

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

98-400

SYNOPSIS —

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

The following taxicab ordinance changes have been reviewed by staff and are recommended for approval:

SUBJECT:

TAXICAB
ORDINANCE
CHANGE

1. Stricter dress, appearance, and conduct standards.
2. Redefinition of application requirements and procedures.
3. Change Traffic and Transportation Department to Traffic and Transportation Division.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

FISCAL IMPACT –

N/A

SUBMITTED BY:

HAROLD SMITH
CITY ENGINEER

RECOMMENDATION –

Refer to Legal Department for preparation of ordinance revisions.

BACKGROUND –

During the past year, the Traffic and Transportation Division has consulted with Senior Police Officer Steve Silver, Uniform Services Division; Special Operations-Traffic Unit with Des Moines Police Department; and Mike Jenkins, General Manager of Yellow/Capitol Cab Company to update the taxicab ordinance.

The proposed ordinance changes are the result of consultations between the taxi companies, the Des Moines Police Department, and the Engineering Department's Traffic and Transportation Division.

The proposed changes fall within three general areas:

1. Stricter dress, appearance, and conduct standards for cab drivers, as requested by the taxicab company.
2. Redefining application requirements and procedures. Requires the first-time taxicab driver' s license applicant to request an FBI criminal records check and submit to fingerprinting, at their expense, as a part of the initial application process. The requirements for renewal of a taxicab driver' s license are reduced to a short-form application. Police records considered during the application process will now cover a five-year period for driving records, rather than three years, and criminal history for a ten-year period, rather than five years. New applicants from out-of-state will now be required to furnish a certified copy of their driving records for the preceding five years.
3. Updates the taxicab ordinance to acknowledge the elimination of the Traffic and Transportation Department and the creation of the Traffic and Transportation Division, within the Engineering Department.