

Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting: December 7, 2017 Item Number: **052**

Transportation

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 13-2 (Ground Transportation Passenger Services) related to Chauffeur permits, Limousine Service, Transportation Network Company Service, and Charter Services.

Lead Department	Transportation.
Fiscal Note	There is no financial impact for this item.
Prior Council Action	Ordinance No. 20161215-067 Ordinance No. 20171005-027.
For More Information	Robert Spillar, 512-974-2488; Lee Davila, 512-974-7714; Gilda Powers, 512-974-7092.
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action	Reviewed by the Urban Transportation Commission on February 17, 2017. On Commissioner Silas motion, Commissioner Gins second, on a 7/1/0/3 vote, a motion passed to not approve the proposed recommendations that were presented. In addition the Commission asked staff to come back with a regulatory reform document that specifically addresses making the requirements equitable among the various services and includes language relative to taxis.

Additional Backup Information:

City Code Chapter 13-2 governs the oversight and regulation of ground transportation passenger services, including those by charter bus, limousine, pedicabs, electric low speed vehicles, horse drawn carriages, and taxis. The technology and business models for providing these services are rapidly evolving and the Transportation Department believes there is a need to synchronize the requirements between the various transportation industries is required to maintain equity and public safety. This action removes outdated requirements, aligns Code provisions among the various services as appropriate, and takes into account the future needs of new transportation passenger services currently in development. This action will repeal City Code 13-2-121 related to exemptions from a chauffeur's permit and Article 4 related to Transportation Network Company Service.

Additionally, this action will repeal certain sections of the City Code related to limousine and charter services. Staff presented Ground Transportation Regulatory Reform recommendations to the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC) at their regular meeting on February 17, 2017. The UTC rejected staff's amendments and the UTC asked staff to come back with a regulatory reform document that specifically addressed making the requirements equitable among the various services and that included language related to taxis. Recognizing the value of the changes relating to limousine and charter services, staff has decided to move forward with recommendations specific to these industries. For limousine services, staff is recommending removing the flagship vehicle requirement, removing the $55 minimum fare requirement, remove the 30 minute prearrangement time, and adding an estimated fare prior to the beginning of the trip. For charter services, staff is recommending removing the 30 minute prearrangement time and adding an estimated fare prior to the beginning of the trip.

On December 15, 2016, Council passed Ordinance No. 20161215-067 which established an appellate process for drivers disqualified from a chauffeur or Transportation Network Company. Staff responded, via a memo to Mayor and Council, on March 24, 2017, recommending that staff maintain the current appellate process by the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) until Council chose to give further direction. Based on ATD's experience in using the recently established ATD appellate authority, and in an interest to effectively address driver disqualifications, ATD also recommends amending City Code Section 13-2-103 Disqualification for Certain Offenses to include additional offenses to clarify the Code Section.