

Chapter 5.44

TAXICABS

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5.44.010 Definitions. When used in this chapter:

- A. "Taxicab" includes all vehicles used for the transportation of passengers for compensation, except ambulances, first aid vehicles, and other vehicles which are represented to provide medical services to their passengers, school buses operating exclusively under a contract to a school district, and auto stages which carry passengers on a regular schedule of time and rates;
- B. "Taxicab operator" means and includes any person, concern, business, corporation, or other entity which owns one or more taxicabs and is engaged in the business of transporting passengers for compensation in such vehicles;
- C. "Taxicab driver" means and includes any person who drives a taxicab on a

full-time or part-time basis by arrangement with the owner thereof, and who uses said vehicle for the transportation of passengers for compensation;

- D. "Licensing officer" means the manager of the City of Snohomish or his designee who shall administer and enforce the requirements of this chapter. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.020 Taxicab Operator's Permit. No person, business, or corporation shall operate a taxicab for calls originating within the corporate limits of the City without first obtaining a taxicab operator's permit from the licensing officer. Such permit shall be valid until December 31st of the year of its issuance, and is not transferable. Such permit shall be issued upon submission of a completed permit application form, which form shall be provided by the licensing officer and shall include:

- A. The name and address of the owner or owners, and if a corporation, the names and addresses of the principal officers thereof;
- B. The address where the operator's taxis will be based;
- C. The name and motor number of any vehicle to be operated;
- D. The permit number for the Washington State "for hire vehicle" permit issued to the operator;
- E. Evidence that the insurance requirement of this chapter is complied with;
- F. Evidence that the drivers of all taxicabs owned by the operator are qualified pursuant to this chapter;
- G. Such other information as the licensing officer may require. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.030 Taxicab Operator's Permit Fee.

Applications for taxicab operator's permits shall be forwarded to the licensing officer with a fee in an amount which shall be set on a uniform basis by the licensing officer. All operator's permits shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of each year, and applications for renewal thereof shall be accompanied by an annual fee, the amount of which shall be set on a uniform basis by the licensing officer. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.040 Taxicab Operator's Permit – Issuance and Display.

Upon receipt of an application for a taxicab operator's permit and the requisite fee, the licensing officer shall, if such application is in proper form, issue a permit authorizing the applicant to operate taxicabs within the City until such operator ceases to do business as such, or until the permit expires, is suspended or revoked. Such permit shall be displayed in a conspicuous place in the principal place of business of the operator. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.050 Insurance.

Prior to a taxicab operator's permit being issued, the taxicab operator shall be required to deposit and keep on file and in force and effect with the licensing officer a public liability insurance policy covering each and every motor vehicle operated or intended to be so operated, executed by an insurance company licensed and authorized to write such insurance policies in the State of Washington, assuring the operator against property damage and personal liability to the public, with the premiums paid and the payment noted thereon. Said policy of insurance shall provide a minimum coverage as follows:

- A. Bodily injury liability, one hundred thousand dollars for each person;
- B. Bodily injury liability, three hundred thousand dollars for each accident;

- C. Property damage liability, fifty thousand dollars for each accident.

The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the right of any injured person to any private right of action against a taxicab operator as herein defined. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.060 Taxicab Driver's License.

No person shall drive a taxicab on a full-time or part-time basis for a taxicab operator who is regulated by this chapter unless such driver first obtains a taxicab driver's license from the licensing officer. Such license shall be valid until December 31st of the year of its issuance, and is not transferable. The requirements for obtaining such a license are as follows:

- A. The applicant must complete a license application form provided by the licensing officer;
- B. The applicant must have a valid Washington State Driver's License issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- C. The applicant must be at least eighteen years of age;
- D. The applicant must submit to an investigation under the direction of the Chief of Police with regard to his driving record and his record of criminal arrests and convictions, and must receive a favorable recommendation from the Chief of Police as a person with experience, competence, and character consistent with the high standard expected of a taxicab driver. The Chief of Police shall not require photographs or fingerprints to be taken of any applicant, and shall make his recommendation within a reasonable time after receiving a driver's application. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.070 Taxicab Driver's License Fee.

Applications for taxicab driver's licenses shall be forwarded to the licensing officer with a fee in an amount which shall be set on a uniform basis by the licensing officer. All driver's licenses shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of each year, and applications for renewal thereof shall be accompanied by an annual fee, the amount of which shall be set on a uniform basis by the licensing officer. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.080 Taxicab Driver's License – Display.

Upon the issuance of a taxicab driver's license, such license shall be valid until the driver ceases to do business as a taxicab driver, or until the license expires, is suspended or revoked. Such license shall be carried on the person of the taxicab driver at all times he is offering his vehicle for hire. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.090 Posting Rates. The rate schedule charged passengers by any taxicab operator shall be filed and kept current with the licensing officer and a copy thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous place within each taxicab owned by said operator. The licensing officer may regulate taxicab rate schedules on a uniform basis by duly promulgated rules and regulations. No rates shall be charged passengers which are inconsistent with said schedule or said rules and regulations. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.100 Taxicab Inspection. All taxicabs owned and operated by a taxicab operator shall be kept in good mechanical and sanitary condition and shall be subject to inspection at all times under the direction of the licensing officer. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.110 Taxicab Stands. The matter of granting stands for licensed taxicabs shall be left to the discretion of the licensing officer, except that no such stand shall exceed one regular parking space, nor shall it be granted unless a fee is paid in accordance with a schedule to be promulgated by the licensing

officer. No right to stands granted pursuant to this section shall be assignable or transferable, and all such rights shall be subject to cancellation by action of the licensing officer, with or without cause, if such cancellation is found by the licensing officer to be for the best interests of the City. Unless sooner cancelled, the rights incident to all stands so granted by the licensing officer shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of the year in which granted, and if granted for a period of less than one year, the costs thereof shall be pro-rated accordingly. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.120 Duties of the Licensing Officer.

The licensing officer shall promulgate, revise, or rescind such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to administer the provisions of this chapter and to perform the duties assigned to the licensing officer in conformity with the intent and purpose of this chapter. The licensing officer or his designee shall take such action as is necessary to enforce the provisions of this chapter, including a program to inspect all licensed taxicabs at regular intervals. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.130 Suspension or Revocation of Permits or Licenses.

The licensing officer shall have authority to revoke, suspend, or deny any taxicab operator's permit or taxicab driver's license on any of the following grounds:

- A. Failure to comply and to maintain compliance with, or for violation of, any applicable provisions, standards, or requirements of this chapter or regulations promulgated hereunder, or of any other applicable laws or ordinances or regulations promulgated thereunder, but only after being given a written warning and such reasonable time for compliance as may be set by the licensing officer;

- B. If the holder of a taxicab driver's license is convicted of, or forfeits bail for, any of the following driving violations, whether or not in connection with driving a taxicab:
1. Reckless driving,
 2. Driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs;
- C. If the license or permit holder is convicted of any felony or any criminal offense involving moral turpitude, intemperance, or drugs or narcotics;
- D. If the license or permit was obtained by fraud or if the application therefor contains any false statements, or if a fact concerning the applicant was not disclosed at the time of his making the application, when such fact would have constituted just cause for refusing to issue such license or permit. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

licensing officer concerning the services performed within or about the City of Snohomish and the rates charged. Such records shall be available to inspection by the licensing officer at any reasonable time. A condition of any taxicab operator's permit granted under this chapter shall be the implied consent of the permittee to all reasonable inspections required by the licensing officer. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.160 Penalties. Violation of this Chapter shall be considered a civil violation pursuant to SMC 1.01.080 and Chapter 1.14 SMC, except as otherwise provided therein. (Ord. 1202, 1973; Ord. 1927, 1999; Ord. 2155, 2008)

5.44.140 Appeal. The decision of the licensing officer with regard to suspension, revocation, or refusal to grant or renew a taxicab operator's permit or a taxicab driver's license is subject to review by the City Council upon ten days' written notice. The suspension or revocation shall be effective pending the City Council's review, unless a special waiver is obtained from the City Council. The City Council shall afford the permittee or licensee a public hearing, and within ten days after the conclusion of such hearing shall issue a written decision as to the suspension or retention of the permit or license in question. Such decision shall be final, subject to review by the Superior Court. (Ord. 1202, 1973)

5.44.150 Availability and Inspection of Records. Each taxicab operator shall maintain accurate records upon such forms as may be prescribed by and containing such information as may be required by the