

ORDINANCE NO. 521

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VI ENTITLED "TAXICABS" OF CHAPTER 10 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA, TEXAS, WITH REGARD TO THE DEFINITION OF GROSS REVENUE, INSURANCE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO OPERATE A TAXICAB WITHIN THE CITY, MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS, SIGNAGE REQUIRED ON TAXICABS, AND INSPECTION OF TAXICABS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND/OR INFORMAL POLICIES WHICH ARE IN ANY MANNER IN CONFLICT OR INCONSISTENT WITH THIS ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST COLUMBIA, TEXAS:

Section 1

Various sections under Article VI Taxicabs of Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of West Columbia, Texas, shall be and are hereby amended to read as follows:

[a] Sec. 10-146. Definition. Shall be and is hereby amended to read as follows:

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- (1) Gross Receipts shall mean any and all fares charged or collected by a taxicab for the transport of passengers where the transport in questions either originates or terminates within the City limits.
- (2) Taxicab means any automobile carrying passengers for hire, except motor buses or motor coaches operated by bus lines over designated routes in and through the city.

[b] Sec. 10-153. Insurance.

Every holder of a permit to conduct a taxicab business in the city shall, at all times during the life of such permit, keep each and every vehicle operated

by him under his permit insuring in a company authorized to do business in the state, indemnifying the permittee in the sum of at least three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000.00) for each person and five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) for each accident for personal injury or death, and fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00) for property damage resulting from any accident, through and by reason of the operation of such taxicab; such policies or certificates of insurance shall be approved by the city manager, and filed and left with the city secretary. The policy or policies of insurance shall not be cancelled or surrendered, except after ten (10) days' written notice to the city secretary. Failure of any permittee to procure and file the policy or policies of insurance as required by this section, or failure to keep same in full force, shall immediately forfeit and make null and void such permit, and all rights thereunder shall at once cease.

[c] Sec. 10-154. Books and records.

Each operator of a taxicab business shall install and maintain at all times, at its principal offices, the address and telephone number of which shall be filed and maintained with the City, in current condition, complete books and records in accordance with standard accounting practices.

[d] Sec. 10-156. Lettering of vehicle.

Every holder of a permit granted under the terms of this article shall have and keep painted, in a color contrasting with the color of the vehicle, on each side of each vehicle used as a taxicab, the words: "TAXI [the name of the permit holder]. PERMIT NO. _____", filling in the blank with the name of the company operating the taxicab under the permit in question. The letters and figures shall not be less than five (5) inches high.

[e] Sec. 10-157. Vehicle condition.

Every holder of a permit to conduct a taxicab business in the city shall have each taxicab used in this business inspected once each year, and shall file with the City Secretary on or before February 1st of year a statement in writing signed by a competent resident mechanic showing that he has inspected such vehicle; the date of such inspection (which must have been conducted subsequent to January 1st of that year); the license number of such vehicle or vehicles; the name of the permittee and the serial number of his permit; and that the lights, brakes, and steering apparatus of all such vehicles so inspected by him are in good mechanical condition. The City Council may, at its discretion, designate a resident mechanic to perform the aforementioned inspection, in which case the permittee will be required to use such designated mechanic.

Section 2

Any and all rules, ordinances, police regulations, resolutions, and/or policies of the City of West Columbia, whether written, or otherwise, which are in any manner in conflict with or inconsistent with this ordinance, shall be and are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict and/or inconsistency.

Section 3

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the several provisions of this ordinance are severable, and if any court of competent jurisdiction enters a final order which holds that any section, sub-section, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this ordinance is invalid, illegal, or otherwise unenforceable, then any such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and any such ruling shall not affect any other provisions of this ordinance which are not specifically designated as being illegal, invalid, or unenforceable.

Section 4

This ordinance shall be effective upon its passage and approval, and the publication of it's caption as provided by law.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 11th day of August, 2003.

David E. Foster

DAVID E. FOSTER, Mayor
City of West Columbia

ATTEST:

Debbie Sutherland

DEBBIE SUTHERLAND, City Secretary
City of West Columbia