

CHAPTER 124

TAXICABS

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124.01 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Operator" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other association, whether or not said entity is the owner of a taxi, that will profit financially by the operation of a taxi, but not including a person hired to drive a taxi.
2. "Taxi" means any motor vehicle that is used on the streets of the City for the purpose of carrying passengers for hire, and which follows no regular route or time schedule.
3. "Vehicle for Hire" means a motor vehicle used to transport persons for hire or other consideration and includes limousines, luxury limousines, jitneys, vans, horses and carriages, and taxicabs. "Vehicles for hire" does not include buses, the City of Burlington bus system, Southeast Iowa Regional Bus (SEIBUS), and vehicles used for volunteer transportation such as car pools and courtesy buses

124.02 LICENSE REQUIRED. It is unlawful to operate a taxi without a valid taxi license issued under this chapter. Taxis that are operated and licensed principally in other cities that use the streets of the City only on isolated occasions need not have a license under this chapter.

124.03 LICENSE APPLICATION. A taxi operator shall apply in writing to the Council for a license for the taxi company. The application shall be filed with the Clerk. The application shall include the name, residential and business addresses of the operator, the make, model, serial number and State license plate number of each taxi. The application shall be accompanied by a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) annual license fee for the company."

124.04 INSPECTIONS. Before the Council shall issue a license, the applicant/operator shall file with the Clerk evidence of inspection showing that the operator has had the fleet of taxis inspected by a qualified person, which would also include inspections done by the City. Such evidence shall extend for the period of the license.

124.05 INSURANCE; FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. Before the Council shall issue a license, the applicant/operator shall file with the Clerk evidence of insurance showing financial responsibility and liability coverage in an amount not less than one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) coverage for personal injury to any one person, three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) coverage for personal injury in the aggregate for any one event, and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) property damage to cover possible liabilities arising from the operation of each taxi. Such evidence of financial responsibility shall extend to each taxi for which the license is requested.

124.06 ISSUING LICENSE. The Council shall review each application promptly, and shall issue a license if it finds that issuance will be consistent with the safety, health, welfare, comfort and convenience of its residents. After the issuance of a license, no license fee or portion thereof will be refundable. Each taxi that is in service must be registered with the City. The operator shall notify the Council when a licensed' taxi is withdrawn from service and when additional taxis are put into service.

124.07 LICENSES. No person shall operate a taxicab, limousine or vehicle for hire, where service originates upon the streets of the City, without a license for each vehicle for hire. A vehicle for hire shall also require such license or certificates as may be required by the Department of Transportation of the State of Iowa. Licenses shall be issued as of April 1 of each year and shall be valid for one year from the date of issue. A license, when issued, shall be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, shall identify the vehicles licensed, and shall state the date of issuance, the operator to whom issued, and the period of time for which the license is valid. A license shall be displayed within the taxi in full view of passengers.”

124.08 LICENSES NOT TRANSFERABLE. Each taxi license shall be for one specific taxi company only and shall not be transferable to a different operator.

124.09 REVOCATION OF LICENSE. The Council may revoke or suspend any license issued under this chapter for the following reasons:

1. Fraudulent Statements. The operator has made fraudulent statements in the application for the license or in the conduct of business.
2. Violation of Law or ordinance. The operator has substantially violated the requirements of this chapter or the State motor vehicle laws.
3. Operation as to Endanger Safety, Health or Welfare. The operator has conducted business in a manner that substantially endangers the public safety, health, welfare, order or morals.

The Council will conduct a hearing before revoking or suspending a license. The operator shall be given notice of the hearing at least five (5) and not more than thirty (30) days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall be in writing and shall be served personally or as

required for personal service by the Iowa Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing and the reasons for the intended revocation or suspension.

124.10 SUPERVISION. The Police Chief shall have the power at any time to investigate the conduct of any taxi business and the operation of the licensed taxis, and to inspect the licensed taxis for possible violations.

124.11 DRIVER'S QUALIFICATIONS. Every driver of a licensed taxi shall possess a valid Iowa chauffeur's driving license.

124.12 RATES. Operators shall display within the taxi a schedule of rates in full view of passengers. On request of a passenger, a driver shall advise any passenger in advance as to the rate to be charged for transporting that passenger between any two points within the city. The rates shall be recorded on file with the Clerk.

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