

ORDINANCE NO. 11-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AMENDING THE RIDGECREST MUNICIPAL CODE AS IT RELATES TO POLICIES FOR TAXI FRANCHISES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST as follows:

1. Purpose.

Section 3-5.407 of the Ridgecrest Municipal Code imposes certain restrictions on taxicab drivers employed by a taxi franchise that operates within the City of Ridgecrest. Government Code section 53075.5 requires that City expands these restrictions by establishing a policy regarding the conditions for entry into the business of taxicab transportation service, the establishment or registration of rates, and a mandatory controlled substance and alcohol testing certification program.

The following ordinance amends the Municipal Code by requiring each taxicab driver to comply with City's policy.

2. Amendment.

Section 3-5.407 of the Ridgecrest Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"3-5.407 - Taxicab Drivers.

(a) The franchisee shall not engage any person to operate or drive a vehicle to be used for taxi service unless the driver is duly licensed and qualified to carry passengers. A driver who has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, including but not limited to, using, possessing, selling or transporting any controlled substance or dangerous drug, or who has been convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs within three (3) years of the application, or who has been convicted of reckless driving within two (2) years of the application, shall be presumed not qualified to operate a taxi within the City.

(b) Prior to commencement of service, each driver engaged by the franchisee to drive a vehicle to be used for taxi service shall obtain a certificate from the Chief of Police that the driver has complied with this section. The certificate shall also be obtained each time the franchisee proposes to substitute or add a new driver to provide taxi service.

(c) The Chief shall prepare forms to be used to apply for a driver's certificate. The application form shall provide such information as the Chief deems necessary to determine that the driver satisfies the requirements of this Division.

(d) If, after review of the application and the applicant's driver's record, the Chief determines that application and the driver comply with the requirements of this Division, the Chief shall issue a certificate to the driver.

(e) Each driver's certificate shall be reviewed at least annually, after any accident, and more frequently as necessary to assure compliance with this Division.

(f) Each driver shall comply with City's policy regarding the conditions for entry into the business of taxicab transportation service, the establishment or registration of rates, and mandatory controlled substance and alcohol testing certification program.

3. Other.

Except as otherwise provided, the Ridgecrest Municipal Code is reaffirmed and readopted.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of said City Council held on August 4, 2011, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Mayor Ronald H. Carter; Council Members Marshall 'Chip' Holloway; Jerry D. Taylor; Steven P. Morgan; and Jason Patin

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Ronald H. Carter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel J. Ford, CMC
City Clerk