

## **Vehicle for Hire Code Proposed Amendments: FAQ**

### **1. What are the proposed amendments going to address?**

The proposed amendments will address the following topics:

- Makeup and Authority of the Vehicle for Hire Board
- Fees will be removed from City Code and authority to set fees will be at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Public Safety
- Remove references and regulations for Transportation Network Companies
- Updated renewal process for taxicab operators
- Revocation of Vehicle for Hire License
- Miscellaneous corrections of typographical errors

### **2. How will the proposed changes impact the Vehicle for Hire Board's makeup and authority?**

The Vehicle for Hire Board has had difficulty maintaining a quorum, which has had a significant impact on its effectiveness as an advisory body. The proposed amendments will modernize the board, removing positions that have sat idle for years and ensuring the board makeup reflects the current state of the industry. In addition, while the board has functioned as an advisory body for some time, the City Code is not consistent with respect to the board's authority. The proposed amendment will make the function and the responsibilities of the Vehicle for Hire Board clear to its members, City staff, and the public.

### **3. Will the fee structure change as part of this amendment?**

No, Vehicle for Hire fees will be maintained at current levels. The proposed changes remove fees from City Code to provide flexibility to the Department of Public Safety to adjust fees when necessary. Vehicle for Hire fees will be reviewed by Columbus City Council every 5 years. The Vehicle for Hire Board will also have an opportunity to review changes to Vehicle for Hire fees and submit recommendations to the Director of the Department of Public Safety. The fees will still be made publically available by the Department of Public Safety.



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**4. Why does this proposal recommend the removal of references to transportation network companies and the local regulations that govern them?**

The State of Ohio has granted the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio sole authority to regulate transportation network companies (TNC). Therefore, the sections of the City Code, which give the City of Columbus License Section authority to regulate TNCs, must be revoked.

**5. How will the License Section update the license renewal process for taxicab operators?**

In order to improve efficiency and provide flexibility to taxicab operators, the License Section will begin renewing licenses on a revolving basis. During the 2020 renewal process, license holders will be given an opportunity to select the date their license will expire in the following year. The 2020 licenses will be prorated for the period they are considered valid. The selected date will act as the annual renewal date for the affected driver. In addition, the renewal period will be extended from 30 to 60 days prior to the expiration date of the license to ensure all drivers are able to complete the background check requirement prior to the expiration date of their license.

**6. How will the proposed amendments affect the revocation of a vehicle for hire license?**

The proposed changes recommend requiring a driver/owner to reapply for a license following revocation, the driver/owner will be eligible to reapply 90 days after the date the license was revoked. The amendments also include an alteration to the definition for “permanently revoke” to mean termination of all rights and privileges under the license permanently and renders the holder of the license ineligible to reapply.

**7. When will the changes take effect?**

Ordinance XXXX-2020 will be placed on the City Council agenda on May 4, 2020. In response to the postponement of multiple Council meetings caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to have updated code in place to prepare for the 2020 License renewal process, the Ordinance will be introduced as emergency. Therefore, if the Ordinance passes with at least 6 of 7 votes by Council, it will take effect upon the Mayor’s signature.



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