

AN ORDINANCE **94746**

AMENDING CHAPTER 33 OF THE CITY CODE, ADDING SECTION 33-931 TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROVAL OF ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE PERMITS FOR THE OPERATION OF TAXICABS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to encourage the taxicab industry to offer more accessible vehicles to San Antonio's disabled community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that providing additional taxicab permits to operating permit holders that would require placing in service accessible vehicles would serve this purpose; and

WHEREAS, such an action requires an amendment to Chapter 33 of the city code; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. Chapter 33 of the city code is hereby amended to add the following provision as section 33-931:

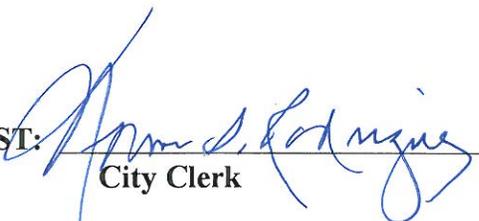
- (a) The Director may approve accessible permits for the operation of taxicabs that are accessible to passengers with disabilities. Such accessible taxicabs must:
 - (1) comply with all standards and requirements set forth in sections 33-062 through and including 33-069;
 - (2) be equipped with mechanisms or devices to accommodate the boarding and debarking of persons in wheelchairs and similar mobility devices and with mechanisms or devices to secure said wheelchairs and similar mobility devices during transit;
 - (3) meet all state and federal standards applicable to vehicles that are usable by passengers with disabilities; and
 - (4) be operated in a "City-wide" area, as defined in section 33-928(a).
- (b) A company or cooperative may hold three accessible permits, plus one additional accessible permit for each ten non-accessible, non-limited permits held by said company or cooperative, not to exceed a total of twenty-five accessible permits per company or cooperative. The number of accessible permits issued by the Director shall not be used to calculate the number of additional permits issued pursuant to section 33-929.
- (c) The provisions of this section do not prohibit a holder of an operating permit from operating an accessible taxicab pursuant to a non-accessible permit.

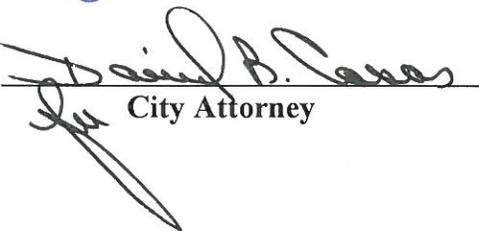
- (d) Every driver operating an accessible taxicab as defined herein shall, whether pursuant to an accessible permit or not, first complete an instructional course approved by the Director addressing the boarding, deboarding, and securing of persons in wheelchairs and other mobility devices.
- (e) Holders of accessible permits must ensure that the taxicabs operating pursuant to said permits give priority to customers requiring accessible taxicabs.
- (f) All other provisions of this chapter applicable to taxicabs apply to the operation of accessible taxicabs pursuant to this section where such provisions are not in conflict with this section.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall take effect ten days from the date of passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of October , 2001.


M A Y O R
EDWARD D. GARZA

ATTEST: 
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
City Attorney

01-39

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ALAMODOME
ASSET MANAGEMENT
AVIATION
CITY ATTORNEY
MUNICIPAL COURT
REAL ESTATE (FASSNIDGE)
REAL ESTATE (WOOD)
RISK MANAGEMENT
CITY MANAGER
SPECIAL PROJECTS
CITY PUBLIC SERVICE - GENERAL MANAGER
CITY PUBLIC SERVICE - MAPS AND RECORDS
CODE COMPLIANCE
1 COMMERCIAL RECORDER
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU
CONVENTION CENTER EXPANSION OFFICE
CONVENTION FACILITIES
COUNCIL OFFICES
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
CUSTOMER SERVICE/311 SYSTEM
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
HOUSE NUMBERING
LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
TRAFFIC & DRAINAGE PLAN REVIEW
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
SOLID WASTE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
FINANCE - DIRECTOR
FINANCE - ASSESSOR
1 FINANCE - CONTROLLER
FINANCE - GRANTS
FINANCE - PUBLIC UTILITIES SUPERVISOR
FINANCE- TREASURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
HUMAN RESOURCES (PERSONNEL)
INFORMATION SERVICES
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
INTERNAL REVIEW
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
LIBRARY
1 MANAGEMENT & BUDGET (OFFICE OF) OMB
METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT
1 MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION
MUNICIPAL COURT
NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION
PARKS AND RECREATION
MARKET SQUARE
YOUTH INITIATIVES
PLANNING DEPARTMENT -NEIGHBORHOOD PLNG; URBAN DESIGN/HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DISABILITY ACCESS OFFICE
1 POLICE DEPARTMENT
GROUND TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
CAPITAL PROJECTS
CENTRAL MAPPING
ENGINEERING
PARKING DIVISION
REAL ESTATE DIVISION
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
PURCHASING AND GENERAL SERVICES
SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEMS (SAWS)
VIA

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 37.
 DATE: OCT 18 2001
 MOTION: Perez Garcia
 ORDINANCE NUMBER: 94746
 RESOLUTION NUMBER: _____
 ZONING CASE NUMBER: _____
 TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION: _____

NAME	ROLL	AYE	NAY
BOBBY PEREZ District 1		✓	
JOHN H. SANDERS District 2		✓	
TONI MOORHOUSE District 3		✓	
ENRIQUE "KIKE" MARTIN District 4		absent	
DAVID A. GARCIA District 5		✓	
ENRIQUE M. BARRERA District 6		✓	
JULIAN CASTRO District 7		✓	
BONNIE CONNER District 8		✓	
CARROLL SCHUBERT District 9		✓	
DAVID CARPENTER District 10		absent	
ED GARZA Mayor		✓	

Amend City Code - Chapter 33

01-39

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM
POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Al A. Philippus, Chief of Police

THROUGH: Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES TO: J. Rolando Bono, Deputy City Manager; File

SUBJECT: Amending Chapter 33 Approving Accessible Vehicle Permits

DATE: October 9, 2001

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An ordinance amending Chapter 33 of the City Code, adding Sec. 33-931 to provide for the approval of accessible vehicle permits for the operation of taxicabs that are accessible to passengers with disabilities, is recommended.

This amendment will allow the addition of accessible vehicles to the taxicab fleet. The number of accessible permits will not be used to calculate the number of additional permits issued pursuant to, "Section 33-929, Number of Taxicabs; Authority to Operate Additional Taxicabs."

The Transportation Advisory Board unanimously recommends approval of this ordinance amendment.

POLICY ANALYSIS

As a result of a report by a consultant on the status of the vehicle for hire industry in San Antonio, the ordinance regulating taxicabs, Chapter 33 of the City Code, was revised and amended in 1994. This brought revolutionary changes to the taxicab industry and vastly improved taxicab service to residents as well as, business and leisure visitors to the City. The taxicab industry has made tremendous improvements in the areas of customer service, driver safety, and fleet maintenance. Presently, the focus is to provide parity in service to the physically challenged.

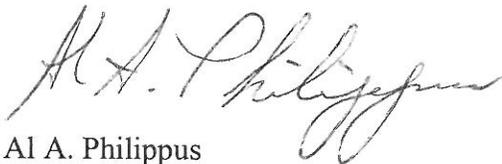
More accessible transportation options are a necessary outgrowth of the mainstreaming effect of ADA. A comprehensive study of 36 major cities reveals that 18 of those cities responding have a percentage of their taxicab fleet as handicapped accessible. In Texas, Austin and Houston are the only major cities with accessible vehicles in their taxicab fleets. In fact, the City of Austin recently approved an ordinance that will require the total number of accessible vehicles to be not less than 6% of the total number of permits issued by the Department.

The Transportation Advisory Board has taken a proactive stance regarding this issue. A subcommittee was formed at the May 2001, meeting to explore possible plans of action to accomplish this goal. The committee met twice in June and finalized their recommendations. On August 30, 2001 staff presented these recommendations to the City Council Commercial Transportation Committee. The committee approved of the ordinance amendment with the stipulation that the Police Department utilize customer surveys and volunteers to assess the quality and timeliness of service to the physically challenged and to assure that holders of accessible permits give priority to customers requiring accessible taxi cabs.

After a review of other cities and the obvious need for such a service in San Antonio, staff recommends approval of the Chapter 33 amendment authorizing accessible taxicab operating permits.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

No financial impact is anticipated by the approval of this ordinance.



Al A. Philippus
Chief of Police

Approved:



J. Rolando Bono
Deputy City Manager

Approved:

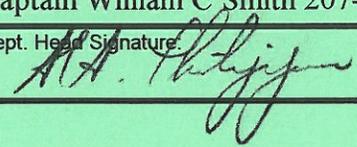


Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager

Sec. 33-931. ACCESSIBLE PERMITS.

- (a) The Director may approve accessible permits for the operation of taxicabs that are accessible to passengers with disabilities. Such accessible taxicabs must:
 - (1) comply with all standards and requirements set forth in sections 33-062 through and including 33-069;
 - (2) be equipped with mechanisms or devices to accommodate the boarding and deboarding of persons in wheelchairs and similar mobility devices and with mechanisms or devices to secure said wheelchairs and similar mobility devices during transit;
 - (3) meet all state and federal standards applicable to vehicles that are usable by passengers with disabilities; and
 - (4) be operated in a "City-wide" area, as defined in section 33-928(a).
- (b) A company or cooperative may hold three accessible permits, plus one additional accessible permit for each ten non-accessible, non-limited permits held by said company or cooperative, not to exceed a total of twenty-five accessible permits per company or cooperative. The number of accessible permits issued by the Director shall not be used to calculate the number of additional permits issued pursuant to section 33-929.
- (c) The provisions of this section do not prohibit a holder of an operating permit from operating an accessible taxicab pursuant to a non-accessible permit.
- (d) Every driver operating an accessible taxicab as defined herein shall, whether pursuant to an accessible permit or not, first complete an instructional course approved by the Director addressing the boarding, deboarding, and securing of persons in wheelchairs and other mobility devices.
- (e) Holders of accessible permits must ensure that the taxicabs operating pursuant to said permits give priority to customers requiring accessible taxicabs.
- (f) All other provisions of this chapter applicable to taxicabs apply to the operation of accessible taxicabs pursuant to this section where such provisions are not in conflict with this section.

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE		CITY OF SAN ANTONIO Request For Ordinance/Resolution	For CMO use only	
Approval			Date Considered	
Finance	Budget		Consent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	Coordinator		Item No.	
		Ord. No.		

Date: October 18, 2001	Department: Police	Contact Person/Phone # Captain William C Smith 207-7430
Date Council Consideration Requested: October 18, 2001	Deadline for Action: October 18, 2001	Dept. Head Signature: 

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

An ordinance amending Chapter 33 of the City Code, adding Section 33-931 to provide for the approval of accessible vehicle permits for the operation of taxicabs that are accessible to passengers with disabilities.

This amendment allows for the addition of accessible vehicles to the taxicab fleet. The number of accessible permits will not be used to calculate the number of additional permits issued pursuant to "Section 33-929, Number of Taxicabs; Authority to operate Additional Taxicabs."

Staff recommends approval.

Council Memorandum Must Be Attached To Original

Other Depts., Boards, Committees Involved (Please Specify):
Commercial Transportation Committee, Transportation Advisory Board

Contract signed by other party
Yes No

FISCAL DATA (If Applicable)	Budgetary Implications
Fund No. _____ Amt. Expended _____	Funds/Staffing Budgeted Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Activity No. _____ Sid No. _____	Positions Currently Authorized _____
Index Code _____ Project No. _____	Impact on future O&M _____
Object Code _____	If positions added, specify class and no. _____ _____ _____
Comments: 	Coordinator -- White Legal -- Green Budget -- Canary Finance -- Pink Originator -- Gold

**Amendment to Chapter 33 - City Code
Accessible Taxicab Permits**

San Antonio Police Department

October 18, 2001

Agenda Item 37

Introduction

Chapter 33 of the City Code governs the regulation and enforcement of commercial vehicles for hire in the City of San Antonio

The types of vehicles regulated include:

- Taxicabs**
- Limousines**
- Horse Carriages**
- Tour Vehicles**
- Charter Vehicles**
- Pedicabs**

Goal:

To improve the quality of life of the physically challenged by creating an “on-demand” taxicab service system that more closely meets their needs

Background

- ◆ VIA Metropolitan Transit System operates a “scheduled” shuttle system to service the transportation needs of physically disabled persons in our community
- ◆ The limitations of this service do not allow for on demand and direct point-to-point taxi-type service
- ◆ Greater flexibility provides for greater autonomy

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

- ◆ **May 2001 - Recognized the need for access to taxi service by people with special needs**
- ◆ **June 2001 - Amendment to Chapter 33 was unanimously endorsed by the TAB**
- ◆ **August 2001 - Amendment recommendation presented to Transportation Committee**

Amendment Specifics

- ◆ Each taxi company may add 3 handicapped units, up to 10% of their respective fleets
- ◆ Max. number of special permits per company is 25
- ◆ Cost of special vehicle conversion is \$7000-\$11000
- ◆ Special permits will not be included in the annual calculation of taxi permits to population ratio (1700-1)
- ◆ Special permits allow for both forms of service, but requests for specialized service will have priority
- ◆ Projections indicate the addition of 20-30 handicap equipped taxicabs to service the city

Conclusion

- ◆ Citizens with special needs would have options for improved services
- ◆ TAB endorses the amendment
- ◆ Staff recommends approval

**Amendment to Chapter 33 - City Code
Handicapped Accessible Taxicabs**

San Antonio Police Department

Assistant Chief Albert Ortiz

City of San Antonio Handicap Accessible Taxicab Satisfaction Survey

Please circle or check the response(s) that most correctly express your experiences or opinions. *For purposes of this survey, the word "you" means yourself, those you represent, or those with which your business or organization work with in conducting business.*

YES NO Were you aware that Handicap Accessible Taxicabs were available by City Ordinance for usage by the mobility impaired community?

YES NO Were you aware that by City Ordinance all licenses for Handicap Accessible Taxicabs require the taxicab to be dispatched on a priority basis to the mobility impaired?

Which of the following taxicab companies have you utilized for handicap accessible usage? (Please check all used).

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alamo City Taxi | <input type="checkbox"/> Arrow Cab | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Airport Svce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Taxi Svce | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Checker | <input type="checkbox"/> National Cab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Owl Cab Company | <input type="checkbox"/> PDQ Taxi | <input type="checkbox"/> Pegasus Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SA Trans | <input type="checkbox"/> SA Limo/Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Cab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MAC Trans | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

How many people that you represent utilize this service on a weekly basis?

- 0 1-5 6-10 11-15 16- or more

YES NO Do you feel that the mobility impaired community is receiving the preferential treatment this ordinance was designed to achieve?

YES NO Do you feel that pick-up times for the mobility handicapped has decreased since the initiation of this ordinance?

YES NO Have you ever filed a complaint with the Ground Transportation Unit of the City of San Antonio reference the use or misuse of this service? If so, please give month and year or complaint(s): _____ 200__

YES NO Do you feel the initiation of this ordinance has helped the mobility impaired community? If so, to what degree?:

- () Very Much () Noticeable Benefit () No Change in Service
 () Service has not improved () Service has actually gotten worse

YES NO Do you feel that the taxi-cab drivers assigned to mobility impaired licensed units are more considerate and helpful with the mobility impaired client than those assigned regular cab service? Is so, to what degree?:

- () Very Much () Noticeable improvement () No Change in Svce
 () Service has not improved () Service has actually gotten worse

Thank you, for taking the time and effort to assist us with this survey. Your help will assist us in determining the effectiveness and efficiency of this service. Please refold the survey with the return to the outside, seal with tape, and return postage paid to the City of San Antonio or call 207-8927 and arrangements will be made to pick up the survey at your convenience.

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Affidavit of Publisher

PUBLIC NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE 94746

AMENDING CHAPTER 33 OF THE CITY CODE, ADDING SECTION 33-931 TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPROVAL OF ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE PERMITS FOR THE OPERATION OF TAXICABS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2001.

/s/EDWARD D. GARZA
Mayor

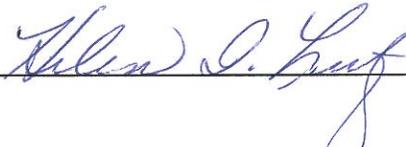
/s/Norma S. Rodriguez
City Clerk
10/25

STATE OF TEXAS,

COUNTY OF BEXAR

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Helen I. Lutz, who being by me duly sworn, says on oath that she is Publisher of the Commercial Recorder, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of San Antonio, in the State and County aforesaid, and that the City of San Antonio City Clerk-Ordinance 94746 hereto attached has been published in said newspaper on the following day, to-wit: October 25, 2001.



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of October, 2001.



Notary Public in and for Bexar County, Texas

