



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

October 25, 2005

Ordinance 15309

Proposed No. 2005-0411.2

Sponsors Gossett

1 AN ORDINANCE adopting a methodology for the
2 allocation of taxicab license; authorizing the director of the
3 department of executive services to withhold certain
4 taxicab licenses; prohibiting the transfer of new taxicab
5 licenses; and amending Ordinance 10498, Section 89, as
6 amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.700 and Ordinance 10498,
7 Section 90, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.710.

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10 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

11 SECTION 1. Ordinance 10498, Section 89, and K.C.C. 6.64.700 are hereby

12 amended to read as follows:

13 **Taxicab((-)) = ((M))maximum number.**

14 A. The King County council finds that the safety, reliability and economic viability
15 of privately operated taxi transportation is a matter of county concern and regulation of that
16 type of transportation is an essential government function. The council further finds that
17 the maximum number of taxicab licenses ((in effect as of May 31, 1991, is)) sufficient to

18 provide the public adequate taxicab service is five hundred sixty-one. The council further
19 finds that some previously issued licenses have reverted to the county and that the demand
20 for service has grown to the extent that the issuance of additional taxicab licenses from
21 within the number of reverted licenses may be justified. The council further finds that the
22 escalating cost of a taxicab license as it is transferred between parties may be reflected in
23 higher costs to the customer and may diminish the owner's ability to maintain an upgrade
24 his or her vehicle.

25 B. The total number of taxicab licenses issued shall not exceed five hundred sixty-
26 one. The director also shall deny issuance of new taxicab licenses from within the
27 number of reverted licenses as specified by this section unless he or she determines that
28 there is demand for additional taxi service.

29 C. The following methodology shall be used to determine whether to issue new
30 taxicab licenses:

31 1. The director shall periodically make a determination of the need for
32 additional taxi service in areas served by King County licensed taxicabs. The viability of
33 accessible taxi service at levels established in adopted policy shall be the primary
34 consideration. Other factors to be considered include:

35 a. coordination with the city of Seattle's taxicab licensing and regulatory
36 framework;

37 b. growth in population, tourists and other visitors to the area;

38 c. the quality of existing taxi service as indicated by response times and
39 customer satisfaction; and

40 d. other indications of unmet demand;

41 2. Upon determining that a specific number of new taxicab licenses should be
42 issued, the director may issue all or a portion of those licenses through a request for
43 proposals process designed to test alternatives to the current local taxi industry model.
44 King County should retain the ability to revoke, reallocate or recondition those licenses
45 should the alternative model prove infeasible; and

46 3. All taxicab licenses not subject to a request for proposals process shall be
47 issued by lot from a pool of qualified applicants as determined by the director.

48 ~~((C.))~~ D. The director may issue temporary taxicab licenses to wheelchair
49 accessible taxicab vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons who use
50 wheelchairs or other mobility devices. The temporary licenses are nontransferable and
51 shall not be included in calculating the maximum number of taxicab licenses allowable
52 pursuant to subsection B. of this section. The transit division shall coordinate a
53 demonstration project to determine the ~~((economic feasibility of the))~~ long-term
54 ~~((issuance))~~ viability of wheelchair accessible taxicab~~((s))~~ service.

55 ~~((D. The executive shall formulate and forward to the council for its approval a~~
56 ~~methodology for apportioning taxicab licenses when the total number of taxicab licenses in~~
57 ~~effect is less than the maximum number allowed. The executive shall submit this~~
58 ~~information to the council no later than March 1, 2006.))~~

59 E. In order to test alternative ways of structuring taxi associations and the terms
60 of taxicab license leases, the director may issue licenses on condition that the licensees
61 make specific commitments or perform specific actions not generally required of other
62 licensees. The director shall establish the special conditions through the administrative
63 rule making process in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 2.98. The director may revise the

64 conditions applied to such licenses or revoke and reissue the licenses upon determining
65 that the conditions have not been met or that they will not achieve the objectives of the
66 alternative being tested.

67 SECTION 2. Ordinance 10498, Section 90, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.710 are
68 amended to read as follows:

69 **Transfer or sale of license.**

70 A. Transfer or sale of a license issued before January 1, 2006, to any other person
71 is authorized, except that temporary wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses and all taxicab
72 licenses issued after January 1, 2006, are nontransferable. Application for transfer of a
73 ((permit)) license to another person shall include the name of the transferee, and the trade
74 name and color scheme under which the vehicle will be operated, the sales price and
75 other information required by the director. The transferee shall comply with all
76 requirements of this chapter. Any transfer of a taxicab license shall be for the transfer of
77 all licenses issued to the vehicle. If the transfer is for one vehicle license only, the
78 remaining taxicab license shall be considered abandoned, nonrenewable or
79 nontransferable.

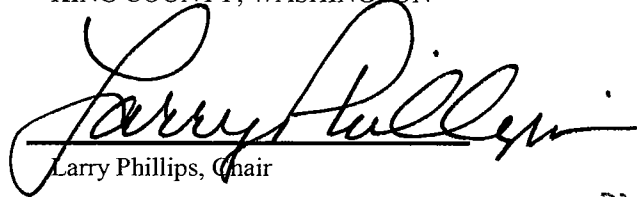
80 B. Unless suspended or revoked, taxicab license may be renewed annually

81 subject to timely payment of license fees and compliance with other relevant provisions
82 of this chapter.
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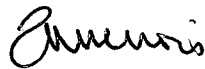
Ordinance 15309 was introduced on 10/10/2005 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 10/24/2005, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Mr. Phillips, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Pelz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Mr. Hammond

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:


Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 3 day of NOVEMBER, 2005.


Ron Sims, County Executive

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

Attachments None