



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**May 11, 2010**

**Ordinance 16824**

**Proposed No. 2010-0214.3**

**Sponsors Drago, Lambert, Phillips, Gossett  
and Ferguson**

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to taxicab licenses; regulating  
2 wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses; making technical  
3 corrections; and amending Ordinance 10498, Section 89, as  
4 amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.700 and Ordinance 10498,  
5 Section 90, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.710.

6 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 7 1. There is an unmet need for taxicab services for individuals that rely on  
8 mobility devices such as manual and motorized wheelchairs.  
9 2. King County and Seattle collaborated on the Wheelchair Accessible  
10 Taxicab Project that demonstrated the need for as well as the viability of  
11 wheelchair accessible taxicabs in Seattle and King County.  
12 3. Individuals who require mobility devices have the right to expect  
13 highly qualified taxicab drivers and appropriate vehicles that can provide  
14 safe, quality and timely service.

15 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:**

16 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

- 17 A. The safety, reliability and economic viability of privately operated taxi  
18 transportation is a matter of county concern and regulation of that type of transportation  
19 is an essential government function.

20 B. The maximum number of taxicab licenses sufficient to provide the public  
21 adequate taxicab service is five hundred sixty-one.

22 C. Some previously issued licenses have reverted to the county and the demand  
23 for service has grown to the extent that the issuance of additional taxicab licenses from  
24 within the number of reverted licenses may be justified.

25 D. The escalating cost of a taxicab license as it is transferred between parties may  
26 be reflected in higher costs to the customer and may diminish the owner's ability to  
27 maintain and upgrade the owner's vehicle.

28 SECTION 2. Ordinance 10498, Section 89, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.700 are  
29 each hereby amended to read as follows:

30 A. ~~((The King County council finds that the safety, reliability and economic~~  
31 ~~viability of privately operated taxi transportation is a matter of county concern and~~  
32 ~~regulation of that type of transportation is an essential government function. The council~~  
33 ~~further finds that the maximum number of taxicab licenses sufficient to provide the~~  
34 ~~public adequate taxicab service [is five hundred sixty one]. The council further finds that~~  
35 ~~some previously issued licenses have reverted to the county and that the demand for~~  
36 ~~service has grown to the extent that the issuance of additional taxicab licenses from~~  
37 ~~within the number of reverted licenses may be justified. The council further finds that the~~  
38 ~~escalating cost of a taxicab license as it is transferred between parties may be reflected in~~  
39 ~~higher costs to the customer and may diminish the owner's ability to maintain and~~  
40 ~~upgrade his or her vehicle.~~

41 B.)) The total number of taxicab licenses issued shall not exceed five hundred  
42 sixty-one. The director also shall deny issuance of new taxicab licenses from within the

43 number of reverted licenses as specified by this section unless ~~((he or she))~~ the director  
44 determines that there is demand for additional taxi service.

45 ~~((C.))~~ B. The following methodology shall be used to determine whether to issue  
46 new taxicab licenses:

47 1. The director shall periodically make a determination of the need for  
48 additional taxi service in areas served by King County licensed taxicabs. The ~~((viability))~~  
49 sufficiency of wheelchair accessible taxi service at levels established in adopted policy  
50 shall be the primary consideration. One measure of sufficiency shall be whether  
51 wheelchair accessible taxicab response times for customers are approximately equal to  
52 response times for taxicabs that are not wheelchair accessible. Other factors to be  
53 considered for issuing new taxicab licenses include:

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

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

57 c. the quality of existing taxi service as indicated by response times and  
58 customer satisfaction; ~~((and))~~

59 d. the sales price of licenses; and,

60 e. other indications of unmet demand;

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

66           3. All taxicab licenses not subject to a request for proposals process shall be  
67 issued by lot from a pool of ~~((qualified))~~ applicants ~~((as determined by the director))~~.  
68 The director shall then evaluate the qualifications of individuals selected by lot and issue  
69 licenses to those determined to be qualified.

70           ~~((D. The director may issue temporary taxicab licenses to wheelchair accessible~~  
71 ~~taxicab vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons who use wheelchairs~~  
72 ~~or other mobility devices. The temporary licenses are nontransferable and shall not be~~  
73 ~~included in calculating the maximum number of taxicab licenses allowable pursuant to~~  
74 ~~subsection B. of this section. The transit division shall coordinate a demonstration~~  
75 ~~project to determine the long term viability of wheelchair accessible taxicab service.~~

76           ~~E.)~~ C. All temporary taxicab licenses issued to wheelchair accessible taxicab  
77 vehicles for the purpose of a demonstration project under Ordinance 15263 expire June  
78 30, 2010. The temporary licenses are nontransferable and shall not be included in  
79 calculating the maximum number of taxicab licenses allowable under subsection A. of  
80 this section.

81           D. The director may issue licenses for wheelchair accessible taxicabs. The  
82 director shall determine the number of wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses needed to  
83 serve the areas serviced by King County and may also coordinate with the city of Seattle  
84 to determine the number of wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses needed to provide  
85 service in areas serviced by both the city of Seattle and King County. Wheelchair  
86 accessible taxicab licenses shall not be included in calculating the maximum number of  
87 taxicab licenses allowed under subsection A. of this section but are subject to the process  
88 outlined in subsection B.1. of this section.

89           1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection D.2. of this section, the processes  
90 for issuing wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses is as follows:

91           a. Upon determining that a specific number of new wheelchair accessible  
92 taxicab licenses should be issued, the director may issue all or a portion of those licenses  
93 through a request for proposals. In any request for proposals, the director shall consider  
94 among other factors an applicant's driving record, driving experience, conduct record and  
95 qualifying experience transporting disabled individuals that require any type of mobility  
96 device including a manual or motorized wheelchair or other mobility device;

97           b. All wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses not subject to a request for  
98 proposals process shall be issued by lot from a pool of applicants. The director shall then  
99 evaluate the qualifications of individuals selected by lot and issue licenses to those  
100 determined to be qualified;

101           2. As an alternative to the process in subsection D.1. of this section, the director  
102 may coordinate the process to license wheelchair accessible taxicabs with the city of  
103 Seattle and is authorized to issue King County wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses to  
104 applicants selected by the city of Seattle to be issued wheelchair accessible taxicab  
105 licenses for the city of Seattle.

106           E. In order to test alternative ways of structuring taxi associations and the terms  
107 of taxicab license leases, the director may issue licenses on condition that the licensees  
108 make specific commitments or perform specific actions not generally required of other  
109 licensees. The director shall establish the special conditions through the administrative  
110 rule making process in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 2.98. The director may revise the  
111 conditions applied to such licenses or revoke and reissue the licenses upon determining

112 that the conditions have not been met or that they will not achieve the objectives of the  
113 alternative being tested.

114 SECTION 3. Ordinance 10498, Section 90, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.710 are  
115 amended to read as follows:

116 A. Transfer or sale of a license issued before January 1, 2006, to any other person  
117 is authorized, except that temporary wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses and all taxicab  
118 licenses issued after January 1, 2006, are nontransferable, except that all wheelchair  
119 accessible taxicab licenses issued in accordance with K.C.C. 6.64.700.D. are transferable  
120 after five years from the original date of license. Application for transfer of a license to  
121 another person shall include the name of the transferee, and the trade name and color  
122 scheme under which the vehicle will be operated, the sales price and other information  
123 required by the director. The licensee selling the license and the individual purchasing  
124 the license must file an affidavit and bill of sale, signed by both parties, with the county  
125 records and licensing services division. The transferee shall comply with all  
126 requirements of this chapter. ~~((Any transfer of a taxicab license shall be for the transfer~~  
127 ~~of all licenses issued to the vehicle.)) For taxicabs licensed by more than one  
128 jurisdiction, ((I))if the transfer is for one vehicle license only, the remaining taxicab  
129 license shall be considered abandoned, nonrenewable or nontransferable.~~

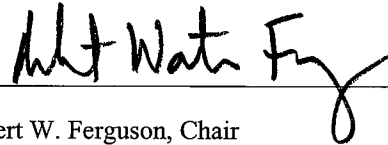
130 B. Unless suspended or revoked, a taxicab license may be renewed annually

131 subject to timely payment of license fees and compliance with other relevant provisions  
132 of this chapter.  
133

Ordinance 16824 was introduced on 4/5/2010 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/10/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Drago, Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett,  
Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



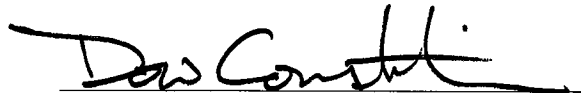
Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.



Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

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2010 MAY 20 PM 3:53  
CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL