

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

### **ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE RENEWING A FRANCHISE TO GREATER AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY D.B.A. YELLOW CAB COMPANY TO OPERATE A TAXICAB SERVICE IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN FOR TEN YEARS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

#### **PART 1. FRANCHISE GRANT.**

The City Council renews the franchise described in Ordinance No. 20120628-077, Ordinance No. 20100527-048, Ordinance No. 20060608-032, and Ordinance No. 20050609-019 to operate a taxicab business on the streets, alleys, and public ways in the City of Austin for the Greater Austin Transportation Company d.b.a. Yellow Cab Company ("Franchise Holder") for ten years.

#### **PART 2. FLEET SIZE.**

The Franchise Holder must maintain an active fleet of at least 25 and not more than 561 taxicabs. The City Council may amend this taxicab allocation during the course of the franchise.

#### **PART 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CITY CODE.**

The Franchise Holder shall comply with the provisions of the City Code relating to ground transportation services and all amendments to those provisions during the period of the taxicab franchise.

#### **PART 4. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.**

The Franchise Holder shall maintain complete records of all dispatched calls, all expenses incurred in connection with the operation of the taxicab service business, and all revenues derived from the taxicab business.

#### **PART 5. INSPECTION OF RECORDS.**

The Franchise Holder shall permit the Austin Transportation Department to inspect all records of this franchise in accordance with Section 13-2-306(D) (*Recordkeeping Requirements*) of the City Code.

## **PART 6. TAXICAB OWNERSHIP, LEASE, OR CONTROL.**

The Franchise Holder shall own, lease, or contract for control of each taxicab used in the taxicab franchise.

## **PART 7. ANNUAL PERMIT FEES.**

The Franchise Holder shall pay a permit fee for each vehicle authorized in this franchise to the City of Austin at the office of the Director of the Austin Transportation Department. This fee will be set by separate ordinance, and may be amended by the City council during the effective period of the franchise.

## **PART 8. COMPUTERIZED DISPATCH SYSTEM.**

- (A) The Franchise Holder shall maintain a fully operation Global Information System (GIS) automated computer dispatch system, dispatch service requests in an efficient manner, and correct any GIS dispatch system malfunctions immediately to maintain efficient customer service.
- (B) The Franchise Holder shall submit a report not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the end of each calendar quarter documenting the system status and any system failures.
- (C) In the event of a system failure that exceeds four hours, the franchise holder shall:
  - (1) Notify the Austin Transportation Department not later than the first business day after the system failure; and
  - (2) Not later than the fifth business day after a system failure, submit a report documenting the nature and duration of the failure and whether the franchise holder's back-up radio dispatch communication system performed during the system failure.

## **PART 9. DISPATCH ACCEPTANCE.**

The Franchise Holder shall ensure that drivers of each taxicab used in the taxicab franchise accept service requests from the Franchise Holder's dispatch terminal when that taxicab is determined by the dispatch's GIS to be closest to the pick-up location.

## **PART 10. PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**

Each taxicab used in the taxicab franchise shall complete no less than five total trips daily. No less than three of those trips shall be dispatched by the Franchise Holder's dispatch terminal.

## **PART 11. FORMS OF PAYMENT.**

The Franchise Holder shall ensure each taxicab used in the taxicab franchise can accommodate payment for taxicab services in following forms: cash, credit card, or debit card.

## **PART 12. SUSPENSION.**

- (A) The City Manager may suspend this franchise upon a determination that the Franchise Holder has:
  - (1) substantially breached the terms of this franchise;
  - (2) failed to comply with the provisions of the City Code relating to ground transportation services;
  - (3) become delinquent in the payment of any fees or charges required by law in connection, directly or indirectly, with the operation of the Franchise Holder's taxicab business;
  - (4) failed to comply with a correction order issued to the Franchise Holder within the time specified in the order; or
  - (5) intentionally or knowingly impeded the City Manager or a law enforcement agency in the performance of their duties.
- (B) If the City Manager suspends this franchise, the Franchise Holder may submit a written request to the City Manager requesting reinstatement of the franchise, stating the grounds supporting a reinstatement. After receipt of a request for reinstatement, the City Manager shall inspect the suspended Franchise Holder's operation to determine if the Franchise Holder has corrected the deficiency that is the basis of the suspension. The City Manager may approve or deny reinstatement after the inspection.
- (C) If the City Manager denies reinstatement of the franchise, the Franchise Holder may appeal the City Manager's decision to the City Council by filing a notice of appeal with the City Clerk not later than the 14<sup>th</sup> day after

notice of the denial. The City Clerk shall place the appeal on the next City Council agenda.

### **PART 13. FORFEITURE.**

- (A) The franchise is subject to forfeiture if:
  - (1) the Franchise Holder is convicted of a violation of a provision of the City Code relating to ground transportation services during the period of the taxicab franchise;
  - (2) it is shown that the taxicab Franchise Holder has substantially breached the terms of this franchise; or
  - (3) the Franchise Holder fails to pay an outstanding final judgment against the Franchise Holder that arises out of circumstances related to ground transportation service.
- (B) On receipt of a report from the City Manager that probable cause exists for the forfeiture of the franchise, the City Council shall hold a hearing, after a 30-day notice to the Franchise Holder, to determine if cause exists to cancel the franchise. If the City Council finds at the hearing that cause exists to cancel the franchise, it may cancel the franchise after the hearing.

### **PART 14. FRANCHISE ACCEPTANCE.**

The Franchise Holder shall file its written acceptance of the terms of this ordinance with the City Clerk not later than the 60<sup>th</sup> day after the City Council's adoption of this ordinance.

**PART 15. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This ordinance becomes effective on August 4, 2015 unless the Franchise Holder fails to file its written acceptance of this ordinance as required by Part 14. If the Franchise Holder fails to file the written acceptance, this ordinance is void.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**

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                                 Steve Adler  
                                 Mayor

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
                 Anne L. Morgan                   Jannette S. Goodall  
                 Interim City Attorney           City Clerk