

**CITY COUNCIL  
COMMUNICATION:**

**ITEM \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**99-476**

**SYNOPSIS -**

**AGENDA:**

OCTOBER 18, 1999

**SUBJECT:**

REQUEST TO  
TRANSFER  
CERTIFICATE OF  
PUBLIC  
CONVENIENCE AND  
NECESSITY TO  
OPERATE TAXICAB  
SERVICE

Trans Iowa, L.C. (Michael Barnes and Randy Sackett, owners) has agreed to purchase certain assets of the Shackelford-Wilson Corporation that pertain to the taxicab business in Des Moines, including the trade names Capitol Cab Company and Yellow Cab Company. Trans Iowa, L.C. has requested that the City Council approve the transfer of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to be included in the purchase of assets from the Shackelford-Wilson Corporation.

**FISCAL IMPACT -**

None.

**RECOMMENDATION -**

**TYPE:**

**Approval.**

**RESOLUTION  
ORDINANCE  
RECEIVE/FILE**

**BACKGROUND -**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

FLOYD BENTZ, P.E.  
CITY ENGINEER

Section 19-125 of the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, forbids the operation of a taxicab as defined under the taxicab subchapter of the municipal code (Subchapter 5 of Chapter 19) as a vehicle for hire upon the streets of Des Moines without obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Certificate). The Shackelford-Wilson Corporation, which owns and operates Capitol Cab Company and Yellow Cab Company, is the only current holder of a Certificate to operate a taxicab company in Des Moines.

Section 19-131 of the Municipal Code further states that no Certificate shall be sold, assigned, mortgaged, or otherwise transferred without the consent of the City Council.

Trans Iowa, L.C. (Michael Barnes and Randy Sackett, owners) has agreed to purchase certain assets of the Shackelford-Wilson Corporation that pertain to the taxicab business in Des Moines, including the trade names Capitol Cab Company and Yellow Cab Company. Trans Iowa, L.C. has requested that the City Council approve the transfer of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to be included in the purchase of assets from the Shackelford-Wilson Corporation.

Trans Iowa, L.C. filed its Articles Of Organization with the Secretary of State of Iowa on August 17, 1999, and is authorized to conduct business in the State of Iowa. Michael Barnes (717 - 4th Street, Des Moines) is a lifelong resident of Des Moines who has been in the real estate business for over 20 years as President and Owner of Barnes Realty. Randy Sackett (528 East 6th Street, Des Moines) is also a lifelong Des Moines resident who has been in the transportation business for over 15 years and is currently the President and Owner of Driving Solutions, Inc. Driving Solutions is a driver staffing and management company that leases over-the-road and local drivers to private fleets. Neither Mr. Barnes nor Mr. Sackett has any convictions for criminal activity or any major traffic violations in the past ten years.

Trans Iowa has advised that they will fund the acquisition of the taxicab business with capital contributed by the owners and will have no long- or short-term debt. Trans Iowa has no liens or other financial encumbrances against it and has secured an operating line of credit sufficient to meet approximately four times its projected cash needs. The company has also submitted a copy of a firm offer to provide \$1,500,000 of commercial general liability and automobile liability insurance, as required by the ordinance. Based on this information, Trans Iowa appears to have the financial resources to provide a stable, high-quality taxicab service in the City of Des Moines.

The owners have also advised that they plan to focus on improving taxicab service in the following areas:

- Improved taxicab availability for citizens and visitors to Des Moines.
- Improved service reliability.
- Improved driver-customer service skills in dealing with the public.
- Improved safety and accident rates in providing taxicab service.

The company intends to continue operating the dispatching service and business office at the current address, 1710 Guthrie Avenue, Suite V. The company also intends to maintain or increase the number of vehicles in service to achieve the service improvements identified above.

---

[ [Council Members](#) | [Leave a Message](#) | [Meeting Agendas/Info](#) | [Recent Ordinances](#) ]  
[ [Board/Commission List](#) | [Meeting Schedule](#) | [Request to Speak](#) | [Election/Voter Reg](#) ]