



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Danielle Larson, Tax & License Manager, Finance
 Andy Cherullo, Finance
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Request for Ordinance – Chapter 6B.220 For-Hire Regulations – September 23, 2014
DATE: September 5, 2014

SUMMARY:

The Finance Department, Tax & License Division recommends repealing and reenacting Chapter 6B.220 Taxi Regulations. The new Chapter 6B.220 will address regulation of taxi service and other types of for-hire transportation services and continue to provide for the safe, fair and efficient operation of all for-hire vehicles and for-hire drivers in the City.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

Repealing and reenacting Chapter 6B.220 For-hire Regulations aligns with our strategic policy to strengthen and support public safety, human services, public education, and diverse higher learning opportunities in Tacoma. The proposed changes in the Ordinance will enhance public safety by requiring safety regulations for all for-hire vehicles and for-hire drivers providing transportation services in Tacoma and provide more options to citizens and visitors.

BACKGROUND:

The City has regulated the taxi industry to provide for safe operation of taxicabs since 1942. The most recent change to the Taxi regulations was in 2006 when several new requirements were established to enhance the safety and appearance of taxicabs and improve driver safety and knowledge of the City.

ISSUE:

There is a discrepancy in regulatory requirements currently in the Tacoma Municipal Code between taxi services and other types of for-hire transportation services, such as Uber and Lyft, that provide online applications or websites that connect drivers with passengers.

ALTERNATIVES:

The alternative is to not implement regulations for for-hire transportation services other than taxi. This would not provide a fair and efficient market for the transportation industry and allow transportation options to citizens that are potentially not safe.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Department, Tax & License Division, recommends repealing and reenacting Chapter 6B.220. The new Chapter 6B.220 will align regulations for all for-hire transportation services in the Tacoma Municipal Code which will provide a fair and efficient market for the for-hire transportation services offered in the City as well as provide multiple safe transportation options to citizens.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is estimated to be minimal fiscal impact from the for-hire license fees. The fees received from the licenses are set at a price that covers the City’s cost of administering the license, inspection and enforcement activities.