

AN ORDINANCE  
TO BE ENTITLED

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 6, LICENSING AND  
REGULATION, CHAPTER 1, BUSINESS AND OCCUPATIONS,  
ARTICLE Q. – TAXICABS, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA TO AMEND PROVISIONS CONCERNING  
DRIVER REQUIREMENTS, PERMITTING, SIGNAGE, AND  
CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL PARTICIPATING  
PERSONNEL; TO PROVIDE FOR EFFECTIVE DATES;  
TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH  
AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia, in regular meeting of Council assembled, and pursuant to the lawful authority thereof:

**SECTION 1:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1422, Definitions, be amended by adding a new subsection (t) to read as follows:

(t) Passenger Authority Letter – A document issued by the State of Georgia authorizing a company permission to operate as a taxi service.

**SECTION 2:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1433, Driver requirements, be deleted in its entirety and a new section 6-1433, Driver requirements, be inserted in lieu thereof as follows:

**SECTION 3:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1440, Permit not transferable, be deleted in its entirety and a new section 6-1440, Permit not transferable, be inserted in lieu thereof as follows:

**SECTION 4:**

**SECTION 5:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1443, Code of Conduct, be deleted in its entirety and reserved for future use.

**SECTION 6-1433.** – Driver requirements.

Before any permit is granted under this article, the following fees shall be paid by the applicant:

(a) Driver permit fee. A fee of \$12.00 shall be paid by the applicant upon issuance of the permit.

(b) Permit transfer fee. No driver may transfer from one Taxicab Company to another except upon approval of the Transportation Supervisor or designee and upon payment of a \$7.00 permit transfer fee. This is the responsibility of the permit holder.

(c) The original permit issued under the provisions of this article containing a photograph and other data identifying the driver shall at all times be kept on display in the taxicab operated by said driver, to be read and in clear view of the passengers at all times when the taxicab is for hire.

(d) A notice provided by the Transportation Supervisor or designee shall be on display on the front dashboard facing the passenger compartment and shall contain sufficient information to allow the customer to contact the Transportation Supervisor regarding the taxicab or operator.

(e) Drivers are required to present their taxicab permit issued by the transportation unit upon request to the Transportation Supervisor or designee, Savannah Police Department ("SPD") personnel, or Code Compliance Department ("CCD") deputy marshals. Failure to comply with the request shall subject such driver to suspension of the driver's permit for a minimum of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 6-2488 of this article.

(f) Drivers are prohibited from driving off or otherwise leave while engaged with the Transportation Supervisor or designee, SPD officers, or CCD deputy city marshals. Failure to comply with the request shall subject such driver to suspension of the driver's permit for a minimum of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of section 6-1488 of this article.

(g) All outstanding citations must be paid or resolved to the satisfaction of the Transportation Supervisor or designee prior to the issuance of a driver's permit.

(h) All taxicab drivers shall comply with all reasonable passenger requests, including but not limited to, climate control, radio, and preferred route.

(i) All taxicab drivers are prohibited from using profanity or uttering obscene, scandalous, or impertinent comments in the presence of or otherwise directed to passengers.

(j) All taxicab drivers are prohibited from engaging in physical confrontations unless in the exercise of lawful self-defense.

(k) All taxicab drivers are prohibited from transporting any animal in the taxicab with the exception of passengers' service animals, as recognized by federal and/or state law.

**SECTION 6-1440.** – Permit not transferable.

Any taxicab driver permit issued under this article is not transferable from one taxicab driver to another. The permit shall be used solely by the person to whom it has been issued. Permitted taxicab drivers shall notify the Transportation Supervisor or designee prior to beginning employment with another taxicab company and shall be liable for payment of the transfer fee.

SECTION 4: That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1441, Duration of permit, be deleted in its entirety and a new section 6-1441, Duration of permit, be inserted in lieu thereof as follows:

**SECTION 6-1441.** – Duration of permit.

Permits may be renewed, upon application and payment of the required fee. Taxicab permits are the sole and exclusive property of the City of Savannah. Such permits shall be effective for 12 months from the date of issuance unless the taxicab driver's state issued driver's license expires prior thereto. Applicants with a driver's license set to expire prior to the 12-month period will receive a permit that expires contemporaneous with expiration of his/her driver's license.

**SECTION 6:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1454, Advertising signage, be deleted in its entirety and a new section 6-1454, Advertising signage, be inserted in lieu thereof as follows:

**SECTION 6-1454.** – Advertising signage.

Rooftop and trunk-mounted advertising signs are the only form of advertising signage permitted on taxicabs. Rooftop signs must be professionally manufactured, two-sided, no longer than 54 inches, no wider than 17 inches, and no higher than 16 inches. Trunk-mounted signs shall be professionally manufactured and shall not block the rear view of the driver and shall not block the view of the license plate. Content shall be professionally produced and contained within the confines of the sign.

The rooftop and trunk-mounted signs shall be reviewed by the Transportation Supervisor for compliance with this section. Any dispute between the City and the taxicab owner regarding compliance with this section shall be submitted to a three-person panel assembled to adjudicate the matter. The panel shall be constituted with a taxicab industry representative, a City employee from MPSD, and a representative from SPD. Until the matter is adjudicated, the subject signage shall not be displayed.

**SECTION 6-1456.** – Manifest.

It shall be the duty of every passenger authority letter holder operating a taxicab to furnish regularly to each one of its drivers an adequate number of printed

manifests. Each taxicab driver shall record a daily manifest containing the following information for each trip:

- (a) The company name and vehicle number;
- (b) The driver's name;
- (c) The date and time of trip origin;
- (d) The date and time of trip destination;
- (e) The fare charged or the voucher number for the trip; and
- (f) The number of passengers transported on the trip.

**SECTION 6-1458.** – Maximum rates of fare; posting requirement.

1. The maximum meter rate shall be as follows:
  - a. A rate of \$3.23 for the first one-sixth of a mile;
  - b. A rate of \$.054 per one-sixth of a mile thereafter;
  - c. Should a taximeter charge for increments of a mile differently from those in subsections a. and b., the maximum rates shall nevertheless not exceed \$6.47 for the first mile and \$2.69 per mile thereafter.
  - d. The mileage component of the taxi fare structure shall be adjusted annually on March 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year based on the change in the Consumer Price Index of the prior calendar year.

**SECTION 6-1459.** – Receipts/methods of payments.

The driver of any taxicab shall render to such passenger a receipt in the form of a business card. On the receipt shall be the name of the taxicab company, company published telephone number, the taxicab number, name (shown on application), permit number of the driver, the driver's telephone number (optional), trip origin and destination, amount charged, date of transaction, and the following statement: "Regulated by the City of Savannah, Transportation Services – (912) 651-6468."

**SECTION 7:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1456, Manifest, be amended by deleting the second paragraph in its entirety and a new second paragraph be inserted in lieu thereof as follows:

**SECTION 8:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1458, Maximum rates of fare; posting

requirement, be amended by deleting subparagraph (a)1. and a new subparagraph (a)1. be inserted in lieu thereof as follows:

**SECTION 9:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1458, Maximum rates of fare; posting requirement, be amended by deleting subparagraphs (a)(5), (a)(6), and (b) in their entirety.

**SECTION 10** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1459, receipts/methods of payments, be amended by deleting the first paragraph in its entirety and be replaced with:

**SECTION 11:** That Part 6, Licensing and Regulation, Chapter 1, Business and Occupations, Article 1.- Taxicabs, Section 6-1490, Taxicab appeals panel, be amended by deleting subparagraph (d) and a new subparagraph (d) be inserted in lieu thereof as follows:

(d) Chief Officer, Planning and Economic Development of the City of Savannah.

**SECTION 12:** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 13:** The foregoing amendments shall become effective on the \_\_\_\_\_, day of February 2025.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE  
CITY OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Van R. Johnson II, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Massey, Clerk of Council