

City of Alexandria

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 1, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE FURTHER POSTPONING THE 2009 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE ALEXANDRIA TAXICAB INDUSTRY AND RELATED ORDERS, REPORTS AND APPROVALS AND MAKE THEM CONCURRENT WITH THE 2010 ANNUAL REVIEW

ISSUE: The City Manager proposes to further postpone the 2009 annual review of the Alexandria taxicab industry and related orders, reports and approvals and make those items concurrent with the 2010 annual review. Since the annual review and related orders, reports and approvals are due by dates specified in the City Code, an ordinance is required to allow this postponement.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council pass the ordinance on first reading and schedule it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, June 12.

DISCUSSION: City Code Section 9-12-31 requires the staff, the Traffic and Parking Board and the City Manager to conduct an annual review of the taxicab industry. During this annual review, the Board recommends, and the Manager determines, a number of things, including: 1) renewal of existing companies' certificates of public convenience and necessity; 2) how many authorized taxis are allowed to affiliate with each company; and 3) transfer of authorizations and renewal of grandfathered certificates. In addition, every other year, the hearing involves a review and setting of the rates charged by Alexandria's cabs. By Code, the Manager's final determination must be completed by December 15.

On December 12, 2009, the City Council adopted Ordinance 4640, which delayed the 2009 annual review for a period of time. A copy of the Ordinance is attached as Exhibit 1 hereto. During the time authorized by Council, a working group comprised of City staff, industry members and a subcommittee of the Traffic & Parking Board assessed the prior 5 years under the taxicab ordinance and make recommendations for adjustments to the Code. The working group completed this process in late April, bringing a slate of recommendations for consideration by the Traffic & Parking Board. At its April 26, 2010, meeting, the Traffic & Parking Board directed staff to prepare proposed changes to the Taxicab Ordinance based upon these

recommendations so that the actual proposed Code changes could be reviewed and considered by the Board for possible recommendation to City Council. Staff is in the process of doing this drafting.

Staff proposes to bring the draft Code changes to the Traffic and Parking Board for its June meeting, which will allow the Board the opportunity to review the draft, as well as set up a public hearing for industry representatives, drivers and other interested persons to provide comment and reaction to the draft. The Board would then make its final recommendation to City Council at the Board's September meeting, for consideration by Council during the October 2010 legislative cycle. Assuming Council acted upon the proposed changes at that time, staff would then be in a position to complete the review for both 2009 and 2010 and resume the regulatory schedule set forth in City Code.

Because the dates for the annual review and related orders, reports and approvals are set forth in the City Code, I am requesting that City Council adopt the attached ordinance to allow me to proceed in the foregoing manner.

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Ordinance

STAFF:

Christopher Spera, Deputy City Attorney
Abi Lerner, Deputy Director, T&ES
Bob Garbacz, Division Chief, Traffic, T&ES