King County

Metropolitan King County Council
Committee of the Whole

Staff Report

Agenda item No:	**4**	Date:	**October 12, 2008**
Proposed Motion No:	**2009-0558**	Prepared by:	**Mike Alvine**

SUBJECT

AN ORDINANCE related to the establishment of a Seattle-King County taxicab advisory commission; authorizing the executive to enter into an interlocal agreement related thereto; and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.

SUMMARY

The ordinance, when enacted with a companion ordinance under consideration by the City of Seattle, would create a joint Seattle-King County taxicab advisory commission. The commission would have 11 members, be advisory only and would have certain oversight or review responsibilities that are described in more detail below.

BACKGROUND

King County and the City of Seattle previously created an advisory commission in 1988 that had participation from the Port of Seattle. It appears to have had a similar purpose as the current proposal. Staff could find no one with institutional memory of this commission in the King County executive or legislative branches, so it is unclear how well or poorly it functioned. King County ended its participation in the commission in 1989.

ANALYSIS

The legislation adds a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.Proposed Ordinance 2009-0558 would:

1. Establish a Seattle-King County Taxicab Advisory Commission of 11 members with the following interests being represented:
   - Three members who own taxicab licenses (Seattle appoints two);
   - Three members who drive taxicabs but who are not owners (King County appoints two);
   - Three members who represent customers from the hospitality industry, tourism industry or medical facilities (King County appoints one, Seattle

appoints one and the other 10 commission members appoint the third person from this customer interest group);

- One member who has a disability or who represents persons with disabilities (King County appoints);
- One member who represents individuals over the age of 60 (Seattle appoints);

2. Establish the purpose of the commission which is "...to study regulations, rules, policies and issues relevant to the provision of high-quality taxicab service in the city of Seattle and King County while ensuring the economic viability owning and driving taxicabs, and to make recommendations to the city of Seattle and King County on these matters." Specifically the commission is expected to advise King County and Seattle on:
   - Changes in governmental taxicab regulations;
   - Changes in administrative rules;
   - Changes to the city of Seattle and King County taxicab codes and legislation that would affect the taxicab industry;
   - The setting of taxicab fares;
   - Taxicab licensing; and
   - Current taxicab regulations.

3. The commission is expected to meet at least quarterly but may meet more often if necessary.

4. King County and the City of Seattle are required to notify the commission of proposed changes in rules, code or other actions that could affect the taxi industry no more than 15 days after the proposed change. Similarly King County and the City of Seattle are required to provide 30 days notice to the commission before it takes action to change regulations or code or other actions that would affect the taxi industry. The commission is expected to provide its input to the County and Seattle during this timeline, but the County and Seattle are not prohibited from taking action if the commission does not provide timely input.

5. The commission is required to produce an annual report on its work over the previous year that also includes a work program for the coming year. The report is due February 15 of each year.

6. The commission will be staffed by the executive branch of each jurisdiction and meet alternately in the facilities of each jurisdiction.

7. Allows the Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement with Seattle to establish more detailed operating procedures for the commission.

Council staff reviewed the legislation with the Director of the Records and Licensing Services Division. No issues were raised.

Timing – Final action on the City of Seattle ordinance is expected on October 19th. It might be advisable for King County to take final action on the legislation after that date to ensure the two ordinances are consistent.

AMENDMENTS

The sponsor has proposed one amendment that reduces from four to three the number of individuals that represent the hospitality industry, tourism industry or medical facilities and adds an individual that represents individuals over the age of 60. This amendment makes the King County ordinance consistent with the City of Seattle ordinance that was approved by the Transportation Committee on September 29, 2009.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Ordinance 2009-0558
2. Amendment 1

Attachment 1

King County

KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 9, 2009

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2009-0558.1 **Sponsors** Constantine, Gossett, Patterson, Ferguson, Hague and Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE related to the establishment of a Seattle-
2 King County taxicab advisory commission; authorizing the
3 executive to enter into an interlocal agreement related
4 thereto; and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 2.
5
6 STATEMENT OF FACTS:
7 1. The city of Seattle has authority to issue taxicab licenses and to
8 regulate taxicabs and drivers for the city.
9 2. King County has the authority to issue taxicab licenses and to regulate
10 taxicabs and drivers for unincorporated King County, and through
11 interlocal agreements, for some cities within King County.
12 3. In recent years, the city of Seattle and King County have changed their
13 codes to modify how taxicab licenses are issued and modified regulations
14 regarding taxicabs and drivers.
15 4. It is in the public interest that an advisory commission be formed to
16 advise elected officials with the city of Seattle, King County and the Port
17 of Seattle regarding the rational provision of taxicab services throughout

18 the county, and to help ensure the provision of high-quality taxicab service
19 while ensuring the economic viability of owning and driving taxicabs.
20 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:
21 SECTION 1. Sections 2 through 6 of this ordinance should constitute a new
22 chapter in K.C.C. Title 2.
23 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is established a Seattle-King County
24 taxicab advisory commission. The purpose of the commission is to study regulations,
25 rules, policies and issues relevant to the provision of high-quality taxicab service in the
26 city of Seattle and King County while ensuring the economic viability owning and
27 driving taxicabs, and to make recommendations to the city of Seattle and King County on
28 these matters. Recommendations to those jurisdictions shall include, but not be limited
29 to, the following:
30 A. Changes in governmental taxicab regulations;
31 B. Changes in administrative rules;
32 C. Changes to the city of Seattle and King County taxicab codes and legislation
33 that would affect the taxicab industry;
34 D. The setting of taxicab fares;
35 E. Taxicab licensing; and
36 F. Evaluating current taxicab regulations, including making recommendations to
37 each jurisdictions' respective executive and legislative bodies.
38 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. The Seattle-King County taxicab advisory
39 commission shall have the following members:

40 A. Three who represent taxicab license owners, which shall be positions one, two
41 and ten;
42 B. Three who represent taxicab drivers but are not taxicab license owners, and
43 who have not been a license owner within the previous five years, which shall be
44 positions three, four and nine;
45 C. Four from the hospitality industry, tourism industry or medical facilities,
46 representing patrons who use taxicabs, which shall be positions five, six, seven and
47 eleven; and
48 D. One who is a person with a disability or a person who represents persons with
49 disabilities, which shall be position eight.
50 NEW SECTION. SECTION 4.
51 A. Individuals shall be appointed specifically into each of the numbered
52 positions. Members in odd-numbered positions from position one to position nine shall
53 be appointed by the city of Seattle. Individuals in even-numbered positions from position
54 two to position ten shall be appointed by the King County executive and confirmed by
55 the King County council. Position eleven shall be appointed by the other members of
56 the commission.
57 B.1. Initial terms for the each appointment to the positions shall be as follows:
58 a. Positions one, two and five shall serve one-year terms that begin January 1,
59 1010;
60 b. Positions three, four, nine and ten shall serve two-year terms that begin
61 January 1, 1010; and

62 c. Positions six, seven, eight and eleven shall serve three-year terms that begin
63 January 1, 1010.
64 2. At the conclusion of the initial term of each appointment, all subsequent
65 terms of each position shall be for three years. A commission member whose term has
66 expired may continue to serve into the following term until a successor has been
67 appointed by the appropriate authority to complete the term. A member shall not serve
68 more than two consecutive terms. A vacancy for an unexpired term shall be filled by the
69 appropriate appointing authority.
70 NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. King County shall provide written notice to the
71 Seattle-King County taxicab advisory commission, no more than fifteen days following
72 any proposed changes to County ordinances or rules that pertain to the setting of taxicab
73 fares, taxicab licensing and other legislation regarding the taxicab industry or its
74 customers. Such written notice shall also occur no less than thirty days in advance of
75 adoption of proposed ordinances, rules or other legislation so that the commission will
76 have sufficient time to review proposed changes and report its recommendations to King
77 County and the city of Seattle. The commission shall issue and deliver an annual report
78 to the city of Seattle and King County that outlines the work of the commission during
79 the prior calendar year as well as its anticipated work program for the following calendar
80 year. The report shall be filed with the executive and clerk of the council, in the form of
81 eleven copies for distribution to all councilmembers, by February 15 of each year.
82 NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. The Seattle-King County taxicab advisory
83 commission shall convene as necessary, but at least quarterly, to perform the duties
84 outlined in section 2 of this ordinance. The County shall provide an executive

85 department employee to staff the committee. The appropriate appointing authority may
86 remove any member who is absent without excuse from three consecutive commission
87 meetings. Commission meeting locations shall rotate between city of Seattle and King
88 County facilities. Commission members shall serve without compensation.

89 NEW SECTION. SECTION 7. The executive is authorized to enter into an
90 interlocal agreement with the city of Seattle to implement commission responsibilities
91 and procedures as set forth in this ordinance.

92

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

_____

ATTEST:

_____

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, _____.

_____

Attachments None

Attachment 2

1

October 12, 2009

Sponsor: Constantine

ma

Proposed No.: 2009-0558

1 **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2009-0558, VERSION 1**

2 On page 3, delete lines 45 through 47 and insert:

3 "C. Three from the hospitality industry, tourism industry or medical facilities,

4 representing patrons who use taxicabs, which shall be positions five, six and eleven;"

5

6 On page 3, line 49, after "disabilities, which shall be position eight" insert "; and

7 E. One who is a person who represents individuals over the age of sixty, which

8 shall be position seven"

9

10 **EFFECT: The sponsor has proposed one amendment. that reduces from four to**

11 **three the number of individuals that represent the hospitality industry, tourism**

12 **industry or medical facilities and adds an individual that represents individuals over**

13 **the age of 60. This amendment makes the King County ordinance consistent with**

14 **the City of Seattle ordinance that was approved by the Transportation Committee**

15 **on September 29, 2009.**

October 12, 2009

2

Sponsor: Constantine

ma

Proposed No.: 2009-0558

1 **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2009-0558, VERSION 1**

2 On page 3, line 59 delete "1010" and insert "2010".

3 On page 3, line 61, after "January 1, " delete "1010" and insert "2010".

4 On page 4, line 63, after "January 1, " delete "1010" and insert "2010".

5

6 **EFFECT: Corrects the typographical error of stating the referenced year as "1010"**

7 **rather than "2010".**

October 12, 2009

3

Sponsor: Constantine

ma

Proposed No.: 2009-0558

1 **AMENDMENT TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2009-0558, VERSION 1**

2 On page 1, line 16 after "city of Seattle " delete ", King County and the Port of Seattle"

3 and insert "and King County".

4

5 **EFFECT: Deletes reference to the Port of Seattle.**