ORDINANCE NO. 710

**2ND SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 4.36 REGARDING TAXI CABS

The City Council of the City of Alexandria does **ORDAIN:**

**SECTION I.** That Chapter 4, Section 4.36 of the Alexandria City Code is hereby amended as follows:

**Section 4.36. Taxicabs**

**Subd. 1. Definitions**. The following terms, as used in this Section, shall have the meanings

stated:

1. A "taxicab" is a vehicle driven by mechanical power. The term "taxicab" will include any motor vehicle for hire designed to carry seven persons or less, operated upon any highway in this City or on call or demand, accepting or soliciting passengers indiscriminately for transportation for hire between points along streets or highways as may be directed by the passenger or passengers so being transported.B. The term "driver" means the person driving and having physical control over a taxicab, whether they be the licensee or in the employ of the licensee.

**Subd. 2. License Required for Taxicab Vehicle.**  No person will operate or permit to be operated for hire upon the streets of the City of Alexandria any taxicab as hereinafter defined, without first obtaining a license from the City of Alexandria in the manner hereinafter provided and paying the required license fees.

**Subd. 3. License Fee.** The annual taxicab vehicle license fee, per vehicle, and taxicab drivers license fee shall be set by Resolution of the City Council. It is unlawful for any licensee to operate or permit the operation of a vehicle unless the license fee therefore shall have been paid to the City.

**Subd. 4. License Issuance and Display and Vehicle Marking**. All licenses shall be issued for specific vehicles, except as otherwise herein provided. License tags, including number and year for which issued, shall be plainly visible from the front of the vehicle. Both sides of every licensed taxicab, when in use, shall be plainly and permanently marked as such with a painted sign or attachment showing the full or abbreviated name of the licensed operator.

**Subd. 5.**  **Licensed Required for Taxicab Drivers.**  No person will drive or operate a taxicab in the City of Alexandria unless duly licensed as hereinafter provided.

**Subd. 6. Application for Taxicab Driver License.** Every applicant for an initial license and renewal license as a driver of a taxicab or motor vehicle for hire will file a verified application with City of Alexandria on a form provided for that purpose. Such application will set forth that the applicant meets the following requirements:

1. is a citizen of the United States or an alien admitted for permanent residence, or who has otherwise obtained work authorization from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
2. is the holder of a valid Minnesota driver's license authorizing operation of the licensed vehicle
3. is able to speak, read and write the English language
4. is eighteen years of age or over
5. has obtained and provided a doctor's certificate indicating the applicant is free from any infirmity, physical or mental, which would render the applicant unfit for the safe operation of the licensed vehicle, will be provided every three years after the date the initial license was issued
6. has no felony convictions in this State or elsewhere in the last ten (10) years; no gross misdemeanor convictions in this State or elsewhere within the last five (5) years; no misdemeanor convictions in this State or elsewhere in the last three (3) years involving alcohol-related driving offenses, theft, damage to property, check forgery, the use or threat of use of force, possession or sale of a controlled substance, prostitution or indecent conduct; no convictions in this State or elsewhere of three (3) or more traffic code violations within the preceding twelve (12) months. For purposes of this ordinance, traffic code ordinances will be defined pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169 and Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 171. The applicant’s verified status must be maintained during the entire licensing period.

A person who has been convicted of a crime, as defined in this ordinance will not be disqualified from obtaining taxicab driver's license if the person can show competent evidence of sufficient rehabilitation and present fitness to perform the duties of the public employment sought or the occupation for which the license is sought pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §364:03. Sufficient evidence of rehabilitation may be established by the production of:

1. A copy of the local, state, or federal release order
2. Evidence showing that at least one year has elapsed since release from any local, state, or federal correctional institution without subsequent conviction of a crime; and evidence showing compliance with all terms and conditions of probation or parole; or
3. A copy of the relevant department of corrections discharge order or other documents showing completion of probation or parole supervision.

In addition to the documentary evidence presented, the licensing or hiring authority will consider any evidence presented by the applicant regarding:

1. The nature and seriousness of the crime or crimes for which convicted
2. All circumstances relative to the crime or crimes, including mitigating circumstances or social conditions surrounding the commission of the crime or crimes
3. The age of the person at the time the crime or crimes were committed
4. The length of time elapsed since the crime or crimes were committed
5. All other competent evidence of rehabilitation and present fitness presented, including, but not limited to, letters of reference by persons who have been in contact with the applicant since the applicant's release from any local, state, or federal correctional institution.
6. At the time of filing said initial application or renewal application, the applicant will exhibit to the Alexandria Police Department the driver's license issued to the applicant by the State of Minnesota. Prior to issuance or renewal of a Taxicab Driver License, the Alexandria Police Department shall conduct a driving record and criminal background history investigation to verify any qualifying or disqualifying factors set forth in this subdivision 6. The Alexandria Police Department shall communicate to the City Council only whether or not their investigation revealed a driving record or criminal history that would prevent the issuance of the license. No such driving record and criminal background history investigation will be conducted without the applicant’s informed consent, but if an applicant fails or refuses to provide informed consent, no Taxicab Driver License will be issued. The City Council shall issue a Taxicab Driver License to an applicant who fulfills all the requirements of this Section, pays the applicable fees, and does not have a disqualifying driving record or criminal background history**.** Upon issuance of the license, the Alexandria Police Department will issue a card with the name and photograph of the holder of the Taxicab Driver’s License, along with the license term. This card shall be displayed in the vehicle where it can be seen by passengers.

**Subd. 7. License Term.** All initial licenses issued pursuant to this section will be issued until December 31 of the current year. All taxicab vehicle and taxicab drivers’ licenses shall be renewed annually.

**Subd. 8. Insurance Required.** Before a taxicab license is issued by the City, and at all times effective during such period, the licensee shall have and maintain public liability and bodily injury insurance in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000) for any one person and One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000) for two or more persons in any one accident, as well as Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) property damage insurance. Such insurance shall cover all passengers carried by the insured licensee and shall be for public taxicab purposes. All such policies shall contain a clause providing for ten days' written notice to the City Administrator before cancellation and a memorandum of such insurance shall be furnished to the City before a license is issued.

**Subd. 9. Rates.** Each applicant shall file with the City Administrator, before a taxicab license is issued or renewed, a schedule of proposed maximum rates to be charged by the applicant during the license period for which the application is made. The schedule of proposed maximum rates, or a compromise schedule thereof, shall be approved by the City Council before granting the license. Such schedule shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the taxicab in full view of passengers riding therein. A taxicab licensee may petition the City Council for a review of rates during the license period, and the City Council may consider such petition and authorize new rates effective at any time. No taxicab licensee shall charge rates in excess of maximum rates approved by the City Council.

A. No driver of any licensed taxicab shall carry any other than the passenger first employing the taxicab without the consent of such passenger.

**Subd. 10. Vehicle Requirements; Inspection.** As a condition for the issuance of a taxicab vehicle license, the applicant shall file with the City Administrator, a certificate signed by a competent and experienced mechanic acceptable to the City of Alexandria showing that each taxicab vehicle has been inspected within a period of 30 days prior to the application and found to be in proper mechanical condition and safe for the transportation of passengers.

1. A similar certificate may be required by the City of Alexandria on a semi-annual basis for all vehicles which continue to be licensed during the licensing period.
2. The Chief of Police of the City of Alexandria shall have the authority to make inspections of taxicabs any time during the period the license is issued. If the Chief of Police determines that a taxicab vehicle does not meet the requirements of this section for an original license or does not comply with state law at any time during the license period, the Chief of Police may suspend the license for any vehicle found to be unfit or unsuitable, and the license shall remain suspended until such time as the vehicle can successfully pass all reasonable inspection requirements of the City.
3. All taxicab vehicles licensed by the City of Alexandria must be maintained in a clean and well-painted condition.
4. All vehicles must be equipped with inside door handles easily operated.
5. Composition. Automobiles licensed as a taxicab shall have at least four (4) doors and vans licensed as taxicabs shall have at least three (3) doors so as to permit easy ingress and egress by the passengers.

**Subd. 11. Service Required.** Every licensee shall provide service between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m., seven days a week, in the City of Alexandria. Every licensee shall provide additional services between the hours of 2:01 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., seven days a week, to such customers who call and arrange for such service not less than six hours in advance of the requested service. If the licensed operator cannot respond to a call within a reasonable period of time, they shall notify the prospective passengers as to the length of the delay before the call can be answered and give the reason therefore.

**Subd. 12. Delivery and Procurement of Liquor Prohibited.** No taxicab operator within the City of Alexandria shall make deliveries of intoxicating liquor or non-intoxicating malt liquor for any person within the City limits of Alexandria, nor shall any taxicab driver procure intoxicating liquor or non-intoxicating malt liquor for the purpose of making delivery of the intoxicating or non-intoxicating malt liquor to another. Each violation of this ordinance shall be a misdemeanor.

**Subd. 13.** Upon any transfer of ownership of any taxicab, the City may, where the transferor indicates that the vehicle is no longer to be operated as a taxicab, validate by appropriate endorsements thereon such license for use on another taxicab to be designated by such transferor. The provision of the foregoing sentence will also apply where the licensee will produce satisfactory evidence that such taxicab has through destruction or otherwise ceased to be used as a taxicab. Upon any transfer of ownership of any taxicab where the transferor indicates that such vehicle is to continue in use as a taxicab, the City may, by appropriate endorsements thereon validate such license in the hands of the transferee. Upon the death of any person owning a vehicle licensed hereunder, the City may, upon receipt of satisfactory evidence of such death, at the request of the deceased's personal representative, validate by appropriate endorsement thereon such license in the hands of the person in whose name title to such taxicab will have vested by reason of such death. In no event, however, will any transfer be made as hereinbefore contemplated unless and until the transferee in all other respects complies with the terms and provisions of this ordinance.

**Subd. 14. Revocation.** A taxicab driver's license or taxicab vehicle license may be revoked, suspended or not renewed at any time for cause pursuant to the provisions of this chapter upon notice and hearing by the City Council.

1. Any time that a licensee's Minnesota driver's license is suspended, revoked or canceled, his or her taxicab driver's license will likewise be immediately suspended, revoked or canceled. No person will operate a taxicab without a valid Minnesota driver's license.
2. Any person holding a taxicab driver's license whose Minnesota driver's license is suspended, canceled or revoked for any reason will immediately surrender his or her taxicab driver's license to the Alexandria Police Department. The taxicab driver's license will be returned to the licensee upon reinstatement of the Minnesota driver's license or issuance of a limited license authorizing operation of a taxicab; provided, however, that suspension, cancellation or revocation of a Minnesota driver's license due to refusal to submit to a legally required blood alcohol test under the state implied consent statute will be grounds for the revocation, nonissuance or nonrenewal of the taxicab driver's license.
3. Any licensed taxicab driver whose Minnesota driver's license has been revoked and who has been issued a limited license authorizing the operation of a taxicab will immediately notify the Alexandria Police Department of the same. At that time, the licensee will furnish to the Alexandria Police Department a copy of the limited license and a written statement containing a schedule of the days and hours of each day during which he or she will be driving a taxicab during the term of the limited license. No deviation from the schedule will be permitted. In addition, the licensee will personally furnish to the Alexandria Police Department copies of all trip sheets for all shifts worked during the term of the limited license. The limited license documentation and trip sheets must be furnished weekly, i.e., every Monday by 12:00 noon, to the Alexandria Police Department.
4. Any person holding a taxicab driver's license will notify the Alexandria Police Department immediately whenever he or she is convicted of an alcohol-related driving offense, whether or not it involves the operation of a taxicab.
5. Refusal to take and/or failure to pass a standard breathalyzer test administered pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 169.123 while on duty will be grounds for revocation of a taxicab driver's license.
6. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section will be grounds for revocation of a taxicab driver's license.

**Subd. 15. Appeals.** A determination by the City to deny, suspend, revoke or not renew any license under this section may be appealed  to the City Council of Alexandria by filing with the City Administrator a written notice of appeal within fifteen (15) days of the date on which the City mails such determination to the applicant or licensee. In that event, the appeal will be heard by the Council at its next meeting occurring at least fifteen (15) days after the filing of the Notice of Appeal. At any appeal of a determination by the City under this Ordinance, the licensee or applicant, or an attorney representing said party, may appear and make a presentation to the City Council. The licensee or applicant shall present to the City Council the basis for the determination being appealed. If the appeal is based on the results of a driving record or criminal history background investigation, the licensee or applicant may present to the City Council evidence of rehabilitation as set forth in Subdivision 6.F of this Section. After the hearing, the Council may uphold, reverse or modify the decision of the City based upon the provision of this Ordinance and upon the protection of the public health, safety or general welfare. The City Council shall issue written findings and determination within thirty-one (31) days of the hearing, unless the Council extends that time for good cause. A decision of the City Council made following an appeal as set forth herein may be appealed by Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Appeals of the State of Minnesota pursuant to its Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure and Minnesota Statutes.

**SECTION II.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Minnesota, this 24th day of November, 2014, by the following vote:

YES: BATESOLE, THALMAN, MILLER, BENSON, JENSEN

NO: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

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 /S/ Sara Carlson, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 /S/ Martin D. Schultz, City Administrator