

ORDINANCE NO. 46

AN ORDINANCE relating to and regulating taxicabs and for-hire cars; providing for the inspection and control thereof and for the licensing and controlling of drivers thereof; defining offenses and prescribing penalties.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 (a). The term "City" wherever used herein shall be deemed the City of Bellevue except where the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(b). The term "person" wherever used in this ordinance shall be held and construed to mean and include natural persons of either sex, firms, co-partnerships, associations, and corporations, whether acting by themselves, by servant, agent or employee. The singular number shall include the plural and the masculine pronoun shall include the feminine and the neuter.

(c). The term "taxicab" or "taxi" wherever used in this ordinance shall be held and construed to mean and include every motor vehicle having a seating capacity of seven passengers or less, as per manufacturer's rating, used for the transportation of passengers for hire, and not operated exclusively over a fixed and defined route.

(d). The term "for-hire car" wherever used in this ordinance shall be held and construed to mean and include every motor vehicle having a seating capacity of seven passengers or more, as per manufacturer's rating, used for the transportation of passengers for hire, and not operated exclusively over a fixed and defined route.

(e). The term "taximeter" wherever used in this ordinance shall be held and construed to mean and include any instrument or device by which the charge for hire of a passenger-carrying vehicle is mechanically measured or calculated either for the distance traveled by such vehicle or for waiting time, or for both, and upon which such charges shall be indicated by means of dollars and cents.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of operating or driving any of the vehicles defined in Section (1) of this ordinance, without first securing a permit so to do from the Chief of Police, obtained in the following manner:

The applicant shall, upon blanks provided for the purpose by said Chief of Police, furnish full information concerning ownership; the number and classification of vehicles to be operated; the name, fictitious or otherwise, under which the applicant intends to operate; the distinguishing color scheme, design, or dress, including any monogram or insignia intended to be used upon the vehicles; and such other information as may be deemed by the City Manager necessary for proper supervision and regulation of such vehicles; and such other information as the City Manager deems necessary for the proper supervision and regulation of such vehicles.

If the City Manager shall find from his investigation and from the information obtained that the applicant is a financially and morally reliable person and the bona fide owner of the vehicles for which licenses are sought and has met all of the requirements of this ordinance, that the name under which he is to operate and the color scheme used upon the vehicles does not tend to deceive

the public as to the identity of his vehicles, that the vehicles are safe and are equipped with valid state licenses, and that they are properly bonded for the protection of the public as required by the motor vehicle laws of the State of Washington, and the convenience and necessity of the City will be promoted by granting such applicant one or more licenses, such permit or permits shall be issued for such number of vehicles as shall be authorized under section 38 below.

No permit shall be issued authorizing interchange of taxicab and for-hire car classifications; but replacements may be granted to a licensee where evidence is produced to the satisfaction of the Chief of Police that licensed vehicles are obsolete, unsafe, or unfit for further use. All permits shall expire on December 31st of the year in which issued and shall be renewable upon application and payment of the annual license fee and showing of continued qualification therefor.

Section 3. The following schedule of charges for taxicabs and for-hire cars is hereby established and adopted as the maximum rates that may be charged or collected in the City, and it shall be unlawful for any person driving or operating or engaged in the business of operating any taxicab or taxicabs, for-hire car or for-hire cars, to charge, demand, collect or receive any greater rate or fare than that specified herein:

TAXICAB RATES

- For the first 3/4 mile or fraction thereof ... 50¢
- Thereafter, for each additional 1/4 mile ..... 10¢
- For every two minutes of waiting ..... 10¢
- For each additional passenger regardless  
of distance ..... 10¢

FOR-HIRE CAR RATES

- For each hour .....\$3.00

Section 4. All vehicles operating under authority of this ordinance shall have the rates conspicuously displayed within the passenger compartment on a card readily discernible by the passenger, and the rates shall be made clear to the passenger at the time of hiring. The card herein provided for shall be of a form, size and arrangement approved by the Chief of Police.

Section 5. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate or engage in the business of operating a taxi-cab, unless each of said taxicabs be equipped with a taximeter which has been duly inspected and approved by the Chief of Police.

Section 6. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate, or engage in the business of operating a taxi-cab or taxicabs, unless a taximeter is at all times used on each of such taxicabs in determining the fare or rate to be charged and collected; and it shall be unlawful for any person operating or driving or engaged in the business of operating a taxicab or taxicabs, to charge, demand, collect, or receive any fare, rate or charge which is not directly based, measured and computed upon the record on the reading face of the taximeter.

used on such taxicab or taxicabs. It shall be unlawful for any person to use or employ any other or different method of computing or measuring such distance or time charges than the methods hereinabove specifically provided.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the owner, lessee in possession, or any other person having possession or control of any taxicab to at all times keep such taximeter accurate and have same approved by the Chief of Police before being placed in service. When any such taximeter has been approved by the Chief of Police, his seal or certificate shall be plainly posted on said taximeter for the information of the public. Said Chief of Police shall inspect all taximeters at least once each year and have the right to inspect all taximeters at any and all times.

Section 8. Every taximeter shall be installed at the right side of driver and at such height that the flag thereof may be readily seen by observers on the street, and the reading face of such taximeter shall at all times be well lighted and readily discernible to the passengers riding in the taxicab. It shall be unlawful to change the size of the wheels or tires of any taxicab or the gears operating the said taximeter or to change the taximeter from one taxicab to another unless such taximeter is reinspected and approved by the Chief of Police.

Section 9. It shall be unlawful for any driver of a taxicab, while carrying passengers or under employment to display the flag attached to the taximeter at such position as to denote that such taxicab is not employed, or to throw the flag of the taximeter at a recording position when such vehicle is not actually employed, or to fail to throw the flag of such taximeter at a non-recording position at the termination of each and every service.

Section 10. Every person owning or engaged in the business of operating any taxicabs or for-hire cars shall keep a record of all trips made, together with the information required upon the passenger's receipt provided for in this ordinance, which record shall be open for inspection at all reasonable times by the Chief of Police and shall also cause to be constantly carried in such vehicles the permits issued by the Department of Licenses of the State of Washington, showing such vehicles to be properly bonded for the protection of the public, and also the licenses and permits issued pursuant to city ordinances.

Section 11. All vehicles operating under authority of this ordinance shall be inspected from time to time by the Chief of Police for the purpose of determining whether the same are clean, properly equipped, of good appearance and in his opinion in a safe condition for the transportation of passengers; and said Chief of Police shall, at the time of such inspection, determine for the guidance of the public, the classification and capacity of the vehicle inspected; and it shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate, or engage in the business of operating any taxicab or for-hire car, unless and until the same has been inspected and approved by the Chief of Police.

Section 12. It shall be unlawful for any person owning, controlling, or engaged in the business of operating taxicabs or for-hire cars to employ as a driver of any such vehicle, or permit any such vehicle to be driven by, a driver who does not possess a valid and subsisting City Driver's License.

Section 13. Any driver of a taxicab or for-hire car who shall charge any passenger a rate of fare higher than that provided for in Section 3 hereof, shall upon conviction thereof, be punished in addition to the other penalties herein provided, by having his City Driver's License suspended for a period of not less

than six (6) months nor more than one year.

Section 14. Any driver of a taxicab or for-hire car employed to carry passengers to a definite point shall take the most direct route possible that will carry the passenger safely and expeditiously to his destination.

Section 15. Whenever demanded by the passenger, the driver in charge of a taxicab shall deliver to the person paying for the hiring of said taxicab, at the time of such payment, a receipt therefor in legible printing or writing, containing the name of the owner and his address, the name of the driver, the taximeter number and any and all items for which a charge is made, the total amount paid, and the date of payment.

Section 16. It shall be unlawful for any person to ride with the driver in the front seat of any taxicab unless the back compartment is completely filled with passengers and/or luggage provided, however, that this section shall not apply to a student driver while being instructed in the operation of a taxicab under authority of the owner of such taxicab, providing such student driver shall have first secured a license to drive a vehicle for hire or shall have applied therefor, and shall wear such uniform or other evidences of lawful employment as may be necessary for his identification.

Section 17. It shall be unlawful for any person engaged in the business of operating a taxicab or for-hire car, to knowingly permit any person to drive the same who has been convicted of any felony or of driving while intoxicated.

Section 18. If any driver of a taxicab, or for-hire car shall be convicted of driving such vehicle while drunk or under the influence of narcotics, the City Driver's License of such driver shall be revoked, and he shall not be granted a City Driver's License for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of such conviction. Pending final disposition of any criminal case instituted under the provisions of this section, the City Manager may, if he deems it to the best interest of the Public, suspend such City Driver's License without rebate or remission of any part of his license fee.

Section 19. It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to pay the regular fare for a taxicab or for-hire car, after having hired same.

Section 20. It shall be unlawful for any driver of a taxicab or for-hire car to leave the same unattended or to make repairs or wash his vehicle while in a taxicab stand, or for-hire car stand.

Section 21. It shall be unlawful for any driver of a taxicab or for-hire car, to leave the same unattended at taxi stands, depots, docks or elsewhere, for the purpose of soliciting patronage, but such driver must stand at the side of his vehicle; except nothing herein contained shall prohibit the extension of ordinary courtesies to patrons after having signified their intention of becoming his passenger.

Section 22. It shall be unlawful for any person to cruise, drive, or operate a taxicab or for-hire car repeatedly or

persistently to and fro, upon any public street, for solicitation of fares.

Section 23. Every person being served with a taxicab as herein provided shall be entitled to have conveyed without charge such valises or small baggage as can be conveniently carried within the vehicle. He shall be entitled, at the option of the driver, to have any trunk carried thereon at a charge not to exceed twenty five cents (25¢). Each driver shall load and unload such baggage without charge. Any person cancelling a call for taxicab or for-hire car after a cab or for-hire car has been dispatched in answer thereto, may be charged the prevailing rate for such taxicab or for-hire car.

Section 24. Any person violating or failing to comply with any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine in any sum not exceeding Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) or by imprisonment in the city jail for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 25. CITY DRIVER'S LICENSE: Every person desiring to drive, operate or have charge of a taxicab, for-hire car or sight-seeing car within the City of Bellevue, shall make written application to the City Clerk for a license so to do; such application shall be made upon blanks furnished by the City Clerk and shall be signed and sworn to by the applicant before a Notary Public or some other officer duly authorized to administer oaths.

Section 26. Each applicant shall state his name, age, place of birth, place of residence, length of time he has resided in the City, married or single, last place of employment with name and address of employer, whether he has been previously licensed as a driver, and if so, where and whether or not his license has ever been suspended or revoked and if so for what cause; whether or not he has ever been convicted of a crime and if so, the number of such convictions, the approximate dates thereof, the name of the Courts, the crimes with which charged, and the final disposition of the case and/or cases.

Section 27. Each applicant must possess the following qualifications: He must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and duly licensed to drive a motor vehicle for-hire under the laws of the State of Washington, and he must submit with his application a certificate from the City Health Officer showing that he is free from any infirmities of body or mind which would render him unfit for the safe operation of a taxi, and especially free from any taint of or tendency to epilepsy, vertigo, heart trouble or color blindness.

Section 28. Each applicant shall accompany his application with a certificate of two reputable citizens of the city, by certifying that the applicant is of good moral character and not addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors or drugs; and must further accompany his application with at least two (2) photographs to be taken by the Police Department of the City of Bellevue without charge to the applicant; such photographs to be of a size that may easily be attached to his license card. Each such applicant shall, under the supervision of the Police Department of the City, furnish good and sufficient finger and thumb prints without expense to the applicant.

Section 29. Every application for City Driver's License shall be referred by the City Clerk to the Chief of Police, whose duty it shall be to investigate applicant, and if satisfied with his

qualifications, recommend in writing, within a reasonable time, that a license be issued to him. If a license is issued pursuant hereto, the City Clerk shall file one of the photographs referred to in the preceding section, in the office of the Chief of Police and attach the other to the license card so that it cannot be removed therefrom and another substituted without detection.

Section 30. Upon favorable report of the Chief of Police a license effective for the current calendar year shall be issued to the applicant by the City Clerk, which said license shall be carried at all times by the licensee while driving, operating or in charge of a taxi within the city limits; and such licensee shall also wear at all such times on the breast of his outer garment, a badge furnished by the City containing in legible figures the number of his license.

Section 31. If the report of the Chief of Police is unfavorable to the applicant no license shall be issued.

Section 32. Each applicant shall pay to the city health officer a fee of \$2.50 for medical examination, which fee shall be retained by the examining officer as full compensation for the examination; provided, however, that if laboratory fees are incurred in necessary analysis in connection with the examination such fees shall be borne by the applicant.

Section 33. Each applicant shall also accompany his application with a certified check or cash to the order of the City Treasurer in the sum of \$5.00; which check or cash shall be returned to the applicant if no license shall be issued hereunder, otherwise paid to the City Treasurer as an annual license fee; and all licenses issued hereunder shall determine and expire on the 31st day of December in each year unless previously revoked upon conviction of violation of the City's ordinances.

Section 34. Any licensee hereunder making application for the issuance of a subsequent license shall not be required to accompany same with a certificate from the city health officer, unless required so to do by the Chief of Police, who is hereby expressly authorized and empowered to order and require any applicant or licensee to furnish such certificate or certificates relative to his physical or mental condition as he at any time may deem advisable; and such Chief of Police is further authorized and empowered to suspend any license issued hereunder for a period not to exceed thirty days upon conviction of violation of provisions of this ordinance or the City traffic code or conviction of a crime of moral turpitude.

Section 35. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation conducting or carrying on the business of operating a taxi to permit any person to drive, operate or be in charge of a taxi in the City of Bellevue, unless such person shall have obtained a license as herein provided, and it shall be unlawful for any person to drive, operate or be in charge of a taxi unless so licensed; and it shall be unlawful for a licensee to fail or neglect to carry his license card at all times while driving, operating or having charge of a taxi within the city limits, or to fail or neglect to wear at all times on the breast of his outer garment the badge containing his license number, or to permit the use or possession of his license or badge by another, or to fail or refuse upon demand of any city officer, police officer, peace officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff or passenger to exhibit his license for inspection.

Section 36. Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and punished by a fine not to exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) or by imprisonment in the city jail for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 37. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or void, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 38. The number of taxicabs for which licenses may be issued hereunder shall be based upon the population of the City of Bellevue as determined in the last preceding official state census, at the ratio of one (1) taxicab to each twenty five hundred (2,500) inhabitants or fraction thereof: provided that this limitation shall not affect taxicabs operating within the area now included within the City of Bellevue under County license on the 31st day of March, 1953. Provided, further, that the City Manager, as a condition precedent to issuance of licenses to an applicant may require the licensing and operation by such applicant of a number of taxicabs for service within the City of Bellevue to satisfy the cab-to-population ratio above stated.

Section 39. That the license fees payable under this ordinance are payable on the first day of January of each and every year.

Section 40. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect five days from and after its passage, approval and legal publication.

PASSED by the City Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1953, and signed in authentication of its passage this 24<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1953.

*Quinn Jones*  
Mayor

*William Volpe*  
Councilman

*Geoff Gardony*  
Councilman

Approved as to form:

*Thomas A. Cole*  
City Attorney

(SEAL)

Attest:

*Helen R. Miller*  
City Clerk

Date of Publication: December 3-1953

FILED  
CITY OF BELLEVUE  
DATE November 25, 1953  
CLERK Helen R. Miller