


# **City of Santa Clara**

## **Introduce Ordinance Amending Chapter 5.35 (Taxicabs) of the Code of the City of Santa Clara**

### **RTC #18-944**


October 2, 2018



## **Municipal Code, Chapter 5.35**

- This Chapter currently governs transportation services by taxicabs within the City, including requirements for licensing, the application and renewal process, grounds for denial or suspension, vehicle inspections, fares, insurance, equipment and conditions, safety inspections, etc.

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## Industry and Legislative Changes

- In 2011, rideshare companies disrupted the taxi industry by offering on-demand transportation via private drivers.
- In August, 2014, Levi's Stadium opened. As a result, the City received requests from Pedi-cab companies to conduct business around the stadium footprint
- In October, 2017, AB 1069 was chaptered, and amended by AB 939 in September, 2018, relating to local government regulations of taxicab businesses. Through these bills, California Legislature has provided new permitting and regulating requirements effective January 1, 2019.

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## Review of the Ordinance

- Modifications to the existing taxicab ordinance to address AB 939 were the catalyst for staff to modernize the Code, however operational efficiencies and the addition of Pedi-cabs are also priorities.
- SCPD hosted a meeting in July, 2018, among existing taxi companies with a permit in Santa Clara for suggested amendments.

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## Taxi - Current Ordinance and Recommended Changes

Current Ordinance	Recommended Changes
Charge a per vehicle fee for use of the City's taxicab stands	Delete taxicab stand fee
Taxicab company or driver obtain permit in every jurisdiction where they conduct "pick-ups"	One permit required, per County, where taxicab company or driver is substantially located
Requirement to have a taxicab fleet of ten (10)	Reduce minimum fleet size to seven (7) at request of taxi companies
N/A	Include Federal drug testing standard
Permit renewal every five (5) years	Permit renewal required annually

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## Pedi-cab – Current Ordinance and Recommended Changes

Current Ordinance	Recommended Changes
N/A	Include state vehicle code definition of pedi-cab
Use taxicab permit requirements/application	Include requirements specific to pedi-cabs
Use modified taxicab inspection	Include inspection and safety requirements specific to pedi-cabs
Use taxicab insurance requirements	Align pedi-cab insurance requirements with state law
Permit renewal every 5 years	Permit renewal required annually

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## Next Steps

- Return to the Council on October 30, 2018:
  - For the second reading of the Ordinance Amending Chapter 5.35 (“Taxicabs”) of the Code of the City of Santa Clara to revise taxicab permitting and operational requirements, and to include new permit and operational requirements for pedi-cabs
  - With a Resolution to amend the Municipal Fee Schedule to remove the cab stand fee and establish pedi-cab fees, per fee study results

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## Fiscal Impact

- The City currently collects approximately \$18,643 in revenue associated with taxicab company business licenses (\$1,965), taxi driver business licenses (\$6,076), driver permit fees (\$2,914) and vehicle inspections (\$7,688).
- As a result of AB 939, staff does not expect many taxicab companies to be substantially located within the City of Santa Clara. It is expected that these legislative changes will result in a decrease in revenue to the City.

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# Recommendations

- Introduce an Ordinance Amending Chapter 5.35 (“Taxicabs”) of the Code of the City of Santa Clara to revise taxicab permitting and operational requirements, and to include new permit and operational requirements for pedi-cabs

