

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Albert A. Ortiz, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: Revising City Code Chapter 33 "Vehicles for Hire"
DATE: January 20, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the amendment of City Code Chapter 33 "Vehicles for Hire" by clarifying certain definitions, removing certain terms and adding new language to promote efficient, reliable, and quality ground transportation services.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In December of 1989, the City Council initiated the revisions to Chapter 33 of the City Code, "Vehicles for Hire," to provide comprehensive regulations of all ground transportation services such as taxicabs, shuttles, horse drawn carriages, limousines, tour vehicles, and charter vehicles. This revision was finalized by ordinance and adopted by Council on September 2, 1992.

Currently, there are 15 charter companies in operation and of the 15 only three continue to generate numerous complaints regarding their operation, primarily from military personnel. The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) sub-committee, along with Ground Transportation Unit (GTU) staff, worked towards amending Chapter 33 in order to promote efficient, reliable, and quality ground transportation services. On July 26, 2004 the TAB subcommittee met with representatives of the charter industry to discuss problems and solutions to charter operations.

On October 7, 2004, the Quality of Life Committee (QOL) was presented with an overview of the regulations for chartered vehicles and on how to regulate the charter industry. The QOL recommended that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) provide their recommendations within 60-days. At the October 25, 2004 meeting, the TAB approved the following changes to Chapter 33 "Vehicles for Hire".

Article I Section 33-003. "Definitions" will be amended to include the following changes:

New definition: "Pre-sold" basis means that full or partial payment is made, or guaranteed, by cash, check, or charge account, at the time of reservation. The word "Pre-sold basis" is currently used in the Charter Service definition under (a).

Definition change: Remove the word "limousine". This will apply, in general, to all vehicles for hire that pre-arrange services. The word "limousine" is currently used in the Prearranged Basis definition.

New definition: "Reservation schedule", shall mean a record prepared at the time of reservation, upon which appears the specified group name, the date and time the reservation for service was made, the type of payment made (cash, check, charge), the amount charged, the number of persons in the specified group, the place of origin, the time of pick-up, the destination, and the time of drop-off and shall apply to all "vehicles for hire" except taxicab service.

New definition: "Specified group" shall mean a number of individuals in excess of one, having some unifying relationship purposely assembled for traveling together. The word "Specified group" is currently used in the Charter Service definition under (c).

Article VII Section 33-761. "Rates of Fare" will be amended to include the following changes:

Addition: (d) fares for charter service shall be based on the size and type of the vehicle used and the amount of time for which the vehicle is reserved.

Article VII Section 33-700. "Scope of Instant Article" will be amended to include the following changes:

Addition: No charter vehicle may be operated for the purpose of providing charter services without a reservation schedule on board the vehicle reflecting the service being provided at the time.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This action facilitates City Council's continuing policy of conducting comprehensive reviews and oversight of city operations. The proposed amendments have been presented to the Management Team, the City Council Public Safety and Commercial Transportation Committee and the Quality of Life Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT

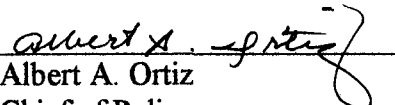
This action does not impact the General Fund.

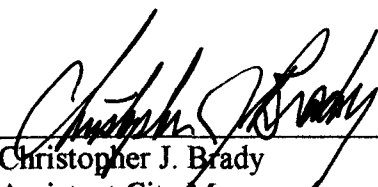
COORDINATION

This ordinance request has been coordinated with Finance, City Attorney's Office, the Office of Management & Budget, and the Transportation Advisory Board.

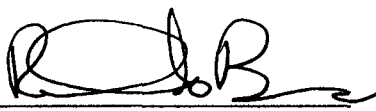
SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS

The City of San Antonio Discretionary Contracts Disclosure form is not required.


Albert A. Ortiz
Chief of Police


Christopher J. Brady
Assistant City Manager

Approved:


J. Rolando Bono
Interim City Manager