CHAPTER 5.40

VEHICLES FOR HIRE, TAXICABS, AND ANIMAL-DRAWN VEHICLES.

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5.40.010 Definitions.

For the purposes of this Chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively described to them by this Section:

A. “Vehicle for hire” includes motor-propelled vehicles that are not operated over a regular or defined route and pedicabs. This Chapter governs vehicles, including non-emergency transport vehicles, which transport persons for hire upon public streets and roadways within publicly owned lands in the City. “Vehicle for hire” does not include animal-drawn vehicles, taxicabs, vehicles licensed by the Public Utilities Commission, ambulances, or courtesy vans used exclusively by the customers of a hospital or other business or governmental entity that operates such courtesy van.

B. “Taxicab” includes any motor-propelled vehicle used for the transport of persons for hire upon any public street in the City, which is not over a regular or defined route, and when charge for such transportation is measured by the distance traveled, or by the time required for such transportation, or both, and when a meter is used for such measurement as provided in this Chapter.

C. “Non-emergency transport vehicle” shall mean every motor vehicle specially constructed, modified, equipped, or arranged for the purpose of transporting persons not requiring emergency service or medical monitoring which contains specialized safety equipment over and above that normally available in persons cars, taxicabs and other forms of public conveyance and shall include gurney vans, litter vans and wheelchair vans. This definition shall exclude the following: (1) Vehicles operated as convalescent transport vehicles at the request of local authorities during any “state of war emergency” or “local emergency,” as said terms are defined in the Government Code of the State of California; (2) Convalescent transport vehicles transporting persons from a location outside the City limits, regardless of destination; (3) Vehicles operated as convalescent transport vehicles by a hospital, health maintenance organization, insurance company, health care plan or similar group exclusively for its own persons and member clients; and (4) Vehicles operated by the county, state or federal government.

D. “Gurney van” means and includes any litter van and refers to a motor-propelled vehicle which is equipped with a portable single-person sized bed, cot, stretcher or gurney on wheels that can carry a person in a supine position in the state of non-emergency medical transportation. Such persons do not require any medical monitoring and are able to get on and off the gurney by themselves with minimal assistance from the driver or attendant.

E. “Wheelchair van” means every motor-propelled vehicle which contains specialized safety equipment over and above that normally available in persons cars, taxicabs and other forms of public conveyance for the purpose of transporting persons in wheelchairs or who require assistance to and from a residence, vehicle or place of treatment because of a disabling physical or mental limitation. Such persons do not require the specialized services, equipment and personnel provided in an ambulance because they are in stable condition and does not need constant observation.

F. “Animal-drawn vehicle” shall mean any non-motorized conveyance powered by animals, whether pulled, drawn or pushed, and used for the transportation of persons over streets or ways in the City and shall include, but is not limited to wagons, buggies, stagecoaches or other horse-drawn carriages.

G. “Attendant” means the person, other than the van driver, providing nonmedical assistance to the persons in a non-emergency transport vehicle.

H. “Driver” means every person who drives or is in actual physical control of a vehicle defined in this Section, either as an agent, employee or otherwise.

I. “Franchisee” or “Permit holder” means any natural person, firm, corporation, partnership or other organization, association, or group of persons however organized.

J. “Chief of Police” means Chief of Police or his or her designee.
K. “Chief Financial Officer” means Chief Financial Officer or his or her designee.
L. “For hire” means for any compensation, including but not limited to, payment, tip, contribution, donation or barter.
M. “Operate” means to drive or to be in actual physical control of a vehicle defined in this Section, either as an agent, employee, or otherwise for a monetary fare.
N. “Pedicab” means a vehicle with three or more wheels propelled by human power capable of transporting persons and used for transporting persons for hire.
O. “Meter” means a device that computes and registers the fare based upon the distance traveled, the time the taxicab is engaged, or any other lawful basis for charges which are specified in the franchise. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.020 Permit and lawful operation required.
   A. It is unlawful to operate or cause to be operated a vehicle for hire upon any public street within the City without first having obtained a permit to do so in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.
   B. It is unlawful to operate or cause to be operated an animal-drawn vehicle upon any public street within the City without first having obtained a permit to do so in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.
   C. It is unlawful to operate or cause to be operated a vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle in violation of applicable provisions of this Chapter or other applicable laws. A separate permit and business license must be obtained for each type of business conducted. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.030 Non-exclusive franchise and lawful operation required.
   A. It is unlawful to operate or cause to be operated a taxicab upon any public street within the City without first having obtained a non-exclusive franchise to do so in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City and this Chapter.
   B. It is unlawful to operate or cause to be operated a taxicab in violation of any applicable provisions of this Chapter or other applicable laws. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.035 Exception.
   The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to vehicles for hire, animal-drawn vehicles, or taxicabs licensed by another municipality when operating in the City in response to a request to convey a persons from other such municipality to the City. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.040 Vehicle for hire and animal-drawn vehicles: Application and fee.
   Any person desiring to obtain a permit to operate a vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle shall pay the Chief Financial Officer a nonrefundable fee as set by resolution and shall apply utilizing the City’s Vehicle for Hire and Animal-Drawn Vehicle application form, which shall solicit, at a minimum, the following:
   1. The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant; if the same be a corporation, the names of its principal officers; or, if the same be a partnership, association, or fictitious company, the names of the partners or persons comprising the association or company, with the address and telephone number of each;
   2. If any proposed stand is in a public street, such application shall be accompanied with the written consent of all occupants of the ground floor of any building in front of which such vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle is to be located, and for twenty-five feet in each direction therefrom; or, if there is no such occupant, by the written consent of the owner or lessee of such building or lot;
   3. A description of every vehicle, including a five by seven color photograph of the vehicle, which the applicant proposes to use, stating, if applicable:
a. Make, model and year  
b. Vehicle identification number  
c. State license plate number and expiration date  
d. Seating capacity  
e. Body style  

4. For non-emergency transport vehicles:  
a. A statement setting forth the experience of the applicant in the operation of a non-emergency transport vehicle demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to render an efficient non-emergency transport vehicle service.  
b. A statement that the applicant owns or has under the applicant’s control, in good mechanical condition, required equipment to adequately conduct non-emergency transport persons service in the territory for which the applicant is applying and that the applicant owns or has access to suitable facilities for maintaining such equipment in a clean and sanitary condition.  
c. An affirmation that each vehicle and it appurtenances conform to all applicable provisions of this Chapter and to applicable provisions of City and State laws and regulations.  
d. A list giving the name and description of the training for each non-emergency transport service employee and a copy of each certificate or license establishing qualifications for such personnel in non-emergency transport operations.  
e. A schedule setting forth the rates proposed to be charged for the provision of non-emergency transport service.  
f. A statement that shows that the issuance of a permit is in the public interest and that there is a need for a permit to be issued in that there is a requirement for non-emergency transport service which can be legally served by the applicant.  
g. Such other facts or information as the City may reasonably require.  

5. For animal-drawn vehicles:  
a. Breed of animal, age, physical condition, proof of ownership or right to use the animal and evidence that the animal is suitable for the intended uses and in good health;  
b. A description, including a five by seven color photograph of the animal(s) and the vehicle(s);  
c. The seating capacity of the vehicles;  
d. The street number and exact location of the place or places where the applicant proposes to stand each horse(s) and vehicle;  
e. The proposed route(s) of operation and time(s) during which such routes will be operated.  

6. The proposed schedule of rates or fares to be charged for carrying persons in such vehicle; and  

7. The distinctive color scheme, name, monogram or insignia which shall be used on such vehicle. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.050 Issuance of vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle permit.  

Upon receipt of a complete Vehicle for Hire and Animal-Drawn Vehicle permit application referred to in Section 5.40.040, the Chief Financial Officer shall review the application to ensure all requirements have been satisfied and if so, shall issue a permit for a period of three years, subject to the filing and approval of proof of insurance coverage as provided in Section 5.40.100 and subject to the requirements of this Chapter. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.060 Taxicab franchise: Application and fee.  

Any person desiring to obtain a franchise to operate a taxicab required by this Chapter shall pay the Chief Financial Officer a nonrefundable fee as set by resolution and shall apply utilizing the City’s application form, which shall solicit, at a minimum, the following:
1. The name, address, and telephone number of the applicant; if the same be a corporation, the names of its principal officers; or, if the same be a partnership, association, or fictitious company, the names of the partners or persons comprising the association or company, with the address and telephone number;

2. Supporting information as required, which shall include but not be limited to, the experience and background of the applicant, the plan for operation, and the reasons the applicant believes the operation would serve the public interest and convenience;

3. If any proposed stand is in a public street, such application shall be accompanied by a written consent thereto of all the occupants of the ground floor of any building in front of which such taxicab is to be located, and for twenty-five feet in each direction therefrom; or, if there is no such occupant, by the written consent of the owner or lessee of such building or lot; and

4. The application shall be submitted on or before March 1 of each year for consideration for issuance of a franchise valid for a one year period of July 1 of that same calendar year to June 30 of the following calendar year. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.070 Taxicab franchise application - Referral to City Council.

Upon receipt of a complete application for a taxicab franchise, the Chief Financial Officer shall conduct an investigation to determine whether or not the public interest, convenience, and/or necessity, require the issuance of the franchise applied for. The investigation shall be conducted in a reasonable time. If the Chief Financial Officer determines that the public interest, convenience, and/or necessity require the issuance of the franchise applied for, the Chief Financial Officer shall refer the matter to the City Council to be processed in accordance with the City of Riverside Charter within sixty (60) days unless otherwise extended for good cause by the Chief Financial Officer. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.080 Grounds for denial or revocation of vehicle for hire permit, animal-drawn vehicle permit, or taxicab franchise.

The following reasons are sufficient grounds for denial or revocation of a vehicle for hire permit, animal-drawn vehicle permit, or taxicab franchise.

A. That the application is not in the proper form, and does not contain the information required to be contained therein by this Chapter;

B. That the vehicles, animals and/or appurtenances described therein are inadequate or unsafe for the purposes for which they are to be used;

C. That the color scheme, name, monogram, or insignia to be used upon such vehicles or in advertisements imitates or is substantially similar to any color scheme, name, monogram or insignia used by any other person or entity in such manner as to be misleading or tending to deceive, confuse, or defraud the public;

D. That the location of the stand, as therein stated, is such as to congest or interfere with travel on any public street, or that the proposed stand is within three hundred feet of any other stand theretofore fixed by the City Council on the same street;

E. That the applicant has had a permit or franchise for the operation of a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab suspended or revoked for cause;

F. That the applicant does not have qualified drivers to operate the vehicles for hire, animal-drawn vehicles, or taxicabs;

G. That the applicant has operated a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicles, or taxicab in the City in violation of the requirements of this Code;

H. That the operation will threaten the peace, health, safety and/or welfare of the public; and

I. For taxicab franchise applications only, that the public interest, convenience, and/or necessity do not require the issuance of such permit.

The Chief Financial Officer may accept and consider corrected applications. (Ord. 7014

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RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA
§ 1, 2008)

5.40.090 Appeal from denial or revocation of vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle permit.

Any applicant under this Chapter who has been denied a vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle permit or who has had his or her permit revoked, may, within fifteen (15) days of notification of the denial or revocation of such permit, pay a nonrefundable fee as set by resolution and file an appeal in writing with the City Clerk. The applicant shall set forth in writing the grounds for the appeal. The City Clerk shall set a time not less than ten (10) but no more than thirty (30) days thereafter for the hearing of the appeal before the City Council, and shall give notice to the applicant or permit holder of the time set for hearing at least five (5) days before the date of such hearing, by mail, at the address set out in such application or permit. At the time set for hearing of such appeal, the City Council shall receive from the Chief Financial Officer and the applicant or permit holder information regarding the denial or revocation and appeal. The City Council shall make a determination whether to uphold or reverse the denial or revocation. The determination of the City Council shall be a final determination of the matter. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.100 Insurance requirements.

Before a vehicle for hire or animal-drawn permit or taxicab franchise shall be issued or granted, the applicant shall obtain and maintain, and show proper proof of the following:

A. A policy of insurance issued by a company duly authorized to conduct business in the State of California, by the provisions of which insurance policy the company promises and undertakes to pay in full all claims for damages to persons or property resulting from the operation of the vehicles for hire referred to in such application; provided, that the minimum amount for which liability shall be assumed for injury to or death of one or more persons in any one accident shall be one million dollars and for which liability shall be assumed for injury to or destruction of property in any one accident. The applicant is required to have insurance coverage in the minimum amount of one million dollars for personal injury, property damage or advertising liability and is required to name the City as an additional insured, and

B. Workers’ Compensation coverage in compliance with California Labor Code provisions. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.105 Requirements for operation of non-emergency transport vehicles and services.

Upon the issuance of a vehicle for hire permit to operate non-emergency transport vehicles and services, the permit holder shall comply with the following additional requirements:

A. Advertisements. Permit holder shall not advertise as an ambulance service or medical transport, nor shall the permit holder advertise under the ambulance or medical transport classifications in the commercial yellow pages of any telephone directory distributed in this City. Any advertising in whatever form by the permit holder shall clearly state that the permit holder does not provide “ambulance services” or “medical transport services.” Permit holder may, however, advertise as a specialized form of transportation serving the disabled, incapacitated, or persons who cannot ride in an upright position.

B. Notice to Persons. Upon receiving a request for service, the permit holder must notify each persons orally or in writing that permit holder is not an ambulance service.

C. Maintenance of Persons Log. The permit holder shall keep a permanent log of every trip made and each persons transported, whether the trip was one way or round trip. If the persons was transported on a round trip, and the destination of the second segment was not the point of origin of the first segment of the trip, then the permit holder shall state the destination of the second segment. The log shall contain the persons’ name, the date and time the trip began,
the persons’ destination, the names of the gurney van driver and attendant, and the vehicle identification number or license plate number. The log shall state for each trip or portion thereof if the trip was interrupted or not completed, the reason for the partial trip or failure to complete the trip. Log entries shall be clearly written in permanent ink and in a bound volume with each permanently numbered. The log shall be kept for a period of three years from the period in which the log book was completed.

D. Title 22 of California Code of Regulations. The permit holder, in addition to meeting the requirements of this Chapter, shall also meet the requirements of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. In the case of conflict, the provisions of Title 22 shall prevail.

E. Two-Way Communications. Permit holder shall provide evidence of an operating two-way communication in each authorized vehicle in case of emergency. Communication equipment may include a two-way radio, cellular phone, or other means of two-way communication between the van and the permit holder’s office and/or the 911 communications center. No non-emergency transport vehicle may be operated with a persons on board unless there is working two-way communication equipment in the vehicle.

F. Compliance With Laws. Permit holder shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and requirements.

G. Each gurney van while being operated with a gurney van persons shall have both a driver and attendant. The driver and attendant employed by permit holder for the gurney van service shall meet the minimum requirements as set forth in this Chapter.

H. Gurney van persons must be transported in a prone or supine position, because such persons are incapable of sitting for the period of time needed to transport.

I. Gurney van attendants shall assist in the loading and unloading of persons from the vehicle and to provide nonmedical assistance to the persons to make the ride comfortable and safe.

J. Requires specialized safety equipment over and above that normally available in persons cars, taxicabs, or other forms of normal public conveyance.

K. Does not require the specialized services, equipment, and personnel provided in an ambulance, including, but not limited to, an intravenous line or emergency medical technician, because the persons is in stable and conscious condition and does not need observation.

L. Permits the persons to get on or off the gurney without substantial assistance from the gurney van attendant.

M. Permits the persons to self-monitor the use of oxygen, if needed.

N. Exclusions. Non-emergency transport vehicles shall not be used to transport a person if any of the following conditions exist:
1. The person requires any type of continuous medical monitoring.
2. The person requires certified medical personnel at EMT-1 level or above or the presence of any nurse or licensed physician.
3. The person has trouble breathing and/or shows signs of medical distress.
4. The person is immobilized in any type of medical apparatus or equipment.
5. The person’s condition has not been certified as suitable for gurney van transport in a non-emergency medical transportation vehicle by a licensed physician.
6. The person’s condition is one which falls under the transportation protocols of the County EMS agency. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.110 Revocation or suspension of vehicle for hire permit, animal-drawn vehicle permit, or taxicab franchise.

A. Any vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle permit granted under the provisions of this Chapter may be revoked by the Chief Financial Officer after five (5) days notice to the permit holder requiring him or her to appear at a certain time and place to show cause why such permit should not be revoked for any of the following reasons:
1. For the nonpayment of any license fee provided by the provisions of this Chapter or other ordinance of the City;
2. For the violation of any laws or regulations by any permit holder or driver of a vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle;
3. For operating any vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle when the person’s area and passenger compartment is not in good repair and is not in a clean and sanitary condition;
4. For falsifying, misrepresenting, or omitting a material fact on an application submitted under this Chapter;
5. When the Chief Financial Officer determines upon a showing of good cause that it would be contrary to the public interest, convenience and necessity for the permit to be continued;
6. For failure to maintain satisfactory service to the public; or
7. For violating any condition of a Special Permit issued pursuant to Section 5.40.190(K) of this Chapter.

B. A vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle permit issued under the provisions of this Chapter may be suspended for the following reasons immediately upon notice by the Chief Financial Officer to the permit holder: (1) if a serious and dangerous condition exists; (2) in the event of a violation of these regulations; or (3) if the insurance coverage required in this Chapter has not been continually maintained without lapses in coverage. If a permit is suspended, written notice shall be provided to the permit holder within two (2) regular business days setting forth the violations charged and setting a time and date for the permit holder to show cause why the permit should not be revoked.

C. The City Council shall be empowered to suspend or revoke a taxicab franchise granted under the provisions of this Chapter and the City Charter when it finds and determines after investigation that the public interest, convenience, and/or necessity no longer require the issuance of the franchise. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.120 Assignment.

No vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle permit issued under the terms of this Chapter shall be sold, transferred, or assigned either by contract or operation of law without the express written permission of the Chief Financial Officer, and any such attempted assignment shall be sufficient cause for revocation thereof.

No taxicab franchise issued under the terms of this Chapter shall be sold, transferred, or assigned either by contract or operation of law without the express written permission of the City Council, and any such attempted assignment shall be sufficient cause for revocation thereof.

A. If a vehicle for hire permit holder, animal-drawn vehicle permit holder, or taxicab franchisee desires to sell, transfer, or assign its permit or franchise, the holder shall submit an application for such consent in the form requested by the Chief Financial Officer. The holder shall submit such documents and information that the Chief Financial Officer may reasonably need for its consideration of the application. The Chief Financial Officer may suspend the existing vehicle for hire permit, animal-drawn vehicle permit, or taxicab franchise or allow the permit holder or franchisee to continue its operation pending approval of the application. If the application for a vehicle for hire permit or animal-drawn vehicle permit satisfies all requirements, the Chief Financial Officer shall issue a permit for a period of three (3) years, subject to the filing and approval of proof of insurance coverage as provided in Section 5.40.100 and subject to the requirements of this Chapter.

B. If the Chief Financial Officer determines that the public interest, convenience, and necessity require the sale, transfer, or assignment of a taxicab franchise, the Chief Financial Officer shall refer the matter to the City Council to be processed in accordance with the City of Riverside Charter within sixty (60) days unless otherwise extended for good cause by the Chief Financial Officer. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)
5.40.130  Driver’s appearance and conduct.

The driver of any vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab shall be neat in dress and clean in appearance. A driver may not wear as outer clothing the following: underwear, tank tops, tube tops, body shirts, swim wear, bathing trunks, or cut-off shorts. A driver shall not smoke while carrying persons. A driver shall not operate or occupy a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab while his or her ability is impaired by either alcohol or drugs. A driver shall not operate his or her vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab in such manner or at a speed which endangers users of other vehicles, pedestrians or his or her persons. A driver shall act in a reasonable, prudent, and courteous manner. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.140  Stopping at railroad crossings.

Any vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab shall, while carrying persons, come to a full stop at least thirty feet from the nearest rail before crossing any railroad track where no gates are maintained. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.150  Use of vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle and taxicab stands required - Exceptions.

No vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab shall remain standing upon any portion of any public street or sidewalk within the City, except for loading and unloading persons for a period not to exceed five minutes, unless specifically authorized by the permit. This Section shall not apply to any vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab while the same is engaged by and being paid for by persons. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.160  Exclusive use by first persons.

No operator or owner of any vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab shall solicit, take on or carry persons after such vehicle for hire or taxicab has been engaged or is in use by another person(s), without the consent of the original persons. A person(s) having engaged such vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab shall have the exclusive right to the use of the persons’ compartment. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.170  Driver to carry persons safely and expeditiously.

The driver of any vehicle for hire or taxicab shall carry persons safely and expeditiously to the destination by the most direct and accessible route. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.180  Driver’s permit, regulations, identification card, renewal of driver’s permit.

A. It is unlawful for any person to operate a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab in the City without having first obtained a driver’s permit issued in writing by the Chief of Police. Such driver’s permit shall be carried by every person while operating a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab, and such permit holder shall exhibit the permit to any police officer, code enforcement officer, animal control officer, or the Chief Financial Officer upon demand.

B. Any applicant for a driver’s permit shall file an application with the Police Department accompanied by a nonrefundable fee in the amount established by City Council resolution.

C. The Chief of Police shall deny or revoke the issuance of a driver’s permit under any of the following circumstances:

1. The applicant or permit holder is under the age of eighteen years;
2. The applicant or permit holder fails to maintain a valid California driver’s license; or
3. The applicant or permit holder lacks sufficient training and experience in the operation of a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab.
D. The Chief of Police may deny or revoke the issuance of a driver’s permit under any of the following circumstances:

1. The applicant or driver’s permit holder has been convicted of reckless driving or of driving a vehicle while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug;
2. The applicant or driver’s permit holder has been convicted of a crime, the nature of which would endanger public health, welfare, or safety if such person were issued a permit;
3. The applicant or driver’s permit holder is facing pending criminal charges of reckless driving, of driving while under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or drug, or under the combined influence of any alcoholic beverage, or of a crime, the nature of which would endanger the public health, welfare, or safety if such were issued a permit;
4. The applicant or driver’s permit holder has falsified, misrepresented, or omitted pertinent information in the application;
5. The applicant or driver’s permit holder is otherwise determined to be presently or potentially unfit to perform the functions authorized by the driver’s permit in a manner consistent with the public health, welfare, or safety.

The Chief of Police may receive and consider evidence of rehabilitation before rendering a decision on issuing or revoking a driver’s permit under this Subsection.

E. The driver’s permit holder shall be entitled to an identification card of such design and having such number as the Chief of Police may prescribe. Such identification card shall be kept on the driver’s person at all times while operating a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab. Such identification card shall be the property of the City and shall be returned to the Police Department upon the driver’s permit holder’s termination of employment as an operator of a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab in the City.

F. All driver’s permits issued pursuant to this Section to operate a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab are non-assignable and shall expire one year from the date of issue. Applications for renewal shall be made within thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of such permit. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.185 Appeal from denial or revocation of driver’s permit.

Any applicant under this Chapter who has been denied a driver’s permit or any driver’s permit holder who has had his or her permit revoked may, within fifteen (15) days of notification of the denial or revocation of such permit, file an appeal in writing with the City Clerk. The applicant shall set forth in writing the grounds for the appeal. Upon filing of the appeal, the City Clerk shall set the matter for hearing before the City Council’s Public Safety Committee, which hearing shall be within sixty (60) days after receipt of said notice of appeal. The City Clerk shall give notice of the time set at least five (5) days before the date of such hearing to the applicant or driver’s permit holder, by mail, at the address set out in such application or permit. At the time set for hearing of such appeal, the Public Safety Committee shall receive from the Chief of Police and the applicant or driver’s permit holder information regarding the denial or revocation and appeal. The Public Safety Committee shall make a determination whether to uphold or reverse the denial or revocation within ten (10) days after the date of said hearing. The determination of the Public Safety Committee shall be the final determination of the matter. (Ord. 7261 § 1, 2014; Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.190 Responsibilities of franchisees, permit holders, and drivers.

A. Each franchisee and permit holder shall be familiar with the requirements imposed by this Chapter.
B. Each driver shall be familiar with the mapping of City streets and the locations of major buildings and attractions.
C. Each vehicle for hire and animal-drawn vehicle driver shall remove from the persons’
compartment or secure in a locked cabinet all alcoholic beverages which they may ordinarily legally provide if any of the persons are under twenty-one (21) years of age unless such person is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. It shall be the responsibility of the owner and/or driver to verify the age of the persons and the relationship of adults to the minors.

D. Each vehicle for hire permit holder, animal-drawn vehicle permit holder, and taxicab franchisee shall report all accidents involving property damage of five hundred dollars ($500) or more and all accidents involving injury to an individual to the Chief Financial Officer on the next business day following the accident.

E. Each vehicle for hire permit holder, animal-drawn vehicle permit holder, and taxicab franchisee shall maintain and keep current at the place of business a daily log showing all trips made by every driver showing time(s), place(s) of origin, and destination of trips, and the specific carriage(s) and horse(s) operated. Such logs shall be made available to the Chief Financial Officer for inspection upon reasonable notice.

F. Each animal-drawn vehicle permit holder shall ensure that the operation of the animal-drawn vehicle does not exceed the speed of a slow trot.

G. Each animal-drawn vehicle driver shall be the first person into the vehicle and the last person to exit the vehicle.

H. No driver of an animal-drawn vehicle shall leave the animal and vehicle unattended.

I. Each animal-drawn vehicle permit holder and driver shall ensure all tack remains in good and safe condition, the animal is driven in a safe manner, and all requirements, including water and rest periods for the animal, are observed.

J. No animal-drawn vehicle shall be operated on any street with a speed limit in excess of 25 miles per hour.

K. A special permit will be required for animal-drawn vehicle permit holders to operate in conjunction with a special event. Such special permit shall include the specific times of operation, routes, the locations of the stands and restrictions on the number of carriages/operators. A special event is an event outside of the ordinary course of neighborhood functions involving 25 or more persons that are gathered for a common purpose under the direction and control of a person or organization. This shall include, but is not limited to, activities such as concerts, circuses or carnivals, fairs, farmer’s markets, community events, fundraisers, private parties, promotional events, block parties, air or car shows, parades/processions, athletic/sporting events, foot or bicycle races, and festivals that impact City streets, sidewalks, parking lots, public property, airways, public buildings, parks, and/or traffic. Special events shall include activities on private property that have the potential to impact the public-right-of-way. Any permit holder desiring to obtain a special permit to operate in conjunction with a special event shall apply utilizing the City's application form available in the Development Department.

L. The City may utilize an administrative process to allocate and fairly limit the number of animal-drawn vehicle businesses and locations of operation.

M. Animal-drawn vehicles may only cross streets with posted speed limits in excess of 25 miles per hour at intersections controlled by traffic signals or all way stop control.

N. Each animal-drawn vehicle permit holder and driver shall ensure that such vehicle is not operated on the Pedestrian Mall on Main Street between 6th Street and 10th Street or within City parks, unless City authorization is specifically provided in writing.

O. The City may temporarily or permanently prohibit the operation or turning maneuvers of animal-drawn vehicles on specific streets within the City by providing written notice to the permit holder. It shall be the duty of each permit holder and driver to observe these specific rules.

P. Each driver shall maintain two-way communication with a base station or a fully functioning cellular phone or other acceptable means of communication whenever the vehicle is in use.
Q. Each permit holder shall maintain a separate business license for each type of business conducted as required by Chapter 5.40 of this Code.

R. An animal-drawn vehicle permit holder may request in writing to the Traffic Engineer for an exemption in regards to the restrictions identified in paragraphs (J), (M), or (N) when strict adherence to these regulations would not serve the public interest and no other viable options are available for safety or other reasons. Exemptions are only to be granted to provide limited relief for short distances or periods in highly unusual circumstances. The applicant for an exemption must demonstrate special circumstances or conditions to a proposed route of an animal-drawn vehicle which the exemption is sought. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.200 Receipt for payment.  
The driver of any vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab shall, upon demand by the persons, render to such persons a receipt for the amount charged, indicating date(s) of service, amount paid, and the name of the permit holder or franchisee. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.210 Condition of vehicles for hire, animals and taxicabs.  
A. All vehicles for hire, animal-drawn vehicles, and taxicabs shall be kept clean, in good repair, in good mechanical condition and in good working order. The City reserves the right to inspect or cause to be inspected permitted vehicles for hire, animal-drawn vehicles, taxicabs, and animals for compliance with this Chapter, for the presence and operating condition of required safety features and for cleanliness. Inspections of animal-drawn vehicles may also include inspections related to safety, reliability, maintenance, and driver operation. Vehicle for hire and animal-drawn vehicle permit holders shall pay the reasonable costs of inspections required under this Section. Motorized vehicles for hire and taxicabs shall have heating and air conditioning systems in good operating condition for seasonal use. The City may order any vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab off the road immediately for being in violation of this Chapter.

B. Each gurney van shall have both a driver and attendant while being operated with a persons.

C. Animals and animal-drawn vehicles shall have the following equipment:
   1. Brakes appropriate for the design of the particular vehicle;
   2. Animal harnesses in good condition, which are subject to inspection by a qualified inspector;
   3. A slow moving vehicle emblem that complies with State law;
   4. An effective device to catch manure;
   5. Rear view mirrors appropriate to the type of vehicle shall be mounted on the vehicle to provide for viewing to the side and rear of the vehicle. This requirement applies only to vehicles constructed to accommodate mirrors;
   6. Two electrified white lights for the front of the vehicle and two electrified red lights for the rear of the vehicle. All lights shall be operated when the vehicle is being driven during the hours from one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise and during other times of lessened visibility;
   7. Rubber shoes on horses. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.220 Records.  
The owner of any vehicle for hire and taxicab shall maintain for a period of three years and disclose to the City upon request the following records:
   1. Driver's trip records;
   2. Receipts and disbursements from vehicle for hire operations;
   3. Payments to drivers;
   4. Mileage record of each motorized vehicle;
5. Workers’ Compensation coverage, if required;
6. Liability insurance coverage;
7. All financial statements; and
8. Copies of all citations issued by a California law enforcement officer or copies of the Department of Motor Vehicles printout. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.230 Posting rate schedule and identification card.
   Every vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, and taxicab shall have posted in a conspicuous location in the person’s compartment a schedule of rates and charges for the hire of such vehicle, the driver’s identification, the owner’s name, address and telephone number, and the Finance Division, Business Tax Office’s phone number. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.240 Light inside vehicle.
   Every motorized vehicle for hire shall be equipped with a light within such vehicle arranged to illuminate the entire persons’ compartment. The light shall be constantly lit while any persons is in such vehicle, except when the same is in motion, from one-half hour before sunset of any day until one-half hour after sunrise of the next day. No shades or blinds shall be drawn over the windows of a vehicle for hire while any persons is in such vehicle. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.250 Excessive charges.
   A. Rates Established. The applicant shall submit a proposed schedule of rates for the transport service to be provided pursuant to this Chapter at the time of application for a permit. No charge shall be made by any operator or owner in excess of the rates posted in the persons compartment of such car and approved by the City.
   B. Posting of Rates. Each vehicle used for the transport of a persons shall post the rates which have been approved by the Chief Financial Officer for the services authorized hereunder.
   C. Changing of Rates. The rates to be charged shall not change for a period of six months from the date of approval by the Chief Financial Officer. Whenever a rate change is desired, the permit holder or franchisee may file a request for amendment with the Chief Financial Officer.
   D. Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit a permitted vehicle for hire service from contracting with any hospital, health maintenance organization, insurance company, health care plan or similar group exclusively for its own persons, members and/or clients at rates at or below those approved by the City Council.
   E. Any user of a transport service contending that he or she has been required to pay an excessive charge for service or that he or she has received inadequate services may file a written complaint with the Chief Financial Officer setting forth such allegations. If deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer, the City shall notify the transport service of such complaint and shall investigate the matter to determine the validity of the complaint. If the complaint is determined to be valid, the City shall take reasonable and proper actions to secure compliance with the provisions of this Chapter. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.260 Designation of taxicabs.
   No vehicle shall be designated as a "taxi" or "taxicab" in any sign or advertising matter unless authorized to do so by franchise granted by the City of Riverside. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.270 Parking vehicles on streets generally.
   Any applicant for a permit or franchise under this Chapter who desires space to stand a vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab on the street shall obtain permission of the City
and property owners or occupants, as required by this Chapter, but no applicant shall be entitled to space on the street for more than one vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab and all applicants for permits for more than one vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab shall be required to provide parking space for the remainder of such vehicles off the streets of the City. They shall not be entitled to stand the same on public streets longer than is necessary to load and unload persons, except while the vehicle for hire, animal-drawn vehicle, or taxicab is actually paid for and engaged by persons unless authorized by permit. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.280 Change in rates, color scheme, name, vehicles and animals.
In the event that any franchisee or permit holder desires to change his or her schedule of rates and charges or the color scheme, name, monogram or insignia used on such vehicle for hire or animal-drawn vehicle, or to substitute any vehicle or animal for and in place of the vehicle(s) or animal(s) described in the application for the permit, or to increase or decrease the number of vehicles or vehicles used by him or her as vehicles for hire or animal-drawn vehicles, he or she shall make application for permission to do so from the Chief Financial Officer which permission shall be granted if, the Chief Financial Officer determines that the public interest, necessity and convenience will be served by such change, and if the permit holder has complied with all the provisions of this Chapter. If a permit holder substitutes an animal for one that was not previously approved, permit holder shall provide the Chief Financial Officer with a complete description and a photograph of the animal within 10 days. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.290 Refusal to pay legal fare.
It is unlawful for any person to refuse to pay the legal fare for the hire of any vehicle or taxicab, after having hired the same, with the intent to defraud the person from whom it is hired. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.300 Meters.
All taxicabs shall be equipped with a meter in good working order in plain sight of the persons, which meter shall constantly show charge made for hire of the taxicab. The City shall determine the increments at which meters may be set. Each meter shall bear a current seal issued by the official of a California County charged with regulation of weights and measures. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.305 Regulations related to the operation of a pedicab.
A. The pedicab shall be equipped with an operable headlight capable of projecting a beam of white light for a distance of 300 feet.
B. The pedicab shall be equipped with operable taillights mounted on the right and the left, respectively, at the same level on the rear exterior of the persons’ compartment. Taillights shall be red in color and plainly visible from all distances within 500 feet to the rear of the pedicab.
C. The pedicab shall be equipped with side-mounted rearview mirrors affixed to the right and left side of the bicycle so located as to reflect to the driver a view of the highway for a distance of at least 200 feet to the rear of the pedicab.
D. The pedicab shall not have more than one attached trailer or sidecar.
E. The number of persons in a pedicab shall not exceed the seating capacity.
F. Pedicab operators are subject to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations of the Municipal Code and the California Vehicle Code pertaining to the operation of vehicles for hire and bicycles upon streets, except those provisions that by their very nature can have no application. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)
5.40.310  Fines for noncompliance with standards.

A.  Fines. In addition to suspension or revocation of a permit or franchise as enumerated in Section 5.40.110, the permit holder or franchisee shall be subject to the following fines for failure to comply with the standards or requirements of this Chapter:

1. Fifty dollars ($50.00) for the first violation in a one-year period.
2. One hundred dollars ($100.00) for the second violation in a one-year period.
3. Two hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00) for the third and subsequent violations in a one-year period.

B.  Payment. Such fines shall be due and payable to the City within fifteen days of the mailing of a notice to the permit holder or franchisee of the assessment of such fine. Any such notice of such fine shall specify the grounds for the assessment and advise the permit holder or franchisee of a right to appeal the imposition of an assessment.

C.  Appeal. If a permit holder or franchisee objects to the imposition of a fine pursuant to this Section, the permit holder or franchisee may appeal such fine by filing an appeal with the Chief Financial Officer within fifteen days following issuance of the notice of imposition of the fine. The appeal shall be in writing and shall specify the grounds for the appeal. The Chief Financial Officer shall hold a hearing upon any timely filed appeal within thirty days of the date of filing. Notice of the hearing shall be given to the permit holder or franchisee by mailing the notice of hearing, postage fully prepaid, at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. The Chief Financial Officer shall render a decision on appeal within ten days following the close of the hearing. The decision of the Chief Financial Officer shall be in writing and shall be final.

D.  Payment Following Appeal. If the permit holder or franchisee has appealed the imposition of the fine in a timely manner, and if the Chief Financial Officer upholds the imposition of the fine following a hearing thereon, the permit holder or franchisee shall pay the fine to the City within fifteen days following the rendering of the decision.

E.  Civil Debt. The fines imposed by this Section shall be civil debts owing to the City from the permit holder or franchisee, and may be collected by the City as any other civil debt. (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)

5.40.320  Reimbursement for City costs.

The City, in the exercise of its oversight responsibilities, reserves the right to retain or to contract with any consultant including medical, legal or other to assist the City in its oversight responsibilities if the Chief Financial Officer determines there is reasonable cause to believe such action is necessary. The Chief Financial Officer may require the permit holder or franchisee to pay such additional oversight costs above the oversight fee charged up to a maximum amount of two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500). (Ord. 7014 § 1, 2008)