DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

VEHICLE FOR HIRE

RULES & REGULATIONS

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Taxi Driver Standards

Appearance:

1. Clothing to be clean and in good repair.
2. Long pants or skirts. No jeans, shorts or exercise attire.
3. Collared shirts with sleeves.
4. Shoes and socks must be worn. No open toed shoes.
5. Hygienically clean; clean shaven, except a beard or mustache may be worn, if groomed and neatly trimmed.
6. No ball caps.

Conduct:

1. Courteous.
2. Geographic familiarity with Franklin County.
3. Per Columbus City Code 715.02 and Ohio Revised Code 3794, Smoking is prohibited in the vehicle at any time.
4. No playing of radio, tape player, or other similar device without passenger consent.
5. Driver must maintain a current franklin county map.

Vehicle for Hire Standards

Seats:

1. Must be firmly fixed and secure.
2. Clear of all materials, litter and debris.
3. No exposed wire or sharp edges either from metal or vinyl.
4. No broken springs, sagging or horizontal slippage.
5. Upholstery must be clean with no offensive odors.
6. Upholstery will have no holes or tears on the seat surfaces or rear of front seats visible to rear passengers.
7. Seat covers must be permanently affixed to seat of vehicle. No blankets or temporary coverings.
8. Seat belts and shoulder straps will be clean and operable.

Floors:

1. Covering materials will be secure and free of rips and folds.
2. Mat and carpet will have a clean appearance.
3. Floors will be clear and free of any objects.

Other interior:

1. No loose objects or externally mounted speakers on rear seat deck.
2. No decorations or other objects permitted to hang from mirror or other mounted fixtures.
3. Dashboards will be secure, clean and neat in appearance with no loose objects.
4. Visors will be free of holes or tears, clean and intact, with no taped repairs. Visors will match vehicle's interior as nearly as possible.
5. Headliner will be free of tears, rips and will be secured to the ceiling, not sagging or loose in any place.
6. Headrests will be clean.

Body:

1. Clean appearance.
2. Free of rust, cracks or other damage visible upon casual inspection. Any cited rust or

damage will be repaired within 14 days of citation and re-inspected for compliance.
3. Paint in good condition showing no oxidation or chipping. Touch-up paint must match existing paint and blend smoothly.
4. Grills will have a neat appearance.
5. No torn, wrinkled, faded or missing lettering, striping or decals.
6. Four matching hubcaps are required.
7. No broken or cracked lights or lenses.
8. All molding, mirrors and antennas must be securely attached and in good condition.
9. Bumpers must be properly attached and in good condition with no holes and free of unapproved stickers and decals.
10. Cruise lights must be securely attached, free of tape, free of damage and with no missing letters.

Trunks:

1. No flammable liquid or materials.
2. Clean and neat.
3. Must have a protective floor covering.
4. Tools must be in an acceptable container.
5. Free of materials limiting space for luggage.
6. Trunk latch must be operable.

Tires:

1. Center tread must have a minimum tread of 2/32" and be free of all cuts or breaks. No bald spots.
2. Tires must be inflated to rated standard.

Windows:

1. No cracked or broken windows.
2. Clean inside and out.
3. Free of all stickers and decals except those required by License Section.
4. Tinted windows must be in compliance with state law requirements.
5. All windows must be operable.
6. Must be equipped with two operable windshield wipers, non-streaking blades and functional windshield washing system.

Doors:

1. Inside and outside door locks and handles must be fully operational and intact.
2. Handles, knobs and armrest must be fully operational and intact.
3. Door panels must be clean, intact with no tears and match vehicle interior.
4. Door hinges and stops must function properly and securely.
5. Door seals and gaskets must be intact.

Miscellaneous:

1. Taxicab and livery owners have 30 days to produce vehicle title, but must show proof of purchase prior to issuance of license.
2. Scanners are not permitted in vehicles.
3. Peddling from vehicle is prohibited.
4. Transfer of all Vehicles for Hire Owner Licenses from vehicle to vehicle does not need <u>prior</u> board approval.
5. Taxicab identification numbers may not be transferred to other vehicles <u>currently licensed</u> as taxicabs.
6. Vehicles must be equipped with an operable heater and air conditioner, and must be used when transporting passengers.
7. Taxicab Owners must notify the License Section when there is a change in the mode of dispatching or a change in the dispatcher.

MAXIMUM PENALTIES GUIDELINE

Records	Type	Suggested Sanctions
Failure to keep appropriate records of Vehicle for Hire	Owner	30-days
Failure of driver to, at all times, maintain a trip sheet showing, in proper sequence, the following information: a. Time of pick-up of any and all passengers. ** b. Address of origin of trip. ** c. Address of destination of trip. d. Time of termination of trip. ** e. Number of passengers carried on trip f. Amount of fare paid for trip for taxicabs ** **LIVERIES ARE REQUIRED TO RECORD ONLY (**) INFORMATION**	Driver Owner	30-days 30-days
Failure of drivers to make time sheet entries at the time of each act.	Driver	5-days
Failure to submit time sheets to the owner by the end of the month.	Driver	5-days
Failure of owner to maintain and not destroy records and/or time sheets for a period of six months.	Owner	90-days
Failure to supply blank receipts; such receipts when issued must contain the name of the owner of the taxi, its identification number, the identification of the driver, the date, a list of all items for which a charge is made and the total amount paid.	Driver/Owner	30-days

Solicitation

Driver soliciting or accepting passengers on the streets.	Driver	10-days
Soliciting or knowingly permit the solicitation of potential passengers by employees, agents, or taxicab drivers by any means including horn, bell, or other audible signal at any location.	Driver/Owner	10-days
Solicit or permit the solicitation of potential passengers by employees, agents, or livery drivers by any means other than through pre-arrangement.	Driver/Owner	10-days

Application – Driver

Obtaining a Vehicle for Hire driver's license by making a false statement in the application.	Driver	Revocation
Obtaining a duplicate Vehicle for Hire driver's license by making false statements in the Affidavit.	Driver	Revocation

Application – Vehicle

Obtaining a vehicle license by making a false statement in the application.	Vehicle	Revocation
Obtaining a duplicate vehicle license by making false statements in the Affidavit.	Vehicle	Revocation

License – Driver

Defacing Vehicle for Hire Driver's License.	Driver	Revocation
Failure to immediately turn into the Licensing Section a Vehicle for Hire driver's license under Board suspension.	Driver	15-days Criminal Charges
Cause or permit to be operated any Vehicle for Hire without a Vehicle for Hire Owner's License.	Driver	Criminal Charges & Revocation
Cause or permit to be operated any Vehicle for Hire without a Vehicle Owner's Decal.	Driver	5-days Criminal Charges
Displaying an ID card while operating an unlicensed Vehicle for Hire.	Driver	Criminal Charges & Revocation

License – Vehicle

Defacing Vehicle for Hire Owner License.	Owner	15-days
Failure to immediately turn into the Licensing Section an Owner License and Decal when under Board suspension.	Owner	15-days
Cause or permit to be operated any Vehicle for Hire without an Owner License.	Owner	Criminal
Cause or permit to be operated any Vehicle for Hire without an Owner Decal (Not criminal)	Owner	30-days
Permit the operation of a Vehicle for Hire by any person who is not a Licensed Driver	Owner	30-days
Failure to notify License Section when Vehicle for Hire Owner has been out of service for 30 calendar days	Owner	15-days
Failure of the new owner to notify the Licensing Section upon sale agreement of vehicle for hire when new owner makes continuing use of a Vehicle for Hire.	Owner	90-days
Permit the operation of a taxicab which displays the emblem of a credit card/Discover Program in which the owner does not participate	Driver/Owner	5-days

Schedule & Fees

A driver permitting a non-faire paying passenger to occupy a taxicab while engaged in business or seeking business.	Driver	5-days
A driver charges compensation for an unusual circumstance when such agreement is not made prior to the trip and is not in writing.	Driver	5-days
Failing to post and maintain the schedule of rates filed with the Director for a taxicab on or near the meter and on the back of the front seat or other area visible to the passenger.	Driver/Owner	5-days
Carrying a passenger in a Livery without charging the hourly rate.	Driver/Owner	90-days
Failing to take the most direct route unless otherwise directed by the passenger.	Driver	30-days

Schedule and Fees

Failure to determine fares, fees, or charges by one of the following methods: (for Taxicabs)		
(A) Taximeter rate computed at no more than the maximum rate provided by the Code.	Driver	30-days
(B) An hourly rate of no more than $24.00 per hour or meter fare, whichever is greater.	Driver	30-days
(C) The special trip rate approved by the Board and filed with the Safety Director.	Owner/Driver	10-days
(D) Out of county raters computed at no more than $2.00 per one-way mile.	Driver	30-days
Transporting two or more passengers to different locations:		
(A) Agreement by original passengers for additional passengers.	Driver	30-days
(B) Explanation of method of charging and is approved by passengers.	Driver	10-days
(C) Fare computed at ¾ of the total charges to each passenger if each were traveling separately.	Driver	30-days
(D) Two or more passengers traveling to the same destination charged no more than the meter rate.	Driver	30-days
Knowingly operate a taxicab to which is attached a taximeter which registers improperly and/or incorrectly.	Driver/Owner	30-days
Operating a taxicab in which the seal affixed by Weights and Measures is broken or expired.	Driver/Owner	Pull sticker
Operating a taxicab in which the taximeter is not attached.	Driver/Owner	30-days
Collecting a fare in excess of the meter rate.	Driver/Owner	30-days
A driver showing a fare on the meter when the taxi is not transporting passengers or packages for which the meter is being used to determine the charge.	Driver/Owner	30-days
Failing to use the taximeter at all times while transporting passenger(s), even if the driver and passenger have mutually agreed on the fare amount.	Driver	30-days

Discontinuance of a Vehicle for Hire

Failure to remove paint over all taxicab markings, or clearly indicate by markings that the vehicle is no longer in service as a taxicab.	Owner	****
Upon determination that a violation of this section has occurred, the Director shall cause the Licensee to be notified of the violation personally or by certified mail. Corrective measures must be made within ten (10) days of receipt of notification. If the vehicle remains in service after the designated time without correction, the Board can, upon proper hearing, suspend or revoke the		

right of the Owner to operate any other taxicabs. If the vehicle remains in service after the designated time without correction and the Owner is no longer in operation, a notation shall be made to require an appearance before the Board prior to issuance of any Taxicab License in the future. If the Board finds such act willful and knowing, it may refuse to issue any Taxicab License to such owner or delay the issuance of the said License for a period not to exceed ninety days.		

Vehicle Appearance

Operating a Taxicab or Livery which is unclean or unsightly.	Driver/Owner	First offense- Cause a memorandum of the inspection failure to be placed on the record of the driver. Any subsequent offense, 10-days.

Vehicle Safety

Knowingly permit the operation of a Vehicle for Hire without a light within the passenger compartment.	Driver/Owner	3-days
Knowingly permit the operation of a Vehicle for Hire without shatterproof glass in all windows.	Owner	15-days
Knowingly permit the operation of a Vehicle for Hire without proper number of seat belts and not in compliance with Ohio Revised Code Section 4513.262.	Owner/Driver	90-days
Knowingly permit the operation of a Vehicle for Hire without an operable two-way communication system.	Driver/Owner	15-days
Failure to register radios with the License Section.	Owner	5-days
Failure to notify License Section within a 24 hour period when radio functions improperly.	Driver	5-days
Operation without radio in excess of 10 days without prior Board approval.	Owner	30-days
Knowingly permit the operation of an unsafe Vehicle for Hire.	Driver Owner	90-days 90-days-Criminal Charges
Operating a taxicab without suitable holder for ID card.	Driver/Owner	3-days

Driver Appearance

Operating a Vehicle for Hire while unclean or unsuitably dressed. *** * Any reprimand for this section shall be recorded on the permanent record of the driver. Subsequent offenses or extreme situations, or appeals of a License Officer's determination under this section or section 589.16 shall be brought before the Board.**	Driver	10-days **
Any violation enumerated in C.C.C. 589.07(c) or the commission of any crime which demonstrates personal characteristics rendering a person unsuitable to drive a Vehicle for Hire.	Driver	Permanent Revocation

License – Temporary

Failure to provide telephone notification of use of a rented or leased Livery.	Owner	10-days Prohibition of any future temporary license

Insurance Claims

Operation of a livery without a minimum of $500,000 liability coverage protection.	Driver Owner	Revocation Revocation
Operation of a taxicab without a minimum of $100,000 liability coverage protection.	Driver Owner	Revocation Revocation
Failure to provide at least seven (7) days prior notice of insurance cancellation.	Owner	5-days
Failure to voluntarily surrender the Taxicab Owner License and Safety Decal at time of insurance cancellation.	Owner	10-days
Failure to submit complete statement of claims and judgments by December 1st of each year.	Owner	10-days

Vehicle for Hire Board

Failing to appear before the Vehicle for Hire License Board when properly notified to do so.	Driver/Owner	Revocation
Engage in disruptive behavior or misconduct at a meeting of the Board which shall mean behavior and conduct that prevents or disrupts an orderly meeting.	Driver	20-days
Failing to follow the rulings of the Chairperson.	Driver	20-days
Use of profanity.	Driver	5-days

Parking Stand

Parking a Taxicab at any Taxi Stand when not available for hire, or when not available for hire for a period of fifteen (15) minutes or more.	Driver Owner	5-days 5-days

Licensing Staff

Verbally threaten or attempt to intimidate any employee of the City of Columbus for actions taken in the enforcement of the provisions of Chapter 585 through 593 of the Columbus City Code.	Driver Owner	90-days (?)
Physically abuse an employee of the City of Columbus for actions taken in the enforcement of the provisions of chapter 585 through 593 of the Columbus City Code.	Driver Owner	90-days (?)
Failure of a driver to take out of service any Taxicab found to be in violation of the provisions of chapter 585 through 593 when ordered to do so by an Inspecting Officer.	Driver Owner	90-days 90-days

Scheduled Limousine

Failing to operate a scheduled limousine on its scheduled route and at the scheduled times.	Driver Owner	30-days 30-days

Driver Conduct

Driver has become physically or mentally incapable of driving a Vehicle for Hire.	Driver	Revocation
Driver has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude.	Driver	Revocation
Failure to report within twenty-four (24) hours to the appropriate Law Enforcement Agency when a Vehicle for Hire is involved in an accident in which damages are in excess of $300.00.	Driver/Owner	Revocation
The possession or use of any controlled substance, as defined in the Ohio Revised Code 3917.01, not specifically prescribed for him by physician, while in a Vehicle for Hire.	Driver	Revocation
Possessing an open alcoholic beverage container in a Vehicle for Hire.	Driver	(Required test) 30-days
Failure to summon another vehicle for a passenger when vehicle becomes disabled.	Driver	30-days
Operating, driving or being in physical control of any vehicle while being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.	Driver	Revocation
Gambling or being in a taxicab where gambling is occurring.	Driver	15-days
Refusal to take a urine / breathalyzer test when a duly authorized city official believes the driver of a Vehicle for Hire is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.	Driver	Revocation
Refusing taxicab trip service on demand to any orderly person for lawful purposes.	Driver/Owner	30-days
Any other form of misconduct, which shall mean conduct apart from the generally accepted practices of Vehicle for Hire owner, which demonstrates personal, corporate, managerial, ethical, or professional characteristics or disposition rendering a person unsuitable to owning a Vehicle for Hire.	Owner	30-days

Any accumulation of twelve (12) or more points within a two-year period on the Operator's License of a driver. This shall apply whether any numbers of such points were accumulated before the granting of a Vehicle for Hire or while in operating a Vehicle for Hire.	Driver	Revocation
Driving a Vehicle for Hire while wearing earphones or headsets over the ears, or with a television operating in the vehicle.	Driver	30-days
Any form of misconduct which shall mean conduct apart from the generally accepted practices of Vehicle for Hire owners, which demonstrates personal characteristics rendering a person unsuitable to operate a Vehicle for Hire and shall include, but is not limited to: a. Discourtesy to passenger.	Driver	5-days
b. Verbal abuse of a passenger.	Driver	30-days
c. Disorderly conduct involving a passenger.	Driver	10-days
d. Reckless operation of a Vehicle for Hire without a passenger.	Driver	10-days
e. Reckless operation of a Vehicle for Hire with a passenger.	Driver	30-days
f. Possession of a handgun in a vehicle for hire.	Driver	Revocation
g. Refueling Vehicle for Hire while transporting passenger to local destination, except when vehicle is in continuous use for two (2) or more hours.	Driver	3-days
h. Running out of gas while transporting a passenger.	Driver	5-days