



**RCA
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 18
AGENDA DATE: Thu 04/14/2005
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SUBJECT: Approve an ordinance on second reading only to renew the GREATER AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY d.b.a. YELLOW CAB COMPANY taxicab franchise.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Revenue source – taxicab permit fee of \$400 per year per permit. Expected annual revenue \$121,600.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Public Works
DEPARTMENT:

**DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION:** Sondra Creighton

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Morris Poe, 974-1562; Laura Bohl, 974-7064

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended by the Urban Transportation Commission.

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

Greater Austin Transportation Company (GATC) has filed a taxicab franchise renewal application. GATC proposes to continue to provide taxicab service to the entire city, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The applicant proposes to continue to operate 293 franchise permit taxicabs and 11 special permit wheelchair accessible taxicabs. The applicant requests approval to change the trade name of the franchise from American Yellow Checker Cab Company to Yellow Cab Company. The application has been reviewed and all required information is on file with the Public Works Department.

GATC has provided taxicab service in Austin since 1984 and has exhibited the character, experience, and ability to provide the service. The Public Works Department recommends approval.

On February 22, 2005, the Urban Transportation Commission voted 6-0-2 absent to recommend approval to grant renewal of a franchise.

The City Charter requires a franchise renewal to be granted by ordinance and read at three regular City Council meetings. The third reading may not occur until 30 days after the first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO GREATER AUSTIN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY DOING BUSINESS AS YELLOW CAB COMPANY TO OPERATE A TAXICAB SERVICE IN THE CITY OF AUSTIN FOR FIVE 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 grants a franchise to operate a taxicab business on the streets, alleys, and public ways in the City of Austin to Greater Austin Transportation Company doing business as Yellow Cab Company ("Franchise Holder") for a five-year period.

PART 2. FLEET SIZE.

The Franchise Holder must maintain an active fleet of at least 25 and not more than 304 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 Public Works 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 FRANCHISE PERMIT FEE.

The Franchise Holder shall pay an annual franchise permit fee of \$400 for each vehicle authorized in this franchise to the City of Austin at the office of the Director of the Public Works Department. This fee may be amended by the City Council during the effective period of the franchise.

PART 8. 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 an notice of appeal with the City Clerk not later than the 14th day after notice of the denial. The City Clerk shall place the appeal on the next City Council agenda.

PART 9. 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 10. FRANCHISE ACCEPTANCE.

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

PART 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This ordinance becomes effective on the 61st day after the City Council's adoption of this ordinance, unless the Franchise Holder fails to file its written acceptance of this ordinance as required by Part 10. If the Franchise Holder fails to file the written acceptance, this ordinance is void.

PART 12. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2005.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2005

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Will Wynn
Mayor

APPROVED: _____
David Allan Smith
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk