rate filed for the service organization or group of taxicabs operating under the same trade  
79 name. No dual licensed taxicab shall have more than ~~((one))~~ two rates on its meter.

80           D. Except for special or contract rates as provided for in this chapter or any per  
81 trip fee established by the Port of Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or  
82 tariff, or any toll or charge established for roads, bridges, tunnel or ferries, it shall be  
83 unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by King County to charge, demand or  
84 receive any greater or lesser rate than the following:

Meter rate	1.	Drop charge: For	\$2.50
		passengers for first	



2. ~~((1/10))~~ 1/9 mile  
Per mile: For each ~~((1/10))~~ \$0.30  
~~((1/10))~~ 1/9 mile or fraction  
thereof after the first  
~~((1/10))~~ 1/9 mile
3. For every one minute of \$0.50 (charged at  
waiting time: Waiting ~~((1/10))~~ \$0.30 per ~~((30))~~  
time rates are charged 36 seconds)  
when taxicab speed is  
less than twelve miles per  
hour or when customer  
asks for taxicab to wait
4. Extra charge for \$0.50  
passengers over two  
persons, excluding  
children under twelve  
years of age

85 E. ~~((Special rates and contract rates. 1.))~~ Special rates and contract rates as  
86 defined in this chapter shall be calculated as a percentage of the meter rate or a fixed  
87 dollar amount per trip.

88 ~~((2.))~~ 1. All special rates must be filed with the director on forms furnished by the  
89 director.

90           ~~((3-))~~ 2. All meter rates, special rates or contract rates shall be filed once a year  
91 at the time of application by the affiliated representative of a service company or by the  
92 vehicle licensee in the case of an independent owner.

93           ~~((4-))~~ 3. Licensees may change any special rate filed no more than once a year.

94           ~~((5-))~~ 4. Rates for new contracts acquired or changed during the license year  
95 shall be filed within two weeks of filing the contract and ~~((prior to))~~ before implementing  
96 the contracted rate. Contracts must be between taxicab service organizations or owners  
97 and legal business entities.

98           F. Every for-hire vehicle licensee shall, before commencing operating, file all  
99 rates and charges with the director. All rates and charges shall be conspicuously  
100 displayed inside the for-hire vehicle so as to be readily viewed by the passenger. The  
101 manner of posting ~~((with))~~ shall be prescribed by the director.

102           G. The rates specified in this section shall not apply to transportation of persons  
103 provided pursuant to a written contract that establishes a fare at a different rate for  
104 specified transportation and that has been previously filed with the director. No contract  
105 may include any provision that directly or indirectly requires exclusive use of the  
106 transportation services of the contracting taxicab vehicle.

107           H. It is unlawful to make any discriminatory charges to any person, or to make  
108 any rebate or in any manner reduce the charge to any person, unless the charge conforms  
109 to the discounts or surcharges contained in the filed rates.

110           I. It is unlawful under the Americans with Disabilities Act to charge a special  
111 service vehicle rate ~~((which))~~ that is different from the taxicab rates adopted in subsection

112 D. of this section, except in those instances where the transportation of disabled persons  
113 is pursuant to a written contract as specified in subsection G. of this section.

114 J. The director shall specify by rule how tolls or charges established for roads,  
115 bridges, tunnels or ferries shall be charged to taxicab or for-hire vehicle passengers and  
116 shall prescribe required signage for the vehicles for such purposes.

117 SECTION 4. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency

118 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,  
119 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public  
120 institutions.  
121

Ordinance 17404 was introduced on 7/9/2012 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/4/2012, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn  
No: 0  
Excused: 1 - Mr. McDermott


KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Larry Gossett, Chair

ATTEST:

  
  
Anne Norris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2012.

  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

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CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL