

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, after three months of surveys, interviews and data analysis, a final report of Austin's ground transportation system was submitted by the Tennessee Transportation and Logistics Foundation to the City of Austin in September 2011; and

WHEREAS, the study recommended issuing 100 peak demand permits to address peak demand service in the evening hours and during special events; and

WHEREAS, during special events periods, it was estimated that there is a 180% increase in demand for service, a 143% increase in dispatched trips and a 232% increase in flagged trips; and

WHEREAS, the report noted feedback from one operator estimated a need for additional peak demand permits roughly for more than 37 out of 52 weeks of the year; and

WHEREAS, establishing a peak demand system only would challenge the minimal staffing levels currently devoted to the City of Austin's administration of ground transportation; and

WHEREAS, issuing an additional 75 permits would help address the peak demand; and

WHEREAS, an alternate model -- known as "legacy permits" -- distributes portable taxicab permits directly to drivers; and

WHEREAS, the City's Transportation Code contemplates that a franchise holder will hold no more than 60 percent of the total taxicab permits; and

WHEREAS, permit ownership levels now stand as follows:

Yellow: 455 permits (67.4%)

Austin: 162 permits (24%)

Lone Star: 58 permits (8.6 %)

TOTAL PERMITS: 675

WHEREAS, the City Council determines that Ordinance No. 20070517-064 establishes unequal criteria for one taxi franchise and amendments are necessary to bring all franchise holders under the same set of regulations; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to:

- (1) prepare an ordinance for Council consideration encompassing the necessary code changes and waivers that would allow for the issuance of an additional 75 permits and return to Council for action by February 9, 2012; and
- (2) in order to bring Austin's taxi system more in line with its established goals, allocate the additional permits as follows:

- 50 permits to Lone Star Cab Company
- 25 permits to Austin Cab Company

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to prepare applicable amendments to Ordinance No. 20070517-064 that would align all three franchises with the same ownership requirements by February 9, 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to work with stakeholders to develop a feasible proposal for implementing legacy permits to be presented to City Council by February 9. The proposal should include provisions for up to 25 permits being designated for drivers and should suggest options that incentivize sustainable fleets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

In preparation for franchise agreement renewal, the City Manager is further directed to provide City Council with a report about elements such as insurance and rental fees that are or could be included in taxicab franchise agreements by May 24, 2012.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011 **ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk